

## 2005-2006 ASF Silviculture Funding Program

2005/06 was the first time that the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 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:

1. Within the Brown Spruce Longhorn Beetle (BSLB) Zone, all treatment categories are eligible on forest managed lands for funding up to \$46,000.00 (10%).
2. In all areas of the Province, Pre-commercial Thinning in natural stands, Commercial Thinning, Crop Tree Release, Crop Tree Pruning, and Selection Management are eligible for funding up to \$322,000.00 (70%).
3. In all areas of the Province, all treatment categories are eligible for funding up to \$92,000.00 (20%).

The reasoning behind the eligibility of treatments was to make up for shortfalls within the Wood Acquisition Plan Program (WAP) by concentrating the Sustainable Forestry Fund on the under represented treatments.

The 2005/06 sustainability agreement with DNR spanned two silviculture seasons (fall 2005 and spring/summer 2006). By the spring of 2006 and going into the second season, \$46,000.00 held for the BSLB Zone was unallocated. The ASF reported to DNR that the funding held for the BSLB Zone could not be spent. DNR redirected \$46,000.00 to Pre-commercial Thinning in natural stands, Commercial Thinning, Crop Tree Release, Crop Tree Pruning, and Selection Management in all areas of the Province. In terms of soliciting interest within the BSLB Zone, the ASF did include the specific eligibility criteria in the call for applications which went to woodland owners within the Zone and silviculture contractors throughout the Province.

During the 2005/06 agreement a total of \$446,742.00 of the total \$460,000.00 budgeted, was spent. 88 private woodland owners in Nova Scotia (totaling 108 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. 26 woodland owners in the Eastern Region, 59 in the Central Region, and 3 in the Western Region of the Province were serviced. Regarding the amount of funding spent by region, 25% was spent in the Eastern, 71% in the Central, and 4% in the Western.

The most funded treatments during this time were Pre-commercial Thinning in natural stands (72% funding), Chemical Release in plantations (12.9% funding), Pre-commercial Thinning in plantations (8% funding), and Crop Tree Pruning (5% funding). These treatments together received 97% of the total funding.

7.3% of the funding was spent on Category 7 treatments during this agreement, (including Crop Tree Release, Crop Tree Pruning and Selection Management) which is

up from the 2.1% of funding spent on Category 7 treatments during the last agreement. In 2005/06 1% was spent on Crop Tree Release, 5% on Crop Tree Pruning and 1% on Selection Management. In total, there were 20 Category 7 treatments applied for of which 16 were funded. Of the treatments not funded, 3 of these were never undertaken by the silviculture contractor and one treatment was submitted after the funding was allocated.

During the 2005/06 agreement, the ASF implemented its new rating system for Pre-commercial Thinning in natural stands. The rate paid for this treatment was determined by the pre-density of the stand being tended instead of paying the \$750 credit for each treatment completed. Information on the specific rates can be found on the ASF's website at [www.asforestry.com](http://www.asforestry.com). Because of the rating system, the ASF had a balance of approximately \$12,000.00 after the agreement was fulfilled. This "extra" funding was put into a pot for the ASF to do additional silviculture work. The total funding claimed and paid to ASF from DNR in 2005/06 was \$446,742.00, while the total funding spent on the ground was \$434,881.35. The "extra" treatments that the ASF completes on the ground will be documented and statistics will be released on these treatments at a later date.

In total, 165 treatments (or \$772,055.93) were applied for in 2005/06 with the ASF. 108 of these treatments (or \$434,881.35) were funded, totaling 798.8 ha of woodland treated. The remaining 57 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, 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 the 2005/06 agreement on the ASF website ([www.asforestry.com](http://www.asforestry.com)). If you have any questions or want further information please contact the ASF.

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