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Enclosed is information on the latest program being administered by the Association for Sustainable Forestry (ASF). In agreement with the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources the ASF will be delivering another program focusing on the Category 7 silviculture treatments of the Forest Sustainability Regulations. This program will again be directed under the auspices of an advisory committee co-chaired by the ASF and the Ecology Action Centre. Funding has been allocated for **Crop Tree Release, Crop Tree Pruning, and Selection Management**. At this time, there has been \$135,000.00 made available for these treatments over the next few months.

This program will be expanded over the next few months (in terms of funding availability) and will also include an outreach component to compliment the on-the-ground work and encourage woodland owners and silviculture contractors all over Nova Scotia to use uneven-aged management techniques where appropriate.

The Silviculture Criteria included in this package will further explain the pre- and post-treatment conditions that a stand must meet in order to be eligible for funding through this program. Please note that there have been some changes to the silviculture criteria for the 2009/10 silviculture season.

If you are a contractor or a woodland owner, please note that a forest technician or forester is required to sign both the Application and Claim forms which are included in this package. This will indicate that in the estimation of the forest technician or forester that the areas submitted for funding meet the Silviculture Criteria. Please note: if you are unable to locate a forest technician or forester for signature purposes at the application stage (only), applications will still be accepted and reviewed by the ASF Coordinator.

Landowners are required to sign both the Application and Claim forms, unless signing authority has been given to the individual contractor or agent. Included in this package is a Signing Authority form that may be submitted at the application stage. Please note there have been changes to the Application and Claim forms this year (under terms and conditions and liability and insurance). Proof of insurance from the contractor or agent is now required.

As has been the case in the past, all measurements of jobs are to be completed exclusively by GPS. Job boundaries are to be well marked with flagging tape.

There is a **\$15,000.00** funding cap per landowner (but please note that larger applications may be considered). There will also be a **\$15,000.00** funding cap per contractor at this stage of the program, until more funding becomes available. The financial obligation of the Association will not exceed the amount approved at the application stage.

To make extra copies of the enclosed Application and Claim forms or Silviculture Criteria, simply photocopy them. The ASF maintains a website (www.asforestry.com) where all of the information in this mail out can be found. The ASF has developed a Procedures Manual which is posted on the website; anyone accessing the program is encouraged to follow the manual for field

procedures.

Applications will be accepted starting at 8:30 am on **June 1, 2009**. Applications will be processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Successful applicants will be contacted by phone and site inspections may be done before silviculture funding is committed. Sites that were treated in the past will be considered for funding.

I look forward to working with you on this program and if you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Rebecca J. Aggas, RPF
Coordinator
Association for Sustainable Forestry