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2.2 INTRODUCTION

The Northshore Forest is managed by Northshore Forest Inc. under Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) # 542521. The Northshore Forest is located in the Sault Ste Marie and Sudbury Districts, Northeast Region as shown on the Key Map.



This report has been prepared using direction from the following:

The Forest Management Planning Manual for Ontario's Crown Forests (2004);
The Forest Information Manual (April 1, 2007);
Annual Report Technical Specifications (June, 2008); and The Annual Report
Preparation and Review Protocol (July, 2007)

This annual report describes operations for year three of the 2005-2010 Forest Management Plan (FMP).

2.3.11 SYNOPSIS

This section contains a synopsis of the implementation and monitoring of forest operations to date.

Harvesting:

4,087 ha were harvested in 2007-08 for a total of 14,292 ha to date. This represents 30% of the forecast harvest area. The actual area harvested to date is somewhat lower than average annual harvest of during the previous 5-years and remains well below the average annual harvest level forecast for the 2005-10 FMP.

This under-harvest can be attributed to a lack of demand. Historically, harvesting has been less than the forecast harvest level however, demand for forest products was very weak in 2007-08 and this translated in low harvest levels. St Mary's Paper Corp. was not in operation for the part of the year, the Nairn sawmill was closed throughout the year and Midway lumber was not at full production.

Wood Utilization:

413,532 m³ were harvested in 2007-08 for a total of 1,480,964 m³ ha to date. This represents 37% of the forecast volume.

Natural Disturbances:

There was one forest fires to report in 2007. An experimental prescribed burn escaped its boundaries and burned 1,176 ha of productive forest. Jack Pine budworm populations collapsed however some pockets of spruce budworm were observed. The forest tent caterpillar was present in 2007 and remains limited to the eastern end of the management unit.

Renewal, Tending and Protection:

Renewal of the forest was initiated on 4,207 ha and is keeping pace with past harvesting. 2,055 ha were left to regenerate naturally and 2,152ha were artificially regenerated through planting and seeding. To support the renewal

program, 2.4 million conifer seedlings were grown at local tree nurseries for planting and 387 hectolitres of cones were collected.

To prepare sites for regeneration, 1,422 ha were site prepared. Slash management consisted of piling the road slash and no piles were burned in 2007-08.

Tending was conducted on 1,422 ha primarily for the purpose of releasing conifer regeneration from competing broad-leaved vegetation.

Northshore Forest Inc. continued its involvement as a member in the Northeast Seed Management Association.

No protection (insect pest control) operations occurred in 2007-08.

Roads:

12.1 km of branch roads and 105.7 km of operational roads were constructed. The roads program included the installation of 21 water crossings and the removal of 4 crossings.

There were 11.5 km of road constructed beyond new access restrictions put in place during the year. There were 12.6 km of operational roads that were decommissioned during the year.

Revenues & Expenditures:

Revenues generated in 2007-08 include \$1.016 million for the Crown, \$1.048 million for the Forest Renewal Trust Fund and \$174,000 for the Forestry Futures Trust Fund.

\$1.506 million were spent to implement the forest renewal and tending program of which \$58,000 came from the Forestry Futures Trust Fund.

Monitoring & Assessment:

Through the forest operations inspection programs run by the SFL and the MNR, 156 reports were filed. 94% of the operations inspected were found to be in compliance however there were 4 instances of non-compliance identified by the SFL and 5 by the MNR. Most of these instances were resolved through self-correction however there was one 1 stop work order issued. The SFL, the MNR and the Operations sub-committee continue their efforts to identify and minimize the instances of non-compliance.

Regeneration assessments were conducted on 4,108 ha. All sites were successfully regenerated to one of the 15 forest units on the Northshore Forest. To date 13,308 ha (55% of the forecast) have been assessed and this level is keeping pace with past harvesting and renewal.