

2006/07 was the second 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:

1. Only treatment categories 5 (pre-commercial thinning in natural stands), 6 (commercial thinning), and 7 (crop tree release, crop tree pruning, and selection management) are eligible.
2. Fifty percent of available funding will be reserved for the Eastern Region of the Province (Counties of: Guysborough, Antigonish, Richmond, Victoria, Cape Breton, and Inverness).

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 and areas within the Province.

The 2006/07 sustainability agreement with NSDNR spanned one silviculture season (fall 2006). The agreement ran from August 1, 2006 to March 31, 2007. By mid-October the fifty percent funding reserved for the Eastern Region of the Province was still not completely allocated. The ASF reported to the NSDNR that the funding held for this region could not be spent and was so redirected to all other areas within the Province on silviculture categories 5, 6 and 7.

During the 2007/07 agreement a total of \$304,739.50 of the total \$310,500.00 budgeted, was spent. Seventy private woodland owners in Nova Scotia (totaling 89 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. Sixteen 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, 13.7% was spent in the Eastern, 57.9% in the Central, and 26.6% in the Western. Funding spent in the Western Region of the Province was up approximately \$64,000.00 from the previous agreement. It is hard to speculate why this was the case, but it could be that there was less funding available from other sources in the region at the time.

The most funded treatments during this time were pre-commercial thinning in natural stands (84.8% funding), crop tree pruning (7.4% funding), and selection management (3.1% funding). These treatments together received approximately 95% of the total funding.

Eleven percent of the funding (or \$34,191.00) was spent on category 7 treatments during this agreement (including crop tree release, crop tree pruning and selection management). This is up slightly from the previous agreement (2005/06) where \$31,308.00 was spent on category 7 treatments. In total, there were 15 category 7 treatments applied for of which 10 were funded. Of the treatments that were not funded, 2

of these were never undertaken by the silviculture contractor and 3 treatments were placed on the waiting list because of the first-come, first-served nature of the application process.

In total, 157 treatments (or \$667,562.00) were applied for in 2006/07 with the ASF. Eighty-nine of these treatments (or \$304,739.50) were funded, totaling 468.8 ha of small private woodland treated. The remaining 68 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, some treatments were put through other funding sources, and some applications were submitted for silviculture categories the ASF was unable to fund based on the NSDNR's eligibility criteria (this equaled \$147,181.00).

This was the first year that the ASF had to deal with sites that failed monitoring by the NSDNR from previous funding years. Three sites in silviculture categories 2 (plantation establishment), 3 (chemical release in plantations) and 5 (pre-commercial thinning in plantations) which were re-treated to meet treatment standards were resubmitted under the 2006/07 agreement.

The ASF has posted the silviculture treatments funded through its program from the 2006/07 agreement on the ASF website ([www.asforestry.com](http://www.asforestry.com)) in more detail. If you have any questions or want further information please contact the ASF.

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