



Fundy Model Forest

~Partners in Sustainability~

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***The Fundy Model Forest...
...Partners in Sustainability***

“The Fundy Model Forest (FMF) is a partnership of 38 organizations that are promoting sustainable forest management practices in the Acadian Forest region.”

Atlantic Society of Fish and Wildlife Biologists
Canadian Institute of Forestry
Canadian Forest Service
City of Moncton
Conservation Council of New Brunswick
Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Eel Ground First Nation
Elgin Eco Association
Elmhurst Outdoors
Environment Canada
Fawcett Lumber Company
Fundy Environmental Action Group
Fundy National Park
Greater Fundy Ecosystem Research Group
INFOR, Inc.
J.D. Irving, Limited
KC Irving Chair for Sustainable Development
Maritime College of Forest Technology
NB Department of the Environment and Local Government
NB Department of Natural Resources
NB Federation of Naturalists
New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners
NB Premier's Round Table on the Environment & Economy
New Brunswick School District 2
New Brunswick School District 6
Nova Forest Alliance
Petitcodiac Sportsman's Club
Red Bank First Nation
Remsoft Inc.
Southern New Brunswick Wood Cooperative Limited
Sussex and District Chamber of Commerce
Sussex Fish and Game Association
Town of Sussex
Université de Moncton
University of NB, Fredericton - Faculty of Forestry
University of NB - Saint John Campus
Village of Petitcodiac
Washademoak Environmentalists



Fundy Model Forest Final Report
Non-Timber Forest Products Workshop
INFOR Inc.
2007

This workshop has been developed in response to the overwhelming interest in New Brunswick concerning the development and sustainable management of non-timber forest products. This project outlines potential products, focusing upon the primary resource and suggest appropriate sustainable harvesting and management guidelines. This project is intended for private woodlot owners and the general public. This project is nearing completion and will be available for distribution in May, 2007.

Introduction

The forests of New Brunswick and the Maritimes as a whole are rich with biodiversity. Most landowners would probably not dispute that our forests should be managed for multiple values and in many cases multiple 'products'. But, the reality is:

- Harvesting and processing 'traditional' wood products (i.e., pulp and sawlogs) have, and continue to be, the backbone of the economy in many parts of the Maritime provinces;
- Our uses of the forest are generally not as varied as the biodiversity within them.

Developing the potential social, economic, and other benefits associated with the biodiversity in our forests represents both an opportunity and a significant challenge.

The goals of the Specialty Forest Products Module are to:

- 1) Stimulate your imagination.
- 2) Introduce you to the variety of opportunities to sustainably collect/harvest and manage for Specialty Forest Products (SFPs).
- 3) Try to provide a **realistic** idea of the economic potential SFPs represent.
- 4) Provide examples of how SFPs can be included in a woodlot management plan.
- 5) Suggest some ways in which cooperative approaches to managing for SFPs might be developed.

Introduction to specialty forest products

Naming all the possible products and the species from which they come, would require listing virtually every plant, animal, fungus etc. growing in New Brunswick (thousands of species). Describing all of the Specialty Forest Products individually is beyond the time available in this session. Therefore, a classification system needs to be chosen and after which the opportunities within the ‘classes’ of SFPs can be logically and rationally discussed.

For the purposes of this module, the following classification system will be used. A brief overview of each group is provided. For those wanting more information, one or two suggested references are also provided for each group. NOTE: These 3 main groups ARE NOT meant to represent mutually exclusive choices.

I. Plants

- Florals and greenery
- Mushrooms (edible and not)
- Medicinals / pharmaceuticals
- Wild berries, nuts and fruits
- Syrup and candy
- Herbs and vegetables
- Landscaping products
- Craft products (cones, burls etc.)

II. Wildlife

- Hunting
- Fishing
- Trapping

III. Non-consumptive uses

- Recreation
- Eco-tourism
- Aesthetic
- Spiritual

What use is a classification system to me in managing my woodlot?

Even though picking a classification system to follow may not seem like a productive exercise it can be useful to:

- Give you ideas of the kinds of products and therefore the types of activities you may want to undertake on your woodlot.

- Help you identify groups of activities that may be complementary to each other, increasing your harvesting and processing opportunities.
- Help you identify opportunities for diversifying what you are already doing i.e., expanding existing products and product lines, and (or) new uses for existing infrastructure / facilities.

In regards to the sustainable harvesting and management of SFPs, examples will be provided whenever possible. However, given that few sustainable harvest systems for SFPs exist, a section on incorporating SFPs into the woodlot management plan will be given.

How do I manage my woodlot for specialty forest products?

Before thinking about becoming a millionaire managing your woodlot for Specialty Forest Products, take a few moments and ask yourself the following question:

- What are your woodlot management goals/objectives?
- Can you manage for SFPs without compromising your larger woodlot management objectives or can you make some modest changes to your practices that will allow you to manage for both?

For woodlot owners who have not identified a formal set of goals and objectives, the approach taken will be to help them answer the following questions:

What do you have?

How much of do you have?

What do I want to do with it?

How do I do it?

Cooperation is the key to developing a sustainable industry

If we are honest, it is probably fair to say that a wood versus non-wood mindset is still common throughout the forestry community. All too often, when land management decisions are being made, timber and non-timber values are compared from an economic perspective using a one product at a time approach. Like it or not, Specialty Forest Products do not have the same economic importance as wood fiber in New Brunswick or any other province. If we continue to view woodlot management with this type of a conventional economic model or mindset, specialty forest products will remain as 'economic' second class citizens.

SFP management in eastern Canada is currently comprised of a series of relatively unorganized, independent 'cottage industries'. British Columbia is a good example why this does not have to stay that way. The SFP industry in B.C. now generates hundreds of millions of dollars in revenues. This clearly shows that a very significant value is being missed from our forests.

There is significant potential to capitalize on the experience and success of the cooperative approach for managing SFPs. Options for using a cooperative approach to creating an environment favorable for generating new and innovative products and services from our forests will be discussed.