

# Our Forests Are *For Everyone*

**A Long-Term Management Strategy for  
Healthy & Sustainable Forests**





## ***Our Forests Are For Everyone***

**A Long-Term Strategy for  
Healthy & Sustainable Forests**

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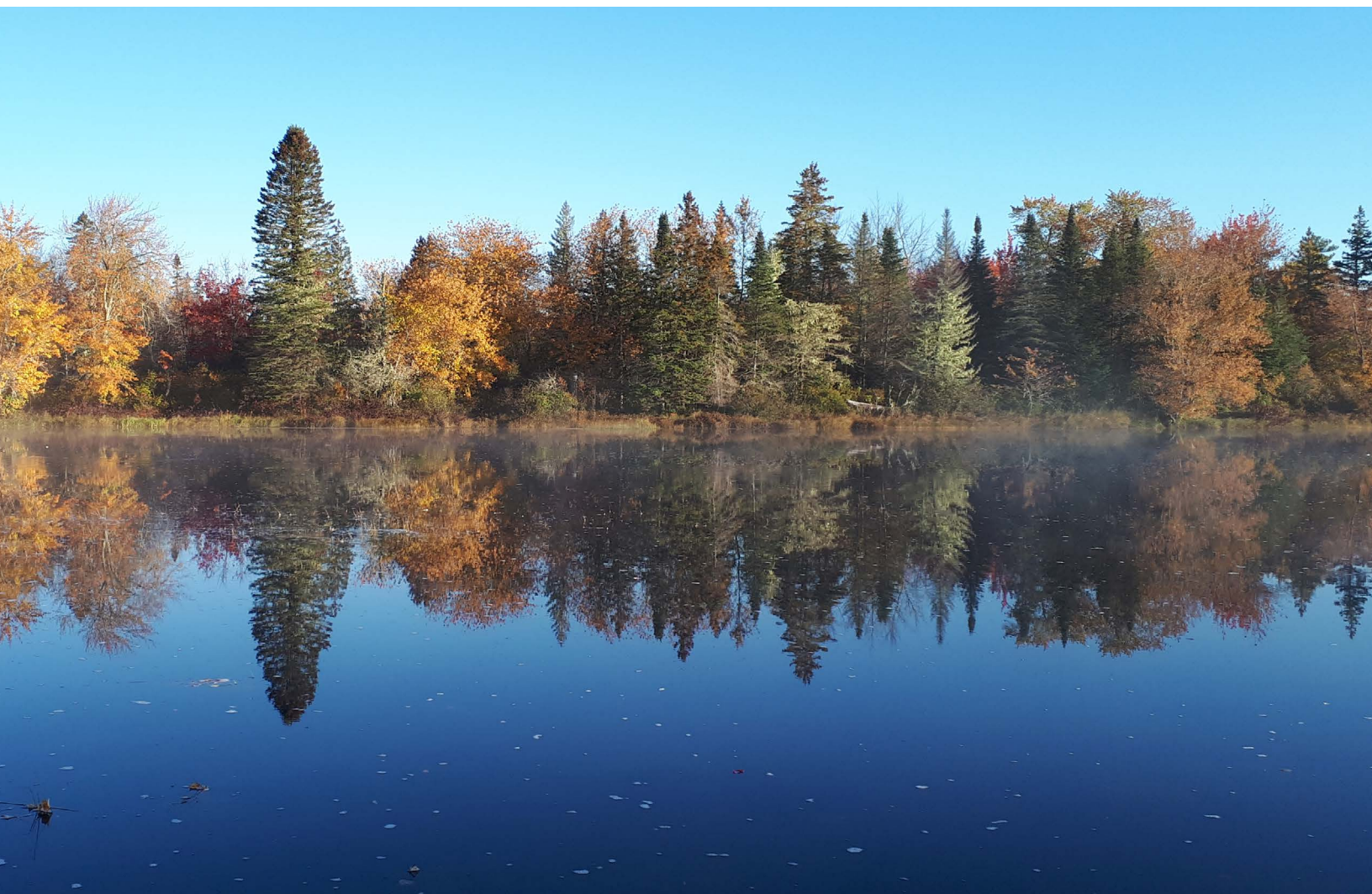
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*“Today, New Brunswick is in the unique position to dedicate more areas for conservation while also growing the economic benefits of the forest sector– and at the same time expanding non-timber uses like maple syrup and other agri-food production. And we’re doing it while improving our management of species at risk, augmenting water protections, and safeguarding culturally significant lands identified by First Nations.”*

**Hon. Mike Holland**

MINISTER, NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT



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# A new approach for *healthy forests*

MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

Good forest management strategies begin with good conservation principles, and that is exactly where our government started when renewing our forest management strategy for Crown lands in New Brunswick. We made a clear commitment to improve our approach and demonstrate that we can deliver better and mutually beneficial outcomes for our environment, society, and the economy.

Building a long-term plan takes care – and it takes time. Although the softwood wood supply can increase today, one of our first steps in 2019 was to delay the increase of Crown wood supply for five years. That decision allowed us to take the time to meaningfully consult and engage with First Nations on their interests, obtain input from key stakeholders, and gather feedback from the public on conservation priorities.

The many contributions received over the last few years have shaped the themes in this strategy, which provide overarching guidance for forest management on Crown lands. They also fed into the corresponding goals and objectives outlined in this strategy – many of which introduce new or improved approaches to achieve better balance, transparency, and accountability. We are confident this strategy will result in different and improved outcomes for sustainable forestry in New Brunswick.

We are already seeing progress. Today, New Brunswick is in the unique position to dedicate more areas for conservation while also growing the economic benefits of the forest sector – and at the same time expanding non-timber uses like maple syrup and other agri-food production. And we're doing it while improving our management of species at risk, augmenting water protections, and safeguarding culturally significant lands identified by First Nations.

These gains are due to sound management over the last 40 years that will allow the forest sector to grow with increased wood supply without harvesting more area, while leaving precious old forest and expanded areas for conservation. I will be requiring industry to implement government's goals and objectives in their day-to-day operations to ensure that our forests are for everyone.

I'm proud that, in many ways, this strategy answers the call for change that our government heard from New Brunswickers. As we move forward, we will continue to engage openly, share information freely, and use the world's best science-based systems and techniques to steadily improve. By working together with all stakeholders, we can truly achieve the best managed forests in Canada for generations to come.

**Hon. Mike Holland**

MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
AND ENERGY DEVELOPMENT





# Our forests are for everyone

## KEY METRICS AND IMPACT

### Environmental

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**FROM 23% TO 30%**

of Crown forest lands designated for biodiversity conservation

**210,000**

hectare increase in watercourse buffers, deer wintering, and higher quality old forest habitats

**10%**

provincial land and freshwater legally protected for future generations

**1000+**

suggestions from citizens on newly protected areas

**UP TO 80%**

of harvested areas left to regenerate naturally

**250**

autonomous recording units deployed in the forest by the Department's research partners recording the presence of birds

**20**

types of old forest ecosystems and habitats mapped and conserved

**600**

deer wintering areas mapped on Crown lands

**900+**

site-specific habitats identified and buffered from operations on Crown land





## Social

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### RECOGNIZED LEADER

in Canada in wildfire prevention

### AVERAGE 43,000

department person hours dedicated to suppressing fires each year

### WORLD LEADER

in GIS and forestry estate modeling systems

### NEW INVESTMENTS

in satellite imaging

### OPEN SOURCE GIS DATA

publicly available

### 75%

of New Brunswickers enjoy outdoor recreation

### OVER 50,000

kilometres of access roads and trails on public lands

### 215,000

residents hold an NB Outdoors Card for hunting and angling

### SIX IN 10

New Brunswickers chose where they live partly based on access to nature

### 250+

registered professional foresters in New Brunswick

### \$500,000

annual funding offered to Indigenous consultation organizations for capacity building in Forestry

## Economic

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### 1 BILLION

trees planted on Crown land over the last 40+ years

### 3RD LARGEST

maple syrup producer globally

### HARVEST ~1.5%

of the forest annually

### FORESTRY

- **#1** in Canada for forest products GDP per capita (50% more than in BC)
- **900** companies directly operating in forest sector
- **45** mills fueling rural economies
- **TOP EMPLOYER** supporting more than 24,000 full-time equivalent jobs
- **\$2.8 BILLION** in annual exports
- Contributes more than **\$1.5 BILLION** to provincial economy annually

### 100

outfitting businesses

### 3,000

licensed guides





# Introduction

## STEWARDSHIP AND SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES

We believe the forests of New Brunswick are for everyone. For centuries, they have been the driving force of our social, economic, and environmental prosperity. They are New Brunswick's most valuable natural renewable asset and unlike any other found in the world. Termed the 'Acadian Forest', New Brunswick is a place where the deciduous species to our south mixes with the coniferous species of the boreal, forming a unique ecology that continues to be shaped by our climate, wildlife, underlying geology and soils, and by the people who enjoy its abundance.

The Government of New Brunswick is the steward of more than 30,000-square kilometres of forest, which is managed sustainably for the benefit of all New Brunswickers under the leadership of the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development.

This document puts forward government's vision for New Brunswick's Crown forest, expressed through a series of long-term goals and objectives that fall into four broad strategic themes:

1. Commitments to First Nation communities
2. Stewardship of the environment
3. Supporting a vibrant forest sector
4. Commitments to society

### Our vision statement

New Brunswick's public forests are a place for wild species to thrive, a place of cultural significance, a setting for people to enjoy nature, and a driver for economic growth – both now and for generations to come.



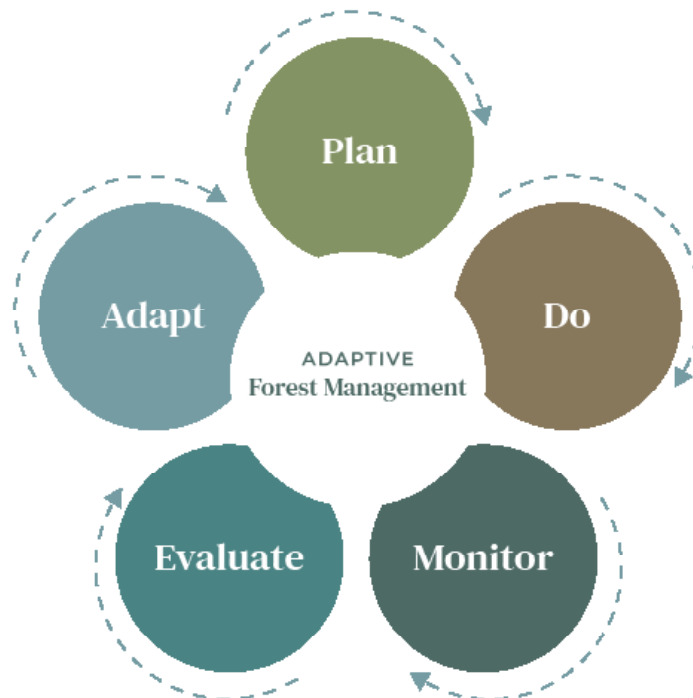


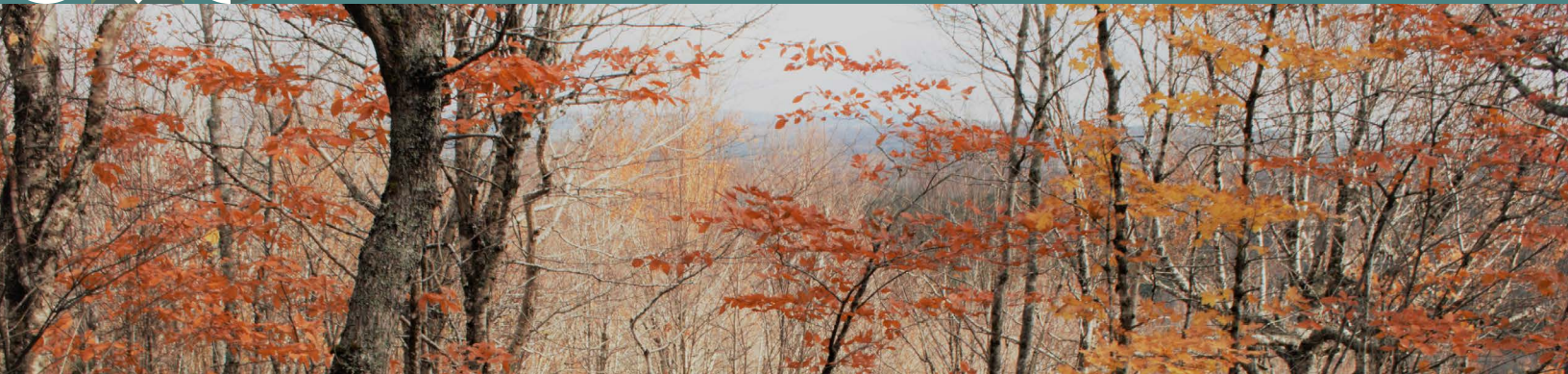
## Our sustainable forest management principles

PRINCIPLE	DEFINITION
STEWARDSHIP	We are stewards of the forest, and have the responsibility to pass it along to future generations in a condition that provides more economic, ecological, cultural and societal value than what exists today.
AMBITION	We can do more, by looking for innovative ways to simultaneously improve conservation outcomes and society's interests in prospering from a competitive and growing forest sector. One does not have to come at the expense of the other.
KNOWLEDGE	Science provides the basis for stewardship. We use the best available technology, apply forest research, and deliver with professionalism.
ADAPTATION	Forests, and the industries built around them, are extremely complex, undergoing rapid change due to global economic, climatic, and societal trends. This changing environment means we monitor, learn, and adapt our management approach over time.

## Adaptive forest management

The department of Natural Resources and Energy Development applies the concept of adaptive management for continuous improvement, builds new insights into the strategy every five years, and adjusts goals and objectives accordingly.





# Enhancements for better outcomes

## A SERIES OF FIRSTS IN FOREST MANAGEMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK

Our desire for a more balanced approach has resulted in many firsts for the forest sector and several major improvements over the strategy being implemented since 2014. These enhancements will ensure a healthier forest, more inclusion of diverse perspectives, and improved outcomes for New Brunswickers. To improve sustainable forest management, we have:

### Advanced technology for inventory accuracy

- Employed high-resolution inventory estimates developed from LiDAR remote sensing technology, which provides a much clearer view of the forest to guide decisions about conservation, wood supply, and multiple use forestry. The equivalent in medicine would be to go from basic x-ray to advanced magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

### Elevated the importance of biodiversity

- Prioritized biodiversity and achieved historic gains through the Nature Legacy initiative which has resulted in the legal protection of 10 per cent of the province's land and fresh water. We had unprecedented levels of direct input from scientists, First Nations, conservation organizations, forest industry, and the public.

### Considered climate change

- Formally incorporated climate risk information into setting long-term strategy and management of resilient public infrastructure.

### Improved biodiversity protection

- Established objectives to leave more intact canopy in many harvested areas, including protections for large and rare trees difficult to find on the landscape.
- Established an objective to limit cumulative harvest amounts in forest watersheds.
- Established the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk under the *Species at Risk Act*. The committee considers the conservation status of at-risk species over time and provides independent and transparent assessments based on both available science and aboriginal knowledge.





## Advanced Truth and Reconciliation calls to action

- Conducted an extensive consultation with First Nations communities, resulting in specific objectives to protect Aboriginal and treaty rights in forest management as well as commitments to support additional capacity building.
- Established a Ministers' and Chiefs' Forestry Advisory Table, which will provide advice and Indigenous perspectives as well as oversee the work of the newly established forestry working group made of provincial government and First Nations participants.

## Supported maple syrup production

- Released an innovative maple resource strategy that uses technology to efficiently integrate wood supply, conservation, and significantly increase maple syrup production.
- Incorporated the interests of maple syrup producers directly into the goals and objectives for Crown forest management.

## Advanced the goals of private woodlot owners

- Created the Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund to support improved services and silviculture investments in the private woodlot forest to support woodlot owners' unique goals and objectives.
- Collaborated with marketing boards to better understand long-term wood supply from private lands and the management and marketing services required to make private woodlot owners successful.

## Improved accountability and transparency

- Developed a framework for a ministerial advisory board, which includes interested New Brunswickers and will be supported by committees of stakeholders and subject matter experts.



# Goals and objectives

## HIGHLIGHTS OF KEY STRATEGIC SHIFTS FOR HEALTHY, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE FORESTS

Crown forest management in New Brunswick is designed around an outcome-based approach and science-based adaptive management. Using an 80-year outlook and a variety of environmental, social and economic dimensions, government provides specific goals and objectives for Crown forests, and by law, Crown timber licensees develop management plans that deliver on these goals and objectives. These plans are renewed every five years.

While this strategy contains many detailed actions, which are identified in the goals and objectives and the supporting forest management agreements with licensees, highlighted below are the key strategic shifts being introduced to achieve healthy, resilient and sustainable forests.

### Conservation

This strategy increases the area on Crown land set aside for conservation from 23 per cent of the Crown forest to 30 per cent, a 210,000 hectare increase. This results in improvements to areas for watercourse buffers, deer wintering, and higher quality conserved old forest habitats. Next, we are setting a new protected areas target for the province and embarking on a renewed biodiversity strategy.

### Water Protection

This strategy has increased considerations for the flow and quality of water, including a focus on large buffers and cold-water inputs in the design of the Nature Legacy protected areas. To improve future outcomes, the department has partnered with the Canadian Rivers Institute on a five-year study to better understand resiliency of watersheds in the province and improve how we manage water resources in the forest. The department has also partnered with the University of New Brunswick's Laboratory for Forest Soils and Environmental Quality on wet areas mapping to improve road, harvest, and silviculture planning.

### Wood Supply

#### SOFTWOOD

This strategy introduces a significant shift in harvesting that moves the majority of harvesting to locations where past silviculture investments were made. Density management in softwood stands over the past 40 years will allow an increase in the long-term sustainable softwood harvest in the coming years – because these areas have higher volumes, the increase comes with no additional harvest area.

#### HARDWOOD

Over the last 20 years, hardwoods have been harvested at a rate that exceeded the long-term sustainable supply. This strategy corrects that by reducing the hardwood harvest to long-term sustainable levels. Harvesting in mixed stands of Acadian Forest will shift to leave more residual canopy and legacy trees in an effort to naturally regenerate a diverse mix of climate resilient seedlings. Natural, unmanaged forests will not be a target for tree planting following harvest. A focus over the coming years will be to work with the Northern Hardwoods Research Institute to improve regeneration outcomes for hardwoods such as sugar maple and yellow birch.





## Silviculture

The province will further accelerate investments in Crown silviculture. Increased planting will occur following the harvest of stands which were treated through the silviculture programs of the 1980s and 1990s, renewing the cycle. These sites will be planted with carefully selected nursery stock displaying traits well-adapted for New Brunswick's anticipated future climate patterns, resulting in a far more resilient and productive future forest. The seedlings that are produced in modernized nurseries from the best wild genetic material and several generations of controlled breeding programs will create a future forest that is productive and resilient to climate-driven stresses and pests. We will plant a mixture of white, black, and red spruce, along with smaller amounts of white, red, and jack pine. These seedlings will grow on sites that would otherwise support softwoods including balsam fir: an important tree with a proud past. Unfortunately, balsam fir is expected to be impacted considerably by climate change, especially in southern New Brunswick, with foresters already noticing premature decline. Over the coming years, planting will cease in naturally mixed forests and only occur where silviculture investment has occurred in the past. The minister has challenged forestry professionals in the department to meet the increased planting needs without increasing herbicide use.

## Diversified Use

The renewed maple syrup strategy has identified up to 5,000 hectares of additional land for lease to maple sugaries. This will strengthen our maple syrup industry, which is the third largest globally. Improved agri-food opportunities have begun including new blueberry leases with the Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture and Fisheries. Biomass production is also being explored through a new partnership with FPInnovations. Tools are now available to accurately estimate biomass availability and feasibility for different areas of the province. Over the past three years, we have inspected over 2,800 culverts and bridges on Crown land, ensuring safe and reliable access to Crown forests for the public and industry. This will minimize the environmental impacts of watercourse crossings that need repair. We will continue to monitor culverts and bridges on Crown land.

## Timber Royalties

A new, more responsive system has been introduced that combines a base value which represents the value woodlot owners get for their wood, with a monthly upward adjustment that is founded on the performance of commodities. This is unique in that it uses a portion of Crown timber royalties to focus improvements on management of the private woodlot forest through placing the increased royalties in the Private Woodlot Sustainability Fund. Work will continue with marketing boards to strengthen support and cooperation for woodlot owners.





# Four Strategic Themes

The four strategic themes and the goals and objectives listed below form the foundation of this forest strategy. The implementation of the strategy will be driven by 42 objectives which will be the focus of the day-to-day work done by the department and the forest companies implementing the strategy. This ensures objectives are being met while also identifying areas for continuous improvement. The department and industry will immediately begin to identify ways to improve both the objectives and outcomes for the next five-year strategy.







# Commitments to First Nation communities

## GOAL 1

### Commitment and accountability on consultation and respect of First Nations' established and asserted section 35 rights.

We value protecting treaty and Aboriginal rights and advancing the calls to action. This strategy was developed with extensive consultation and incorporates several investments and activities to support stronger reconciliation, respect the rights of Indigenous Nations to harvest natural resources to support their cultural, social, health and spiritual wellbeing and meaningfully engage with Indigenous Nations on a continuous basis.

#### SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

1.1	Working in collaboration with Indigenous peoples to improve the access of Indigenous peoples to suitable, protected Crown lands for the practice of their land-based section 35 rights and to expressly confirm these rights in law.
1.2	Licensees will consult First Nation communities on multi-year operational planning.
1.3	Forest operations which cause disturbance to mineral soils will avoid, mitigate, or monitor impacts to archaeological resources.
1.4	The forest is a source of traditional foods, medicines, and materials that are hunted, trapped, fished, and gathered according to Indigenous laws and customs. Indigenous peoples will have access to suitable areas for the practice of their land-based section 35 rights.



# Stewardship of the environment

## GOAL 2

**New Brunswick’s public forests will remain healthy and resilient and will support the species of flora and fauna we know exist today, those which we haven’t yet discovered, and those which may naturalize in the future.**

Currently, experts indicate that nearly 30,000 species live in New Brunswick’s forests. Dozens of animals, including bear, moose, deer, birds, reptiles, fish, and small animals depend on our forests to complete their life cycle. At the same time, old forest has never been more limited, which places even greater importance on the identification, maintenance, and management of critical old forest habitats. This goal identifies many actions to protect, preserve and augment the species that call New Brunswick home.

### SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- 2.1 The full diversity of native ecosystems will be represented in a network of permanently protected areas where natural processes will be permitted to unfold with minimal human influence. This network protects habitat for biodiversity, makes our landscape more resilient to climate change, and creates places that connect people with nature.
- 2.2 Functional patches of old forest will be retained across all ecoregions in each of 20 identifiable forest composition types. Threshold levels in each ecoregion aim to sustain at least 12 per cent in old age classes.
- 2.3 Populations of all 161 native forest-dependent vertebrate species will be maintained. For the 53 species of vertebrates that depend on old forest, functional patches of old forest habitat will be maintained to support viable populations across their natural distribution on Crown land.
- 2.4 Habitat to support white-tailed deer herds through severe and moderate winters will be maintained in traditional deer wintering areas on Crown land. The forest immediately adjacent to these areas will be managed to ensure a sustainable supply of winter browse is available for deer to use during moderate winter conditions.





2.5	Forest management activities will be planned, implemented, and adapted to mitigate threats to the recovery of provincially and federally regulated species-at-risk and their habitats.
2.6	Living legacy trees will be identified and reserved from harvest during forest operations where their exceptional size, age, or uncommon characteristics make them valuable biodiversity elements.
2.7	Connectivity and natural resilience to climate change will be strengthened within the working forest landscape by maintaining individual and clustered trees during harvest that reflect the site's natural canopy composition and complexity. These micro-habitats facilitate natural regeneration, ecological continuity, and the movement and dispersion of species within the forest landscape.
2.8	Forest management activities will not compromise the ecological function(s) of site- specific habitats (including rare plant locations, bear dens, raptor nest sites, colonial bird and bat nesting/roosting sites, mineral licks, etc.)





### GOAL 3

The integrity of watercourses and wetlands will be maintained to preserve the physical, chemical, and biological properties and functions of these systems in their natural state.

Water is often taken for granted, yet it is the lifeblood we all need. Potable groundwater underlies much of the province. Our approximate 60,000 kilometres of rivers and streams, and 2,500 lakes and ponds, provide extremely fertile ground and are home to a high diversity of life including fish, reptiles, amphibians, waterfowl, aquatic invertebrates, and sensitive plants. This goal introduces new protections to safeguard watersheds during forestry activities including harvesting, road construction, and silviculture to ensure they are carefully controlled wherever working near water.

#### SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

3.1	Wetlands and watercourses will be protected through using buffer zones. Buffer zones will be managed to regulate micro-climate, provide organic matter, maintain aquatic habitat, and act as sediment filters.
3.2	Designated wellfields and waterways in designated watersheds will be protected by appropriate buffer zones that will be managed to minimize physical effects the forest management activities could have on water quality.
3.3	Forest road construction and maintenance will minimize the physical impact to watercourses and wetlands by means of effective planning, proper maintenance, and well-designed/installed crossings.
3.4	The forest will function to moderate water flow throughout the landscape – serving to minimize the impact of extreme weather events.







## GOAL 4

Harvest, silviculture, and road operations on Crown land will preserve soil function, processes, and health through minimizing disturbance, erosion, and contamination.

Along with water and sunlight, healthy soils contain the key ingredients for highly productive forests. They are part of a rich ecology, containing beneficial microbial and fungal life that helps trees and plants grow. These objectives ensure that forestry operations are carefully managed to preserve and enhance soils and their function, and that any negative environmental impacts are prevented.

### SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- 4.1 Forest operations will minimize rutting and erosion through careful planning, best management practices, and effective remediation when required.
- 4.2 Environmental contamination due to spillage of hazardous materials (fuels, oils, pesticides, etc.) will be minimized. Operations will effectively clean and/or mitigate any contaminations that do occur and report when required.
- 4.3 The long-term net loss of productive forest area resulting from forest management will be minimized.







# Supporting a vibrant sector

## GOAL 5

**Crown forests will sustainably supply timber to New Brunswick’s forest sector. Harvest and silviculture activities will be planned to optimize the potential economic value of Crown lands.**

New Brunswick is growing high quality wood and is poised to realize the benefits from a long history of silviculture investment on public lands. We aim to be the leading jurisdiction in northeastern North America in terms of realized wood products production, quality, and value returned to our citizens. Hardworking forestry workers across the province have used thinning saws in hundreds of thousands of hectares to manage the density of naturally regenerating stands to improve their growth. Further, we have planted over one billion spruce and pine seedlings on public lands that have been carefully selected for their genetic traits and superior growth. While planting is a valuable part of our overall approach to reforestation, our objective is to have most of the area harvested each year regenerate to a diverse mixture of desirable tree species.

### SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

5.1	Forest management activities will result in increased growth and harvest of spruce-fir- jack pine.
5.2	Forest management activities will sustain a long-term supply of spruce-fir-jack pine saw material.
5.3	Forest management activities will sustain a long-term supply of hardwood products.
5.4	In areas where sugar maple, yellow birch, red maple, eastern white pine, red spruce, or eastern white cedar are dominant, forestry activity will focus on promoting a supply of quality timber by using carefully designed and executed silvicultural regimes.
5.5	Where opportunities exist, harvest and silviculture operations will favor the regeneration and growth of spruce and maple trees to improve climate resilience and the value of the future forest.
5.6	Forests dominated by maple trees will be managed to provide future potential in both the sawtimber and maple sugary sectors.





- 5.7 Silviculture regimes and their respective treatments will be managed to support a maximum increase in both the short-term and long-term sustainable wood supplies. Intensive forestry practices (i.e. mechanical site preparation, chemical vegetation control, etc.) will be zoned to a geographic scope that adds certainty regarding where this regime will be applied.
- 5.8 Harvest and silviculture operations on Crown land will be managed using site-level regimes that consider forest type, environmental features, neighboring land uses, related policy, and the legislative framework in the context of forest management objectives.
- 5.9 The collective forest management activities on the public forest will increase the financial value of the Crown forest inventory.





## GOAL 6

Trees harvested from Crown forests will be used to provide maximum value to the people of New Brunswick.

The forest sector of New Brunswick consists of more than 900 companies involved in the planning, harvesting, transportation, processing, and manufacturing of wood products as well as the renewal of the forest. This highly integrated bio-economy is quite different from the historical logging and shipbuilding based-economy that shaped our province in its infancy. Today value-chains are optimized through technology, infrastructure, continuous improvement, and trade, leading to a sector that competes globally. In 2022, it exported \$2.8 billion worth of high-quality fibre, manufacturing components, and finished products to North America and the world.

### SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- 6.1 The harvest of Crown timber will be consistent with sustainable harvest levels and with allocated volumes to New Brunswick mills.
- 6.2 All Crown merchantable trees that are harvested will be processed into primary forest products that contribute to New Brunswick's economy. Economic value (timber royalty) to government will be maximized.
- 6.3 Licensees and sub-licensees are provided equal opportunity to operate and sustain competitive Crown forest operations and mill facilities.







# Commitments to society

## GOAL 7

**The public forest provides opportunities for residents to hunt, fish, gather or harvest wild foods like berries and fiddleheads, and to enjoy the outdoors. Crown forests will be accessible for a variety of recreational pursuits and by various means of travel.**

Many New Brunswickers value their time in nature. Activities like hunting, angling, paddling, and trapping are woven into this province’s heritage. Hiking, bird-watching, riding an ATV, snowmobiling, camping, and mountain biking grow in popularity every year. In a comprehensive survey of New Brunswickers, 75 per cent of the respondents reported participating in at least one nature-based activity over the previous year and 6 in ten chose where they live partly based on having access to nature. For these outdoor enthusiasts the public forest will be open and accessible.

### SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

- 7.1 In addition to the primary use for resource management, designated roadways will be for allowing traditional public access to Crown lands for recreation and non-commercial uses.
- 7.2 Forest management activities will maintain aesthetic quality, user experience, and integrity along Crown angling leases, Canadian Heritage Rivers, and other features of high- recreational use through special management zones.
- 7.3 Forestry operations will consider nearby hiking, mountain biking, skiing, ATV, snowmobile, and other motorized/non-motorized trails. Licensees will cooperate with the organizations who manage trails to minimize potential disruptions for users.



## GOAL 8

**The Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, stakeholders, and members of the public will have access to important information regarding the management of the public forest.**

This strategy reinforces the need to give the public access to information regarding resource sustainability and upholds government's commitment to transparency about the use and management of the Crown forests.

### SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

8.1	A 25-year forest management plan (which forecasts 80 years forward) will be prepared which demonstrates how current and planned forest management activities achieve government's strategic objectives. The forest management plan will have 10 years of mapped harvest and will be no more than five years old.
8.2	An annual operating plan will be prepared which maps the approximate location of planned harvest, silviculture, and major road construction/maintenance activities.
8.3	An online forest management activities map will be maintained.
8.4	An annual report will be prepared which details the activity on the license over the previous operating season.







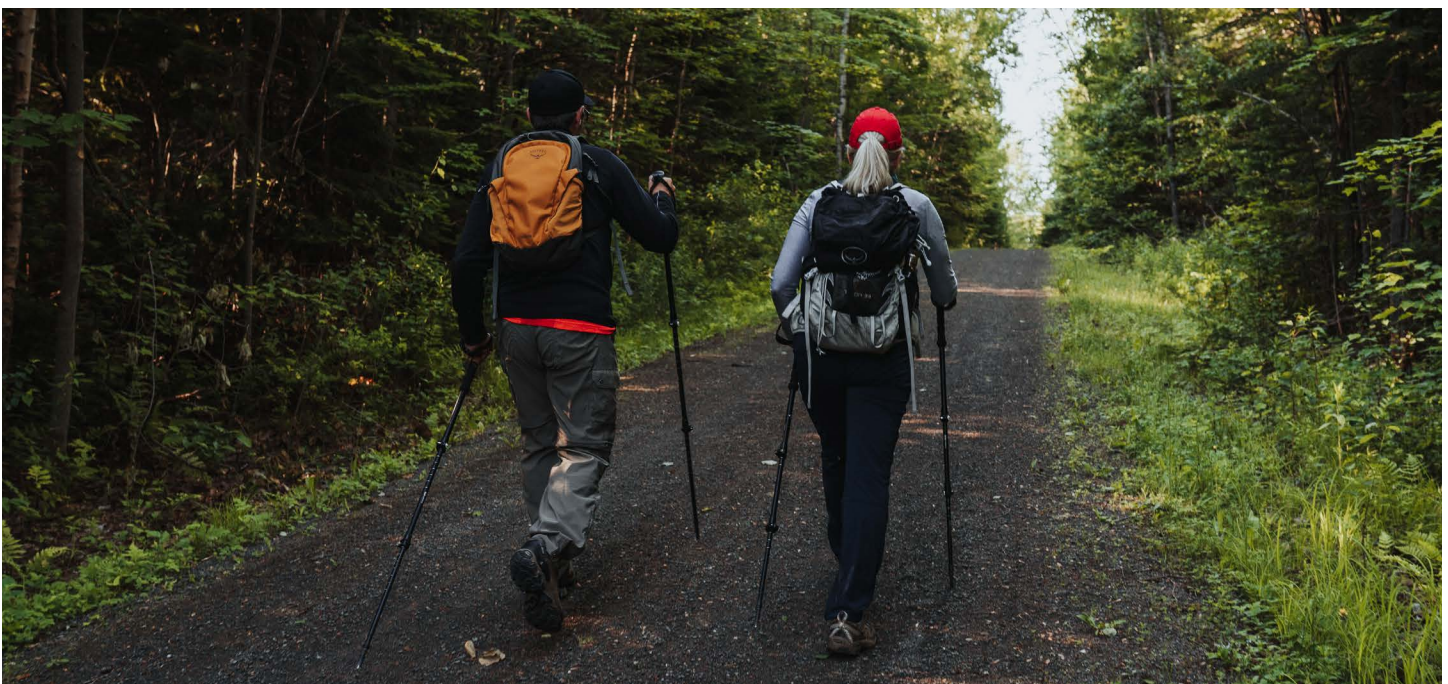
## GOAL 9

**Every New Brunswicker has confidence that the public forest is being managed to the highest standard.**

The public forests of New Brunswick are held in trust by the provincial government. We will strive to achieve world-class recognition in sustainable forestry through our commitment to science-driven adaptive management. We will have pride in a forest that has sustained the growth of this province for centuries and faith in those tasked with its stewardship. The expectation is excellence in forestry.

### SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES:

9.1	All forest management activities occurring on public land will be conducted under the supervision of a registered professional forester, using the best available resource information, state-of-the-art technology, while factoring a changing climate into their decisions.
9.2	All licensees will be third-party certified and will have a performance excellence culture, with a commitment to disciplined and continuous improvement using effective control methods on the licenses under their management.
9.3	All licensees will be expected to contribute towards furthering sustainable forest management through collaborative participation in forest research so that public forests are a place for the study of silviculture, ecology, timber utilization and multiple-value management.
9.4	The department will consider credible new information that provides the opportunity to adapt and improve sustainable forest management on Crown land.





# Measuring success and upholding excellence

## MECHANISMS AND TOOLS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

A number of mechanisms and tools exist to ensure strong accountability, oversight and transparency, as well as ongoing engagement with stakeholders. This strategy introduces some new mechanisms.

### Forest management agreements

Crown timber licensees operate under forest management agreements, and their supporting operational plans are designed to comply with the goals of the government's forest strategy. These outline specific and measurable performance indicators such as the protection of water quality and the conservation of wildlife habitats. These agreements are reviewed every five years. Forestry companies are also required to submit annual reports to the department that detail their activities, including harvesting levels, regeneration efforts, and compliance with regulations and guidelines.

In this exercise, the forest management agreements were substantially revised to ensure they are aligned with the *Crown Lands and Forests Act* and that they preserve the rights and decision-making powers of the minister and government. Moving forward, industry will be required to operate under these new and improved forest management agreements.

### Crown land operational outcomes monitoring

Ensuring objectives are being met requires consistent and targeted monitoring and collaboration between department staff and industry. Data are collected and analyzed to identify trends and recurring issues. Staff use a combination of on-site inspections, remote sensing technologies, and stakeholder engagement to monitor forestry activities on Crown lands.

This process-oriented approach and commitment to adaptive management through continuous improvement is a fundamental principle and pre-requisite to the Crown operational outcomes system.

Commitment to continuous improvement will follow a "plan- do-check-act" adaptive management cycle, which will lead to more consistent achievement of the goals and objectives, intended results, and successful overall performance.

### Annual State of the Forest report

With this strategy, annual State of the Forest reports are being introduced, which explain technical aspects of how the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development carries out the stewardship of Crown lands. These reports provide open and transparent reporting on technical aspects of the forest ecosystem and systems used to manage it, including the latest available data, historical trending, and performance against expectations. This report is augmented by easier access to web-based operating plans, and reporting of active operations.

### Ministerial Advisory Group

This strategy introduces a new framework for a ministerial advisory group that will provide ongoing input and recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development on the management of Crown forests. The intent is to have a citizen-driven advisory group with support of sub-committees that have stakeholders, experts, and other interested parties to inform the advisory group of all the opportunities and challenges associated with Crown forest management.





## Committee on the Status of Species at Risk

A Committee on the Status of Species at Risk has been established and is comprised of scientists, to evaluate the status of species in New Brunswick to determine which species need greater protection. This represents a safety net for biodiversity conservation if our conservation strategies are not meeting the intended outcomes.

## Ministers' and Chiefs' Forestry Advisory Table

The Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development will establish a ministers' table for the Ministers of Aboriginal Affairs and Natural Resources and Energy Development and chiefs of each First Nation to meet quarterly each year.







# Conclusion

## OUR FORESTS ARE FOR EVERYONE

Significant gains are being made in the management of Crown forests in New Brunswick through historic conservation, strategic harvesting plans, biodiversity targets, measures for species protection, and enhanced access for everyone.

Our Crown lands are truly public lands that support a broad range of interests including cultural, social, recreational, environmental, and economic development. As a government, we are committed to finding the right balance, and keeping New Brunswickers informed of the steps we are taking to meet our goals and objectives. Through the measures we have introduced, and those in progress, we are confident that better outcomes will be achieved.

With our approach to adaptive management, we will continue to monitor, engage openly, and incorporate what we learn. We acknowledge that this work is a complex mix of challenges and opportunities, and we strive for continuous improvement.

We welcome engagement from all New Brunswickers and have provided resources on our web site and open-data portal, including our State of the Forest report, which will now be an annual publication. We encourage everyone to learn about how the forests are being managed on behalf of all New Brunswickers and for the generations to come.

**Our forests are for everyone.**





# References

This vision is shaped by extensive consultation and the following:

- [\*GNB's Climate Change Action Plan 2022-2027\*](#)
- [\*GNB's Water Strategy for New Brunswick 2018-2028\*](#)
- [\*The New Brunswick's Nature Legacy Initiative\*](#)
- [\*The 2020 Biodiversity Goals & Targets for Canada, and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework\*](#)
- [\*A Shared Vision for Canada's Forests: Toward 2030 \(The Canadian Council of Forest Ministers\)\*](#)

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## ASK QUESTIONS AND OFFER SUGGESTIONS:

[\*forests@gnb.ca\*](mailto:forests@gnb.ca)

## FIND RESOURCES:

[\*Forestry & Conservation \(gnb.ca\)\*](#)

[\*GIS Open Data \(gnb.ca\)\*](#)