

***CHARTING THE COURSE WORKSHOP
THE NOVA FOREST ALLIANCE
January 28th
Glengarry Inn, Truro, Nova Scotia***

8:45 *Welcome by Eldon Gunn, Chair, NFA*

Eldon Gunn, the Chair of the NFA, gave a gracious welcome to all the participants and partners who were joined together for a day of active discussion and scoping of the future activities of the Alliance. All the partners here have been meeting together since 1997 to share concerns and issues about sustainable forestry and to work together for those ends. There are many of the same people in the room today who were around in '97 talking about the same thing.

Eldon also made a direct reference to the fact that Dan Welch and John Hall were present, representing the Model Forest Program in Ottawa and providing their real support for the partnership. Their assistance and encouragement is significant.

Eldon also reminded participants about the Minister's comments, where he spoke about making the NFA a “showcase for Nova Scotia”. He continued by noting that “there are two more years after this fiscal year has expired for the NFA to move forward, and we are looking forward to phase three, if and when it comes, and what it will mean to us. We want to take today to explore potential directions about what happens in the future and what might be appropriate for phase three. This is the jumping off point to do it!”

9:00 *The Nova Forest Alliance – A Unique Area and Challenge by Brian Sykes, General Manager*

Brian Sykes began his talk by presenting a picture of the Alliance and describing what is the vision that the partners have set for themselves for the future.

The Alliance is responsible for getting information out to the public and partners. Remember that 77% of this area is covered in Acadian forests. NFA does not make the management decisions about the land base – it is the ***landowners and partners*** that make the decisions. Perhaps that is what is so powerful about the notion of the Model Forest. Brian explained that the communities are part of the Model Forest working forest area. It is filled with small communities –it is an ***inhabited*** forest of 3 counties – Halifax, Hants and Colchester.

There are also 18 sawmills within the area: the large mills of Sproule and MacTara, along with many smaller mills with a variety of different products. This vicinity provides a broad range of value added to the province. He also commented on the significant tourism infrastructure and the potential for significant increases in tourism/forestry interaction.

Brian explained today’s goals for the workshop:

- ❑ Share our information
- ❑ Discuss challenges and issues
- ❑ Identify common ground among partners
- ❑ Propose direction for activities and results
- ❑ Commit to advancing on those activities and results

Eldon quickly reminded the group that this workshop would formally replace one of the Partnership meetings, although there would be no financial reports to share today. He reminded the participants that the key part of this initiative and indeed of the entire Model Forest is the partners. To function day to day, the NFA has a set of committees, one of which is the Management Committee. However, that Management Committee only does the bidding of the Partners in the Alliance.

9:15 Our Progress – Updates on where the NFA is *right now*

Working Woodlot Committee - Tim Whynot

NOTE: I DID NOT GET TIM’S OVERHEAD NOTES. THEY SHOULD BE ADDED HERE, AFTER THE TEXT DISCUSSION, IF IT IS APPROPRIATE.

Tim noted that the NFA has approximately 6000 landowners that hold 54% of the land base in the NFA. They are truly important players in the Alliance

Tim identified the membership of the Working Woodlot Committee, and also what the objectives of the group were - specifically **education and awareness** among woodlot owners.

They work carefully to provide advice to all the NFA committees on woodlot issues. They demonstrate sustainable practices by their tour series, and promote implementation of BMP’s with the information sessions and tour series.

They have identified some key challenges:

- ❑ To ensure that all woodlot owners are aware of the NFA
- ❑ Reaching “inactive” woodlot owners
- ❑ Improve the stewardship ethic of all landowners
- ❑ Ensure that the NFA woodlots are managed sustainably

Proposed future activities:

- ❑ **Woodlot management planning guide** – to lay out a process for the development a planning guide
- ❑ **More information sessions for land owners-** including estate and tax planning, and other concerns
- ❑ **Woodlot tours**
- ❑ **Book** – *Out Roddie’s Way* – a book written about woodlot management for woodlot owners by Gervan Harrison

We are feeling our way but making progress!

Contractors and Operators Committee - Gerald Holmes

Gerald reviewed the membership of the committee, and highlighted the commitment of all the members. He noted that the biggest challenge is to decide in which direction they will move. The membership is made up of mid-size independent operators, Canadian Forest Service staff, private operators, large mechanical operators, and small forwarder, one- machine operations. The members are able to consider the concerns and issues of all levels of contractors and operators.

Contractors and operators are critical to the delivery of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) throughout the province, and large companies have their own Best Management Practices (BMP’s) / Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s). Their target audiences then, are those with smaller operations. This is an opportunity to create a level playing field in the industry and improve the image of the industry.

“To establish a program to develop and demonstrate a Code of Sustainable Forest Management Practice and encourage implementation by all landowners”.

The idea is to train the contractors to have a standard book that they will follow. This will help them to educate the landowners as well, trying to bring the woodlot owners back on side.

The group started to build the BMP’s by reviewing the BMP’s of other groups/provinces/states and collected a lot of good ideas. They prepared an outline for the BMP’s, identified the key characteristics – small, easy to carry, outline the correct procedures, etc. They would like to see the final product designed in a binder fashion so it can be changed and updated. Not a “**how to**” but rather a “**what to**”. This can help raise the awareness of the landowners so that they know there is more to their land than simply the money they may make off of it.

The content of this proposed manual will include:

- ❑ Forward
- ❑ Code of Practice
- ❑ Best Practices (dealing with landowners, forestry operations, self-audit)
- ❑ Additional Information Sources

Next steps:

- ❑ Finalize and print manual – March 31, 2000
- ❑ Get buy-in from broader group (try to get others in the public to want to use this)
- ❑ Define education and training needs of all potential users
- ❑ Develop sign-on protocol, administrative lists, certificates to contractors
- ❑ Examine options for a self-audit process
- ❑ Organize the hold field tours.

Access for Multiple Use Committee – Crawford MacPherson

The primary objectives of this group are to raise awareness of responsible and ethical use and to develop programs that will encourage landowners to allow public access to their lands.

Accomplishments:

- ❑ Illegal dumping campaign – this was the real issue! If it is not dealt with, the trend that has started with property owners closing their land to the public will continue, so it must be addressed now as a priority.
- ❑ Trails Co-ordinator – to design the preliminary route for the Trans Canada Trail through the NFA, as well as initiating some landowner contact
- ❑ Private Landowners Stewardship Program (put on hold)

Current activities:

- ❑ Production of a Video – “Responsible Use of the Forest”
- ❑ Production of a brochure to go with the video
- ❑ Ongoing communication with Halifax Regional Municipality
- ❑ Finalize Trans Canada Trail route through NFA (by end of February 2000)
- ❑ Landowner information package

Challenges/Actions:

- ❑ Landowner guidelines to encourage responsible use
- ❑ Private Landowner Stewardship Project
- ❑ Illegal dumping – continue media campaign, continue to work with HRM

- ❑ Trails – support creation of trails through NFA; identify areas for potential demonstration of forest practices
- ❑ Community forestry – research existing and potential opportunities for non-market values and services

In the discussions following this presentation, there was a comment that the illegal dumping campaign was a real success. Crawford made a point of acknowledging that Kelly serves much of the credit for the work!

As an aside, Eldon reminded everyone that “you are all welcome to be a part of all the committees. You are all members, and if you have something to discuss, you need to bring your message to those groups”.

Criteria and Indicators Committee - Peter Jones

Committee Objectives – develop a set of local Criteria and Indicators (C&I’s) for the Partnership area.

There is a large group of people on the committee (or at the committee meetings), with representation across academia, government, industry, field naturalists, and with significant support from the NFA staff. They realized they did not have to start from scratch, but that they can use the CCFM C&I’s with some regional/local modifications. They agreed, however, that they need to assess potential indicators that are measurable, practical and affordable, and understandable.

The committee looked at the Southern New Brunswick Wood Producers indicators, as well as the Fundy Model Forest. They then compiled a broad range of indicators to narrow things down.

As a group, they agreed on 64 potential indicators. Descriptions were required, and they held a December workshop to fine tune and reach agreement on some priorities. The result was agreement on 35 indicators to proceed with testing, with specific volunteers can lead that testing.

Current challenges:

- ❑ Develop a work plan for testing and reporting
- ❑ Assign leads and indicator task teams – finalize approach to measurement
- ❑ Begin indicator testing
- ❑ Prepare state of the forest Report for the NFA
- ❑ Communicate results, evaluate public response
- ❑ Pursue additional indicators where appropriate

Their target is to have the **State of the Report** done by the end of 2000.

The indicators are how is the NFA going to measure the 5 criteria that the CCFM have identified as key for SFM.

Communications Committee – Bill Smith (for Francine Rousseau)

The role of the committee is to review other Model Forest Communications Plans; to assist the NFA to develop and implement a communications plan; to advise NFA Communications staff on strategic focus; act as a sounding board and provide advice and input and to provide advice to the Management Committee on communications strategies, policy and budget

The membership is dynamic – with a number of different representatives from the Canadian Forest Service, NSDNR, NSFA, Fundy Model Forests, etc., along with Kelly as the workhorse.

Progress to date:

- ❑ Communications plan for 1999 – 2000
- ❑ External bi-annual Newsletter – *Growing Ideas*
- ❑ NFA Today – internal newsletter, published 6 times a year
- ❑ NFA Information poster
- ❑ NFA web site
- ❑ General Advertising
- ❑ Trade Show participation
- ❑ PSA/promo videos
- ❑ Stewiacke Tree Lighting
- ❑ Media relations
- ❑ Science Horizons student
- ❑ Supporting the work of other committees by providing advice to communications staff on those initiatives

Challenges:

- ❑ Communications Plan for next year that reflects the communication priorities of the partnership
- ❑ Linking NFA communications initiatives with those of the partners – having regular communication with partners, possibly having the General Manager visit partners for more intense information sharing
- ❑ Identifying communication and information gaps, devising and implementing a plan to fill them
- ❑ Education initiatives – they are considering providing an in-service for teachers, such as the Fundy Model Forest activities

Peter Duinker raised the issue that many Nova Scotians are functionally illiterate, and how will the Communications Committee reach this audience? Bill explained the

committee realizes that one size doesn't fit all, and things like field tours and trade shows enable the NFA to consider other ways of communications. Also, the notice of seminars went out to every household in the area, and although it is print, it is still a comprehensive, effective way of getting a message to every household – 17,000 of them. These seminars will be hosted in the fire halls.

Management Committee – John Roblee

John explained that the main priority of this committee is establishing the management of the business on behalf of the partnership. In addition, they:

- Approve the work plan
- Identify and support linkages within the Partnership
- Explore linkages outside Partnership and develop opportunities
- Develop and approve projects outside existing committees
- Seek additional resources

Accomplishments to date:

- Met on a monthly basis
- Work plan is approved
- Conducted 3 new staffing action (GM, Communications, front office) - we have constructive problem solvers on the staff

How have they met the NFA Objectives?

- 1) Establish working partnership in the NFA:
 - Secured commitment to the C and I process
 - Planned this workshop
 - Communications position established to improve communications
 - Encouraged participation of ALL partners
 - Held quarterly partnership meetings
- 2) Established an overall SFM process:
 - Adopted Criteria and Indicators as a key first step
 - Developed work plan to address key components (BMP's, demonstrations, communication)
 - Initiated public opinion survey to provide public perception data regarding SFM
- 3) Fundy Linkages
 - Participated in Model Forest Network and International Network meetings

- ❑ Organized field tours
- ❑ Anticipated in Fundy “Vision for Phase III” workshop
- ❑ Participated in other Fundy activities

Supporting/Facilitating other objectives:

- 1) Special projects;
 - ❑ Public opinion survey
 - Telephone survey completed
 - Mail out I development
 - Assess change
 - ❑ Antrim Demonstration woodlot
 - Lease arrangement with Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NSDNR)
 - Antrim Woodlot Management Team in place
 - ❑ Stewiacke River
 - Partnership to revitalize the river park
 - Use the site for forest education
- 2) GIS Operation and Maintenance
 - ❑ Training for staff
 - ❑ Standing offer for services
 - ❑ Compendium of product/baseline information
- 3) Forest Ecosystem Classification
 - ❑ Develop site specific recommendations for biodiversity, timber, wildlife management
 - ❑ Support vision to move towards Acadian Forest type
 - ❑ Partnership with province (one of the few provinces without FEC, NFA pilot area)
- 4) Pockwock Bowater Watershed Study
 - ❑ Addresses wildlife habitat regulation
 - ❑ Examines riparian/buffer size
 - ❑ An example of a working partnership

Challenges:

- ❑ Install a new chair
- ❑ Create an overall strategy for NFA in terms of SFM to end of Phase II
 - bring pieces together into strategic package
- ❑ Encourage Partner investment to realize strategy and goals
 - increase financial and in-kind commitment
- ❑ Strengthen linkages with Fundy Model Forest
 - Address technology transfer

- Investigate methodologies for transfer of results from one jurisdiction to another
- Illustrate to network the potential for transfer
- Respond to the results of this workshop
 - Make adjustments to budgets, and committees to meet Partnership goals
 - Approve work plan that reflects Partnership goals
- Look ahead to Phase three
 - Full Model Forest status
 - Provide input as part of the Network in Phase II
 - Put NFA on solid ground to finish the task it has mapped out

10: 45 Sustainable Forest Management Challenges – Identified by the Partnership

Government Sector – Gary Westoll, Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Central Region Integrated Management Planning (IRM) on crown land report

Gary outlined the IRM strategic planning process and explained where Central Region was in that process. He summarized the four levels of strategic planning, and explained how the Central Region actually plans, with relation to the provincial plan, regional plans, detailed operating local area plans and annual operating plans.

DNR has categorized Crown Land into 3 categories:

- C1:** multiple use lands that have a low level of conflict with competing uses
- C2:** multiple adaptive use lands with conflicting values that have a predominant but not exclusive land use, such as a community designated water supply area where there are other resource activities there as well
- C3** protected and limited land use areas, where other activities may be limited or denied. These are legislated or planned for lands, such as wilderness areas, provincial parks, etc.

Gary pointed out a number of issues by resource type (about 430 issues) that were identified when DNR held their public consultation activities. There are a series of forestry issues that can be brought to attention – forestry aesthetics of land use, operational practices in terms of clear-cut sizes; concerns about clearcutting, pesticide etc. on fish habitat, biodiversity, etc.

There are, in fact, countless issues that may impact on the NFA.

There is some concern about lack of recreational opportunities in some areas; concerns that viewsapes should be better planned before harvesting. There are a number of critical issues over heavy hunting and trapping, recreational waterways, etc. Also, operational

practices where there is concern about negative effects of forest management practices such as clear cutting, pesticides and use of large logging machinery on fish habitat, watersheds, biodiversity, old growth forests and the environment in general. Many of these issues were applicable to the NFA partnership area.

Central Region Objectives and Strategies:

These were published in a document that is available to the public. The planning team took those issues discussed earlier together with resource information knowledge, and developed a series of objectives based on resource sectors. They came up with 24 objectives, with 61 associated strategies.

For example: An objective might be to improve resource management practices on crown land within domestic water supply areas – and the strategy is to cooperate with watershed management boards, comply with watershed regs, apply latest code of practices and conduct BMP’s.

To increase the awareness of adjacent land owners to DNR regional IRM planning – look beyond the boundaries of land ownership. Then liaise with land management organizations; identify and use adjacent private land attributes to modify if necessary.

Another objective is to maintain wildlife or enhance habitats (e.g. Karst eco-sites, piping plover nesting beaches, bald eagle winter feeding area) identified in DNR’s significant species/habitat inventory.

In the forestry sector, maintain aesthetically pleasing vistas along tourism routes by implementing landscape design techniques along highways etc. What NFA can do is to bring this together, determine what applies to the area, and then sell it to the public!

DNR can maximize timber yield from available Central Region crown lands within limits of ecological sustainability by doing such things as planning wood volume allocations and forest management activities within the context of appropriate land use ecological classification units relating to recreation and wildlife habitat objectives, etc.

Gary added that if **anyone** thinks there are significant partner areas where linkages exist, to let DNR know. If there are opportunities to tie into those strategies, DNR is open to that.

Environment Sector – Kermit deGooyer

Kermit addressed the big challenges for the NFA and what can the Partnership do together to encourage that to happen. He would like to ensure that the forest resembles the native Acadian forest types, those that would have evolved here naturally.

He spoke about the importance of protected areas and managed land, and why there is real value in those protected areas.

In Kermit’s words, “we cannot say we have truly sustainable forest management unless we have parts of regions in the NFA areas that are NOT harvested. If we are serious about having multiple benefits, then we need to have some protected areas. We also need them as benchmarks so we know what non-actively managed forests will look like and determine how forestry practices are actually going”.

According to the DNR data, there are not enough places that are protected in terms of wilderness areas. One of the big black holes is in the NFA region. How can the NFA acquire more protected areas? This becomes a difficult issue because it has a lot to do with land ownership. There is so much privately owned land it is difficult to designate specific protected areas in the right places.

But on the other hand, there are 18 mills in this region. The NFA should be trying to have a protected area in each of the regions in the NFA – that is not the case yet. The really productive landscapes don’t have them yet

The NFA can explore the political and economic reasons why the land is not protected. They can talk to land owners and find out why. They also need to talk to larger timber companies, and see if they can move some of this land towards more formal protection. The NFA can conceivably partner with the Nova Scotia Nature Trust to do research into landowner attitudes in to resource protection. Perhaps there is an opportunity to have a public session on how landowners can protect their land.

There is also a role for the NFA to promote the idea of the working forest, and there is hope that, whatever the NFA does, it will remember the native Acadian type forest. The Partnership can return the value to the forest, and can build up the value of the wood to landowners, economic well being of the area, etc.

Industry Sector – John MacLellan

John began by asking the question, “Did you know that Nova Scotia’s forest industry generated 1.5 billion in income through exports in 1999?” That alone is pretty significant. The forest industry employs 21 – 23,000 people. In fact, the forest industry is the largest employer in rural Nova Scotia.

Concerns:

- ❑ Forest land conversion
- ❑ Forest museums – the removal of productive forest timber lands from permanent production has a severe impact on growth and yield, the amount of timber and the opportunity for that amount of timber

- ❑ Forest depletion on small private ownerships – is there over-harvesting? Unless we put a larger investment on growth on this land, our present harvesting activities are not sustainable. We may not have enough in the future. How do we then translate the upcoming legislation into results? Can NFA work here with this?
- ❑ Federal tax legislation which regards conversion and depletion of the forest resource, **not** growth. What can the NFA do here? We need to demonstrate that there are other opportunities which can benefit the forest

Opportunities:

- ❑ Consultation with stakeholders – NFA has done this and can do more
- ❑ Develop some solutions for the forest – we can’t solve it all. As a group, let’s pick some and see what we can do together, because we are a partnership
- ❑ Communicate the solutions – we have to do this together, and make sure we **talk** about the good things.
- ❑ Demonstrate the solutions

Non-Timber – Gordon Crowe (on behalf of River Country Marketing Association/Musquodoboit Valley Tourism Association)

Gordon started his presentation with a reminder: The only thing harder than doing a speech is climbing a wall leaning towards you, and kissing a girl leaning away from you! He was going to do his best, despite the lean!

Background:

These are initial thoughts of 2 partner organizations following an evening workshop to discuss forest/tourism issues. The small workshop provided an opportunity to discuss the forest/tourism issues, with recognition that tourism relies on healthy forest/positive public perception. The small group also recognized that Nova Scotia Nature Tourism, Guysborough tourism/forestry industry cooperation, and NFA public opinion survey did other studies that have explored forestry/tourism concerns.

Some considerations noted were:

- ❑ Tourism industry valued at **1.15 billion** versus forestry at **1.5 billion** annually
- ❑ The quality of the natural environment is drawing card for Nova Scotia
- ❑ Nature and experience based tourism is increasing
- ❑ Requirement for inland day tours
- ❑ Trans Canada trail crosses NFA
- ❑ 102 highway (Halifax to Truro) is busiest in NS
- ❑ Inland areas not given the market promotion

Issues:

- ❑ Tourism in inland areas relies on forest landscape to attract visitors. **No agency is responsible for managing the landscape of all values!**
- ❑ Little communication between tourism and forestry representatives
- ❑ Haven’t identified priority forest landscapes from a tourism perspective i.e. viewscapes from a tourism perspective
- ❑ Tourism representatives are unaware of best practices for the viewscapes
- ❑ Clearcuts are negative tourism value – need some signage, or immediate green up or something to explain what is happening)
- ❑ Lack of mechanism to work with landowners on viewscapes issues
- ❑ Haven’t identified forest/tourism based opportunities – but they do exist!

Challenges:

- ❑ Identify and prioritize tourism values and viewscapes within the NFA region
- ❑ Develop forestry/tourism products
- ❑ Communicate the forest/tourism relationship

Identify Priority Values and Viewscapes:

- ❑ Recommended actions:
 - ✓ Tourism operators identify the values and viewscapes
 - ✓ Communicate the findings to landowners
 - ✓ Work cooperatively to develop management practices for these sites (i.e. greenbelt)
 - ✓ **Lead:** Tourism with partners

Develop Forestry Tourism Products:

- ❑ Background
 - ✓ NFA area presents opportunity for product development
 - ✓ Market demanding nature base experiences
 - ✓ There is a strong local market from Halifax
 - ✓ Industry needs to raise awareness of forest management and mutual opportunities
- ❑ Recommended actions:
 - ✓ Identify a strategy to use existing forest/tourism opportunities
 - ✓ ID product opportunities – Shubenacadie Wildlife Park, etc.

- ✓ Develop partnership to pursue the projects - field test some products and see how it goes
- ✓ **Lead:** Tourism and Industry partners

Communicating Forest/Tourism Relationship:

- Background
 - ✓ Lack of mechanism to work with forest interest
 - ✓ Lack of information on what is being done, exploring the potential role of tourism
- Recommended action:
 - ✓ NFA develop a communication program to include tourism values (i.e. map values along with forest values)
 - ✓ Develop information and educational tools on the importance of forest landscape to tourism
 - ✓ More effort focussed on informing travelers about what is happening on different forest harvest sites and why they happen (signage, buffer zones)
 - ✓ NFA communication program can include tourism values – match forest and tourism values on maps
 - ✓ **Lead:** NFA: Communication program with support from Tourism and Industry

Woodlot Owners – Frances Perrin

On January 4th, 6 representatives of woodlot owners got together to identify their vision of SFM, present key issues to achieving that vision, and identify actions to address the challenges.

Group decided that the vision of SFM included the following:

- Balanced management planing
- Do what is right for the forest – look at treatment, harvesting of stands and ensure that things are appropriate for that woodlot; set up demonstration sites, consider the type of machinery we are using to work this woodlot. Have the contractors on side using BMP's
- Landowner empowerment (individual and collective). She identified the four categories of owners:
 - ✓ **Active managers** with a plan (preferred)
 - ✓ Wall to wall sale of timber owners
 - ✓ In-active owners – just not doing anything
 - ✓ Conservation types – concerned about conserving the entire woodlot

We need to try to move these into all **active managers**, to have a woodlot opportunities plan and all be working towards SFM.

- Constructive business environment – there is a need for some regulation and there must be a more level playing field. Recognize the cheapest way to get wood to roadside may **not** be the best way. Give some thought to regeneration, to ensuring that the forests are renewed. As woodlot owners, take responsibility for this renewal
- Flow of economic benefit back to local community – ensure a guaranteed income by managing for the long term, not just take all the wood off in one haul.
- Education and stewardship programs need to be in place

Challenge #1

Woodlot Opportunities Plan

- GOAL
 - ✓ Increase private landowners participation
- Recommended Actions:
 - ✓ Develop new generation “**Woodlot Opportunities Plan**”
 - Structured so all values are equal
 - Includes business practices/taxation benefits
 - Provides continuous flow of landowner benefits
- Develop and deliver planning program to landowners
 - ✓ Staff of two dedicated to developing plans
- Potential partners
 - ✓ Lead and partners
 - **Group of woodlot owners, potentially NS Federation of Woodland Owners**, a new group which is a pilot project in Nova Scotia
 - Industry
 - Province (NSDNR)
 - Woodlot owners
 - Non-timber based partners
 - Environmental sector

Challenge #2 – Forest Practices

- GOAL:
 - ✓ Ensure that forest practices conducted on private land reflect the goals of the landowner and are tailored to the needs of the forest

- Recommended Action:
 - ✓ Demonstration of good forestry practices (on an on-going basis, through demonstration sites, etc.)
 - ✓ There should be a clear demonstration of healthy **Acadian** forest types
 - ✓ We need to develop model SFM standards for key forest practices
 - ✓ Industry should reward good and discourage poor forest practices on private lands

- Potential Partners:
 - ✓ Industry
 - ✓ Woodlot owners
 - ✓ Contractors
 - ✓ ...possibly develop a Forest Practices Committee that can carry on this discussion and identify further priorities

Challenge #3 – Landowner Empowerment

- GOAL:
 - ✓ Improve woodlot owner control (collective and independent) over SFM on private lands and enhance capability to speak with one voice. The landowners need to have one voice!

- Recommended Action:
 - ✓ Develop pilot project to examine existing models of woodlot owner cooperation and develop prototype woodlot owner forum for NFA area
 - ✓ provide stewardship education and training opportunities for landowners

- Partners:
 - ✓ Existing woodlot owners partner organization (i.e. Conform, Group Ventures)
 - ✓ Possible participation by the new NS Federation of Woodland Owners

Challenge #4 Economics of SFM and Contribution to the Region

- GOAL:
 - ✓ Create a better understanding of the economics of SFM and the contribution to the landowner, local regional and provincial economies

- Recommended Action:
 - ✓ Woodlot Scale:
 - Develop a model that compares various SFM scenarios to allow owners to evaluate return in both economic and non-economic terms

- Develop improved estimates of harvesting costs for various harvest operations and identify costs of SFM optimal practices
- ✓ NFA Scale:
 - Develop improved estimates of the contribution of woodlots in terms of recreation, wildlife, water, aesthetics, tourism, timber and quality of life
- ✓ Partners:
 - Canadian Forest Service
 - NFA
 - Woodlot Owners
 - Research Team (Academic and Consulting)

SUMMARY:

Four Major Challenges areas identified:

1. Woodlot Opportunities Plan
2. Forest Practices
3. Landowner Empowerment
4. Economics of SFM practices on woodlots and contribution to regional economy

12:30 Lunch with Guest Speaker Mr. Howard Epstein

NOTE: Perhaps someone should add some of the discussions brought up by Mr. Epstein. I believe there were some noteworthy issues he brought up – particularly moving away from a pulp and paper dependent forest sector. I am sure that those words must have raised some eyebrows, along with his previous comments. But I only caught the last of his words because I was writing in the other room!

1:30 Break out groups to discuss issues and identify specific NFA Actions

At this point in the workshop, Susan Gesner of EcoLogic & Associates outlined the common themes that had arisen during the morning presentations. These themes expressed the recurring issues and challenges that had been presented and could be addressed to arrive at specific actions for the NFA.

The themes and their associated questions are as follows:

Question #1 TOURISM

- What can the NFA do to strengthen the forestry/tourism relationship?
- Who should participate
- What are the specific actions NFA can take?

Question #2 FORESTRY PRACTICES

- ❑ What can NFA do to make our forestry practices more acceptable to ALL our partners
- ❑ Who should participate
- ❑ What are the specific actions NFA can take?

Question #3 PROTECTED AREAS

- ❑ What can NFA do to make sure we have addressed protected areas in our SFM process?
- ❑ Who should participate?
- ❑ What are the specific actions NFA can take?

Question #4 WOODLOT OWNER EMPOWERMENT

- ❑ What can NFA do to support landowner participation and control over the management of the forest lands?
- ❑ Who should participate
- ❑ What specific actions can NFA take?

Question #5 ECONOMICS OF SFM

- ❑ What can NFA do to increase partner awareness about the economics of SFM practices to the landowner, community and the region?
- ❑ Who should participate?
- ❑ What are the specific actions NFA should take?

The large group was divided arbitrarily into 7 groups, with each group tackling 2 of the theme questions. This way, each question was addressed by two or more groups, ensuring that there was a broad and inclusive examination of each question.

3:00 Break Out Group Presentations

Each group presented the results of their discussions from each of the two questions they were given. The descriptive discussion results recorded on the flip chart paper by each group are included as **APPENDIX A**. These represent both the descriptive findings and the discussions following each individual presentation. The outcomes of these presentations are summarized below, being organized into common categories with individual recommendations falling into each category. As each group presented their findings, a running tally of specific actions was recorded. These are included as **APPENDIX B**.

1) *Working Group on Timber/Non-timber Values*

A working group can be established with some clear goals of addressing some of the following items:

- ❑ Clarify what it means by “**protection**” and “**protected areas**” within the NFA boundaries. Create criteria for these definitions
- ❑ Define what has already been “protected” and what else needs protection
- ❑ Identify and inventory/map specific **tourism (non-timber) values** that are important and therefore priority for NFA
- ❑ Identify forestry activities that are then inconsistent with these priorities
- ❑ Communicate this information to the rest of the Partnership, in order to encourage understanding and modify some forestry activities as appropriate
- ❑ Create and manage an **inventory database** of tourism/forestry values
- ❑ Define “Acadian Forest” as it should be in the NFA area

2) *Woodlot Owner Communications*

There was real concern that woodlot owners need significantly more information, awareness and education opportunities. The following identifies some of the priority initiatives and actions for woodlot owner issues that might be considered by the Working Woodlot Committee and others:

- ❑ **Identify a “hook”** to get landowners thinking about their woodlot
- ❑ **Collect examples of BMP’s and successful SFM** on woodlots and communicate this to other woodlot owners
- ❑ Draft an example “**Woodlot Opportunities Plan**” to share with woodlot owners
- ❑ **Create information sheets** on key issues/concerns for woodlot owners (BMP’s, SFM, viewsapes, tourism values, taxation and tax incentives, rights and responsibilities, market information, etc.
- ❑ **Encourage landowners** to take part in Phase II of the IRM process
- ❑ **Maintain and increase number of education opportunities** for landowners, such as field days and tours, etc.

3) *Viewscape management*

A number of the groups believe there is a need for significant information sharing about viewscape management, over and above the discussions around timber/non-timber values. The following outlines actions for viewscape management:

- ❑ **Organize a discussion group** to discuss issues around clearcutting and viewsapes
- ❑ Work to develop **viewscape management techniques** with larger industry partners

- ❑ **Obtain tools** (potentially computer models) for viewscape management for use by partners
- ❑ Create a specific **visual plan** for the NFA area, to share with landowners and all partners
- ❑ Develop **communications initiatives** for landowners to share information about viewscape management

4) *Marketing*

The NFA and its associated work and responsibilities falling out of this workshop requires a strong marketing push. The groups noted this and specific marketing initiatives are listed here:

- ❑ Promote the **notion of GREEN-GOLD** within the NFA area
- ❑ Put up **booths or displays in high traffic areas** (i.e. border of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia)
- ❑ **Provide information** about the demonstration sites for forestry/tourism interactions
- ❑ **Share information** about how woodlot owners can make a living from a sustainably managed woodlot

5) *Youth Education*

There were a number of comments specific to youth education that may necessitate some review and discussion:

- ❑ Work with target teachers, Department of Education and partners to try to get more information about forestry into local schools (work specifically with those teachers in the NFA area who are currently “doing” forest studies)
- ❑ Create a Youth Core for forestry

6) *Ongoing work for the NFA existing committees and staff:*

On top of the existing NFA responsibilities mapped out in the previous work plan, there are some new roles identified by the Partnership:

- ❑ **Identify a “hook”** to get landowners thinking about their woodlot
- ❑ **Collect testimonials** about the NFA and their work – communicate to partners, and people within the NFA boundaries
- ❑ **Define what SFM looks like** in the NFA
- ❑ **Provide “drop-in” advice** and information to landowners without conflict with the private sector
- ❑ **Hire forest professional** to increase woodlot owner contacts
- ❑ **Increase outgoing information to households** in the NFA area about the Partnership

- ❑ **Create demonstration sites** for forestry/tourism interactions
- ❑ **Develop a contractors code of practice**
- ❑ **Acquire the Silviculture Model** from the CFS, and apply it to the Antrim woodlot, and another not well managed woodlot and compare the results
- ❑ **Host another workshop** to assess progress, address some of the specific issues raised, and provide ongoing update to partners

Susan Gesner recorded the specific actions and recommendations she heard coming from the presentations, and suggested that all participants should be pleased with the discussion results. She indicated that the specific actions that were outlined will provide clear direction for the NFA for the future.

Eldon Gunn added his words of congratulations and recognized the continued support for the NFA. He reminded the group that they had discussed the progress of the NFA, they had recognized the issues and challenges that they are facing in the future, and then they clearly articulated specific actions for the NFA to take. The meeting was called to a close at 5:00 PM.

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APPENDIX A

Specific Actions:

- 1) There should be a **discussion group on protection** and protected lands. Specific criteria should be set
- 2) There needs to be increased awareness of the entire partnership
- 3) Take the Antrim woodlot, or other well managed woodlots and apply the Silviculture software model and see what happens. Also, use some not well-managed woodlots and compare the results
- 4) Establish a **working group on forestry and non-timber issues**. Inventory specific values that are important to the group, to develop a common basis for discussions. Identify forestry activities that are inconsistent with those priorities. Recognize the conflicts/barriers, and determine where and how to overcome these barriers
- 5) **Host another workshop** to scope out specific issues
- 6) Initiate **working groups on forestry/tourism** discussions
- 7) Create an **inventory database of tourism/forestry values** and manage it. Allocate NFA resources to make this happen
- 8) Define what a sustainable forest looks like within the NFA
- 9) Learn from experiences
- 10) Rationalize the costs and benefits of implementing the SFM practices
- 11) Create **demonstration sites for forestry/tourism interactions**
- 12) Provide **education opportunities for landowners**
- 13) **Encourage signage** in clear-cut areas to tell the story. Ensure that the signs go up explaining what will happen: either “New Forest growing here” or “Future home of Wal-Mart”
- 14) Identify non-timber values and map them
- 15) Set up **booths or displays in high traffic areas**. Present a unified front from all the partners. Consider doing something at the NS/NB border.
- 16) Organize a committee/group to discuss the issues and sensitivities around clearcutting and viewsapes
- 17) Identify a **“hook”** to get woodlot owners interested and thinking about their woodlots
- 18) Provide **drop-in advice** and information to landowners without conflict with the private sector
- 19) Encourage land owners to take a part in the Phase II IRM process
- 20) **Collect testimonials** about the NFA
- 21) **Hire forest professional to make land owner contacts** and help identify valuable features on their woodlot
- 22) Create a woodlot owners forum of active land owners (like the unaffiliated partners)
- 23) Promote the Acadian Forest natural state – after you **define it!**
- 24) Help promote changes to sustainable forest management to landowners
- 25) **Try to get more forestry in school programs**
- 26) **Generate more information about forestry** – specifically, uneven aged management, partial cuts and similar activities
- 27) Continue talking about taxation changes

- 28) Develop a **contractor code of practice**
- 29) Work to develop **viewscape management techniques** with larger industry partners
- 30) Obtain tools for viewscape management, like computer models, for use by partners
- 31) Create a specific visual plan for the area
- 32) Develop a communications plan for landowners to take into consideration those visual concerns
- 33) Encourage more communication among partners to get examples of BMP's and SFM
- 34) Hold a general workshop to discuss and endorse BMP's**
- 35) Ensure that information about BMP's is effectively communicated
- 36) **Define “Protected”** We need to have some real discussions around that
- 37) Do an inventory of what is worthy for protection, and also determine what protection is already in place
- 38) Create a Youth Core for forestry
- 39) Tax incentive promotion, working with Nature Trust and Ecology Action Centre
- 40) A **workshop where tourism folks will present the information** to the forest community. Take this information, put it in a GIS database and manage it.
- 41) Develop a **woodlot opportunities plan** to provide the list of options
- 42) Distribute that plan to land owners
- 43) Figure out how to educate woodlot owners
- 44) Promote the area's GREEN-GOLD – our forests are valuable
- 45) Ensure that every landowner knows their rights and responsibilities – create information sheets with that information
- 46) Recognize those woodlot owners that can make a living by managing the woodlots sustainably.
- 47) Increase **one on one personal contacts** with land owners
- 48) Determine how to provide market information to the small land owners
- 49) Figure out how to communicate to the urban people what is COSTS to manage a woodlot. Put a value on that management and the value of the woodlot.

APPENDIX B

Julie Towers’ Group

Question #2 Forestry Practices

- We need to accommodate a range of harvest treatments (e.g. consider these in the Best Management Practice (BMP) manual, contractors, committee
- More information on uneven aged management & partial cuts is needed (technical & scientific support) not just forestry, biology etc. e.g. DNR staff, universities, CFS can provide information
- Partners take information and use and share
- Is it economics that is driving clearcuts?
- Consider the scale of the cut
- Identify when a clear-cut is appropriate
- Capital gains issue – how do we deal with this?
- Continue taxation changes – lobby
- Contractor Codes of Practice through NFA required
- Agreements to manage small scale on long term basis
- Gain credibility (the NFA)
- Identify some areas that should be designated for timber
- Intensive forestry areas should still carry **Acadian** forest characteristics
- Protected areas
- Tourism
- Aesthetics
- Signs on treatments
- Educate landowners on different kinds of treatments
- Clearcuts should not used in viewscapes
- Buffers on viewscapes are not difficult; need industry/land owner cooperation
- Get tourism operators input on different options for cut practices. Start a dialogue with landowners
- Consider extension methods, mechanism between tourism operators/land owner
- **We need to change the cultural acceptance of cutting in viewscapes**
- help identify \$, community incentives for managing visual landscapes
- **We need to identify viewscapes**
- **NFA should work with large land owners and other partners to develop viewscap management techniques then work down in scale to small lot owners (NFA, Stora, Bowater, K-C)**
- **NFA shall obtain tools e.g. computer models for viewscap management**
- Industry has a role in motivating contractors financially to follow BMP’s

Question #4 Woodlot Owner Empowerment

Issues/Barriers

- Avoid travel to meetings
- ≥ 4 types of landowners – there are more and we need to consider them!
- Need “hook” to reach out to landowners
- NFA is building long term commitment with their partners
- **NFA needs to get owners thinking about their woodlot and integrating uses**
- “Preemptive strikes” to educate landowners
- On-site visits with landowners
- Some written objectives
- Need to reach landowners **prior to harvest time**, i.e. don’t need \$ yet or timber not yet ready
- Provide information and advice on drop in basis (resources available)
- Avoid conflict with private sector – partner with them!
- Landowners can register with NFA
- Identified through IRM process, e.g. adjacent landowners issue - deer wintering areas
- Encourage attendance @ IRM phase II
- Qualified advice – enough people available or trainable
- inactive owners can be lack of trust (need holistic approach to build trust)
- **Testimonials to encourage involvement “peer mentoring”**

Bill Smith’s Group

Question #1 Forestry/Tourism Relationship

- suggest “tourism” be redefined as “Leisure Services Recreation”
- Combine “knowledge opportunities” with recreation activities – WIN, WIN
- Help identify and establish land activities – integrate support – accommodations, trails, knowledge. Use the “Big Nickel” example for forestry and forest industry
- NFA seek participation from among a broadly defined non-timber forest based constituency to form a working group to identify non-timber activities
- This group defines those forestry activities that conflict with these non-timber activities (current & potential)
- NFA convenes joint meeting to share concerns

Who

Within a transparent, open inclusive process, championed by NFA, the following would be included:

- Recreation and leisure operators
- Tourism association
- Woodlot owners (public and private)
- Other interested parties

Specific Actions of NFA

- NFA initiates a workshop
- Initiate demonstration sites
- Database services
- NFA should ensure support for above workshop is available (\$ in-kind, expertise, NFA \$ is to be used for leveraging more \$)

Question #5 Economics of SFM practices to the landowner community and region?

- Explore opportunities for leveling the playing field (i.e. taxes, heritage opportunities, environmental)
- Do data collection on benefits for various costs, use strategies
- Develop and implement science based LLI of SFM
- NFA promotes open, respectful, equitable debate and decisions
- NFA follow up with those who are not at the workshop through education, communities

Specific Actions

- Seek like experiences from other model forests, etc.
- Continue to define SFM for NFA
- Collection, synthesis and distribution of Corner Brook Pulp and Paper information of SFM practices
- Promote scenario of modeling
- NFA integrates beyond its borders: economic, social, geographic

Chris Corkums' Group

Question #1 Tourism/Forestry

- Set objectives – What communication do we want? How? Workshop
- Tourism could be a means of public relations and education for foresters – but they don't know what's there.
- First, we need to bring representatives together at a workshop to discuss the tourism/forestry relationship
- Then we present ideas for development in NFA
- Tourism data in GIS for landowners to assess, viewscapes, etc – capture this and manage it.

- We need a code of practice in tourism zones
- Develop products that address tourism/forestry relationship

Question # 4 Woodlot Owner Empowerment

- No united group of landowners
- Range of concern in management
- Certification (later)
- Consultation? For helping/advising absentee landowners
- Tax incentives for landowners with approved management plans
- Must demonstrate they manage better or as well as they would under regulations
- Lots of landowners don't realize the value of their land or how it should be managed
- EDUCATION – WHAT should they be managing for? Locally and across landscapes
- Provide list of forest management consultants
- Develop **woodlot opportunities plans** outlining what landowners should consider
- Best Management Practices – for a range of values
- Need baseline information – identify gaps
- Woodlot owners feel overwhelmed – costs associated with management are intimidating/high
- Criterion and indicators unclear to landowners – needs clarification and communication
- Need convincing that indicators reflect values
- 1) Develop a Woodlot Opportunities Plan – what are the options? Who can help? (directory)
- 2) distribute to landowners
- 3) implement programs/management
- Outreach to publicize plan
- Need cooperation among landowners for overall landscape is sustainable
- Some landowners/woodlots become models to others

Bevan Lock's Group

Question # 2 Forestry Practices

What?

- Best management practices
- Guideline promotion
- Communicate BMP sets
- Consensus
- ? literate

Who?

- Committee of partnership representatives
- Contractor
- Working woodlot
- Tourism sector
- C&I

What Actions?

- Workshop (development)
- Partnership review & acceptance
- Identification of existing BMP's (Literature review, staff contract)
- Monitoring through indicators
- Publicize (signing, demo sites)

Question # 3 Protected Areas

What?

- Identify potential sites, distribution of those sites
- Inventory small (ER), personal, private lands (i.e. informal)
- Linkage to BMP's and C& I
- Target definition (i.e. % of area) – quantity and quality

Who?

- NFA and E.A.C./ Nature Trust, Etc.
- C&I committee
- DOE, DNR, Museums

What Action?

- Tax incentive promotion
- Define “protected”
- Education

Peter Duinker’s Group

Question #3 Protected Areas

What can NFA Do?

- To increase economic awareness
- To make sure we have addressed protected areas in our SFM process
- 1) Look at tenures
- 2) What is required to protect
- 3) Identify existing protected areas (IUCN)
- 4) Use DNR landscape classification system (10-15 in NFA area, some better represented outside NFA)
- 5) No process to identify needs for protected areas, natural disturbance analysis (e.g. N.B.) What is at risk?
- 6) What does protection mean? Why protect? Novel ways to move to protection; different levels of protection
- 7) What do we want for protected areas? Why?
- 8) Issue of private lands. Partner with Nova Scotia Nature Trust? Conservancy?
- 9) Large private landowners – some areas will not be harvested – can they be put under legal protection?
- 10) Special places and conservation easement – possible means to protect some land
- 11) Need definition/classification to show degree of protection. Show different options
- 12) Does protected area protect against hunting?
- 13) NFA frame protection issue across spectrum. Definitions? Contribute to national endangered spaces? Levels of protection in other areas? Needs & opportunities for protection

Example of Nature Trust

Identify compensation alternatives and other incentives

Who?

- Dalhousie Grant – needs and possibility of protected areas. WHC modeling for NFA Area (Biodiversity concerns)

Specific Actions?

- Discussion group
- Raise understanding of group
- Start analysis

Question #5 Economics of SFM

- Different costs & revenues. Consider the return on investment
- CFS computer model “Silvin” (which will be available by mid 2000). It can be used to compare alternative treatments. Possibly it can be applied to the Antrim Woodlot?
- Non-timber values on woodlot – other products
- Economics at NFA level?

- Selling job with woodlot owners
- Importance of peer pressure

Specific Actions?

- Antrim Woodlot and a couple of other well-managed private properties (e.g. Partners) can be piloted with Silvin
- Control of unmanaged woodlot, or clear cut area (external economic pressures – land values)

Who?

- WWC take lead – compare SFM practices to non-sustainable practices
- C&I Involved?
- Trends in marketplace for all marketable products – price sensitivity
- External economic analysis
- Beta test Silvin?

Frances Perrin’s Group

Question # 5 Economics of SFM

Landowner

- Woodlot Opportunities Plan pilot needs to be designed; doing some plans; alternatives to clearcutting; ongoing revenue
- Sustainable management fund - \$6/cord; reward for SFM monitoring or taxation; to enable owner to do silviculture, spread costs over several years
- Demonstration sites
- Simple economic analysis – fair cost taxation – owner vs. contractor
- 1:1 basis to explain to owners

Community

- Economic analysis at community level
- Scenarios (if a mill is lost or mill is added. If a mill burns and employment is lost for a period of time until it is rebuilt
- Core labour pool for seasonal employment
- Need more forestry in school curriculum – advocacy for the forest community
- Open houses by industry
- Public relations program with neighbours
- Integration – farm/forest tourism; experience
- Self-directed tours
- Economic analysis rolled up to provincial level
- competition from wood off crown land
- right to manage/education of urban population
- need to quantify what individual owners contribute to the province, deer, air, water

Who should participate?

- Everyone we can get!
- Economic expertise from CFS and province (analysis)
- Crown Lands Branch at DNR
- Woodlot owner organizations
- Industry
- General public benefit
- School system

Specifications

- We need a real positive team to take this on
- Encourage forest management fund to be used to support SFM that not just silviculture

Question # 2 Forestry Practices

- Education – (unbiased) on adaptive management
- Compromise
- Participation
- Demonstration areas – signage
- Communicate to the landowner audience **why** a particular treatment is selected and used – what conditions dictate a treatment
- Need to tell the story – what drives us to do things the way we do – what are the alternatives – encourage machines that are “environmentally friendly”
- Help people to take ownership of the forests & the industry
- Antrim woodlot

- Communication – “why something is done” (clear-cut for a shopping mall) fear of the unknown – put up a sign that informs the public of why this area has been managed or changed
- Viewscapes – values need to be balanced and mapped
- Information on clearcutting: guidelines

Who should participate?

- Set up booths in heavy traffic areas – ferry terminals, malls
- Industry, woodlot owners, contractors, public, environmental groups

Specific Actions

- Display – Mastodon Ridge
- Booth in heavy traffic areas
- A group to work on clearcutting & viewscapes
- Community meetings
- Videos, cable television.
- We decide with them/not allowing others to control the agenda
- High profile sites need signage “Future home of...”
- NFA static display in areas of high traffic “message”, “blow of own horn”
- Sign at the border
- 420,000 people in Halifax need things to do!

Doug McArthur’s Group

<i>Question # 1 Tourism</i>

What can NFA do to strengthen Forestry-Tourism Relationship?

- Gather information on economic value/benefits of each industry, perhaps highlighting forests and forestry as our “Green-Gold” value!
- Identify groups at different levels and begin dialogue (community, provincial); NSFPA, T.I.A.N.S. (Industry)
- Communicate information to players and to public
- Have tourism operators identify areas of interest to tourists – viewscapes
- Look at cooperative venture in signage (explains what is going on at a particular site)
- Visual landscape management – look at regulation of highway buffer zones (more than current requirement)
- Look at ways to promote common objectives: healthy forest – build a common understanding of a healthy forest; share and discuss codes of practice (tourism/forestry)

- Recreational Trails – Planning needs to happen; how to manage interface of tourists with forestry (buffers/signage etc.); requires dialogue between industry (forestry) & tourism to find a common ground and address challenges
- Landscape planning
- Create educational/experiential opportunities
- Compromise on conflicting values

Woodlot Owner Empowerment

- “Waking up of the Sleeping Giant” – awareness of potential, value of what landowners have
- Education – sustainability; understand rights and responsibility
- Development of Information Sheet on Rights and Responsibilities & Options (Contractors/Operators Committee) (Code of Practice)
- Pilot of Individual Woodlot Management Plans (DNR already doing – a “tie in”)

Question # 5 Economics of SFM

- Helping owners understand options and different prescriptions they can choose. Also, consider landscaping options
- Responsibilities of urban landowners to urban population – tied to health of the planet (e.g. clean water, habitat)
- True costs of management are not included
- NFA could assess/put value on the less tangible things

Who?

- All woodlot associations
- Individual woodlot owners
- Industry
- Governments: municipal, provincial, federal
- Nova Scotia Nature Trust
- NFA partnership

How to get involvement – participation?

- One-on-one personal contact
- Demonstration woodlots on private woodlots (could have wide range and would build commitment and buy-in)
- Strong group ventures good example of empowerment
- Profile examples of woodlot owners who are managing woodlots, e.g. “How to make a living off your woodlot?”

Markets

- Education
- Need cost effective packages of information/distribution
- How markets have impact on woodlot sector – often “victims” of markets