

2008/09 was the fourth 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 NSDNR, the ASF was to follow the subsequent criteria:

- 1) Categories 1b (fill planting greater than 300 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. (Category 1b eligible only when claimed in-conjunction with Category 7c).
- 2) Category 2a up to \$65,000.00 in areas previously claimed under the BSLB Wood Salvage Initiative.
- 3) Category 2(a) up to \$5460.00 for resubmission of two sites that had failed during the 2004 WAP monitoring.

The 2008/09 sustainability agreement with NSDNR ran from April 1, 2008 to March 31, 2009.

During the 2008/09 agreement a total of \$452,228.50 was spent. Ninety-three private woodland owners in Nova Scotia (totaling 110 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. Fifteen woodland owners in the Eastern Region, 56 in the Central Region, and 22 in the Western Region of the Province were serviced. Regarding the amount of funding spent by region, 11.2% was spent in the Eastern, 61.9% in the Central, and 27.4% in the Western.

The most funded treatment during this time was pre-commercial thinning in natural stands (91.6% funding), followed by commercial thinning (3.2%), fill planting (2.8%) and plantation establishment (2.3%). Funding for Category 2a for areas previously claimed under the BSLB Wood Salvage Initiative was held for 2 months. Of the total \$65,000.00 set aside, only \$10,855.00 was accessed by eligible woodland owners.

During the 2008/09 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. Therefore, any applications for Category 7 treatments under the 2008/09 agreement were moved to the Category 7 Quality Improvement Silviculture Program. These treatments totaled 10 jobs at \$21,911.10 (5.72 ha of crop tree release, 10.63 ha of crop tree pruning, and 40.15 ha of selection management).

In total, 140 treatments (or \$629,881.00) were applied for in 2008/09 with the ASF. One hundred ten of these treatments (or \$452,228.50) were funded, totaling 633.59 ha of small private woodland treated. The remaining 30 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 or woodland owner in one season, some treatments were never started and/or completed, some treatments did not meet the treatment technical criteria for funding eligibility, and some treatments were put through other funding sources (this equaled \$177,652.50).

The ASF has posted the silviculture treatments funded through its program from the 2008/09 agreement on the ASF website (www.asforestry.com) in more detail. If you have any questions or want further information please contact the ASF.

Rebecca Aggas, RPF
Coordinator
Association for Sustainable Forestry
PO Box 696
Truro, NS
B2N 5E5