

2007/08 was the third funding year that the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR) put eligibility criteria on the silviculture treatment categories that were to be funded through the Association for Sustainable Forestry (ASF). In agreement with DNR, the ASF was to follow the subsequent criteria:

- Only treatment categories 1b (fill planting greater than 500 trees/ha), 5 (pre-commercial thinning in natural stands), 6 (commercial thinning), and 7 (crop tree release, crop tree pruning, and selection management) are eligible in all areas of the Province.

The 2007/08 sustainability agreement with NSDNR ran from August 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

During the 2007/08 agreement a total of \$316,000.50 was spent. Fifty-seven private woodland owners in Nova Scotia (totaling 74 separate treatments) had silviculture treatments completed on their woodland funded through the ASF. The ASF implements a cap on the amount of funding allocated to a woodland owner per year in order to give opportunity to as many woodland owners as possible. Three woodland owners in the Eastern Region, 40 in the Central Region, and 14 in the Western Region of the Province were serviced. Regarding the amount of funding spent by region, 4.8% was spent in the Eastern, 66.1% in the Central, and 29.3% in the Western.

The most funded treatment during this time was pre-commercial thinning in natural stands (97.7% funding).

During the 2007/08 agreement, the ASF also administered another program (the Category 7 Quality Improvement Silviculture Program) which saw dedicated funding to crop tree release, crop tree pruning and selection management. Information on treatments funded under this program will become available when the program ends March 31, 2009 (the program spanned 2 fiscal years).

In total, 129 treatments (or \$600,995.50) were applied for in 2007/08 with the ASF. Seventy-four of these treatments (or \$316,000.50) were funded, totaling 434.05 ha of small private woodland treated. The remaining 55 applications were not funded for a variety of reasons, including the following: there was a higher demand than supply of funding, there was a cap put on the amount of funding accessed by a silviculture contractor in one season, some treatments were never started and/or completed, and some treatments were put through other funding sources (this equaled \$284,995.00).

The ASF has posted the silviculture treatments funded through its program from the 2007/08 agreement on the ASF website (www.asforestry.com) in more detail. If you have any questions or want further information please contact the ASF.

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