

## 2003-2005 ASF Silviculture Funding Program

The Association for Sustainable Forestry (ASF) was formed in November 2000 to provide a silviculture funding program to small private woodland owners in all parts of Nova Scotia.

The ASF is an independent organization consisting of a Board of Director's, Coordinator, and Assistant Coordinator. The Board of Director's includes representation from the private woodland owner and forest industry sectors, with ex-officio representation from the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. The organizations and/or associations represented within the Board of Directors include the following: NS Federation of Woodlot Owners, NS Federation of Landowners and Forest Fiber Producers Association, and the Forest Products Association of NS. This makes the ASF a unique enterprise in which private woodland owners, the forest industry, and government are working partners.

The ASF provides funding for several silviculture treatments (in accordance with the NS Forest Sustainability Regulations). The ASF works with silviculture contractors, woodland owner groups, and individuals to allocate and monitor available silviculture funds.

The opportunity to participate in the ASF's silviculture funding program is available to all private woodland owners in Nova Scotia holding <2000 ha of woodland. In cases where Registered Buyer presence is limited or absent, the ASF is able to fund silviculture treatments. The ASF also funds treatments that may be difficult to complete under Registered Buyers Silviculture Programs.

The ASF's silviculture funding program budget from August 2003 to August 2005 was \$985,000.00 of which \$970,946.00 was spent. During this period, 211 private woodland owners in Nova Scotia (totaling 250 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. 68 woodland owners in the Eastern Region, 135 in the Central Region, and 8 in the Western Region of the province were serviced. Regarding the amount of funding spent by region, 26% was spent in the Eastern, 71% in the Central, and 3% in the Western.

It is noticeable that the majority of the funding was spent in the Central Region, followed by the Eastern and Western. The amount of funding spent in the Western Region was low. One thought is that with the amount of opportunity from other Registered Buyer's Silviculture Programs established in the region, funding from the ASF is not in high demand. Funding distribution can be linked to the amount of applications received from each region.

The most funded treatments during this time were Plantation Establishment (27.2% of total funding), Chemical Release (Natural) (6.6% of total funding), Chemical

Release (Plantation) (20.5% of total funding), Pre-commercial Thinning (Natural) (27.5% of total funding), and Pre-commercial Thinning (Plantation) (13.3% of total funding). These treatments together received 95% of the total funding.

2.1% of the total funding was spent on category 7 treatments, including Crop Tree Release, Crop Tree Pruning, and Selection Management. These numbers may seem low, but in fact the demand for funding for category 7 treatments was low during this period. In total, 38 category 7 treatments were applied for between 2003 and 2005. 15 of these treatments were funded. 8 treatments were not funded because they did not meet ASF's silviculture criteria and 15 were not started and/or completed or abandoned.

The ASF does not receive a lot of applications for category 7 treatments, as seen in the numbers above. Any that are received are given priority. In 2005 the ASF made changes to its silviculture criteria for Selection Management. Instead of requiring a stand comprised entirely of tolerant species, there is now a minimum requirement of basal area in tolerant species for the treatment. The ASF hopes that these changes will allow more woodland to be treated and better suit the current conditions of the forest stands that are in Nova Scotia.

In total, 554 treatments (or \$2,490,239.50) were applied for between 2003 and 2005 with the ASF. 250 of these treatments (or \$970,946.00) were funded, totaling 2041.6 ha of woodland treated. The remaining 304 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 allocated to chemical release, 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, some treatments were put through other funding sources, and some treatments did not meet the ASF's silviculture criteria for the treatment.

The ASF has posted the silviculture treatments funded through its program from August 2003 to August 2005 on the ASF website ([www.asforestry.com](http://www.asforestry.com)). If you have any questions or want further information please contact the ASF.

Association for Sustainable Forestry  
PO Box 696  
Truro, NS  
B2N 5E5