

## Small Private Woodlot Survey

The Woodlot Working Committee of the Nova Forest Alliance initiated a survey of small private woodlots in the model forest area- Robert Cameron of Cameron Forestry Consulting conducted the survey and developed a computer database using the results.

. The Woodlot Working Committee wanted to get a better understanding of the current situation on small private woodlots in the model forest. What kinds of activities are occurring, what areas have the most activity and what level of activity is occurring on small private woodlots were some of the questions being asked. Answers to these types of questions would help the committee in planning education, research and extension programs.

The project began by interviews with the Nova Forest Alliance partners involved with private lands. Some examples of these partners include group ventures, Nova Scotia Nature Trust, Nova Scotia Christmas Tree Council. Non-partners also involved in small private lands were then interviewed. This included such groups as trail clubs, sugar maple producers and unaffiliated Christmas Tree Growers. Individual properties were identified as being managed for a particular use by a particular group. Property Identification numbers (PID) were used to identify each property. By using PIDs we are able to access other information contained in other databases- For example locations could be plotted using the geographical information system.

Seven user groups were identified with 6 types of activities- In addition to user group and type of activity, each property was tagged with a level of activity from I to 3 and whether the property was associated as being owned by a Nova Forest Alliance member. Some data on large private lands was also gathered.

A total of 429 small private woodlots are being actively managed in the model forest. This represents about 14% of all small private woodlots in the model forest- Eighty-one woodlots or about 19% are actively managed for- more than one purpose.

The number and percentage of total active woodlots by user groups is as follows:

Managed by	# of Records	% of Total
Group Venture	268	51
NSDNR	134	26
Christmas Tree Producer	49	9
Eastern Habitat Joint Venture	10	2
NS Nature Trust	19	4
Ducks Unlimited	39	8
Sugar Maple Producer	1	0.1

The number and percentage of total active woodlots by user groups is as follows:

Type of Activity	Number of Records	Percent of Total
Forest Stewardship Agreement	403	77
Wetland Management	49	10
Christmas Trees	49	10
Protected	17	4
Sugar Bush	1	0.1
Trails	1	0.1

Seventy-nine percent of total actively managed woodlots are being managed t a high level of activity and Ninety-five percent are a member or afiliated with a group that is a member of the Nova Forest Alliance.

#### Woodlot database

The database was developed on Lotus Approach and saved on disk as a dbase IV file. Modification of the database is best done as an Approach file. Five fields were used and codes for the field &re as follows-

Managed by:

1 = forest industry, 2 = group venture, 3 = NSDNR private lands, 4 = Christmas tree producer, 5 = Eastern Habitat Joint Venture, 6 = NS WOODS COOP, 7 = NS Nature Trust, 8 = Ducks Unlimited, 9 = sugar maple producer

Type of Activity:

1 = forest stewardship agreement, 2 = wetland management, 3 = Christmas trees, 4 = protected, 5 = sugar bush, 6 = trails

Level of Activity:

1 = high, 2 = medium, 3 = low

NFA member:

yes, no

There are 903 records including the large private lands entries. Records were referenced and entered by "Managed By" field. General comments.-

Managed By - this the managing agency or funder for activities

Type of Activity - "wetland" would include DLJ and EHJV, "forest stewardship agreement includes all silviculture activity regardless of which agreement or company funded it, "protected" includes NS Nature Trust

Level of Activity - indicated where appropriate (c g NSDNR) and not included where not e.g. (Christmas trees). Only high or low was used

NFA member - if a private landowner was a member of NIFA directly (e.g Stora) or through an association (e.g. NSDNR, Christmas Tree Council), some records have no answer for this field because it was not known if they were within an association

NSDNR woodlots were identified as highly active if more than 4 silviculture jobs were done in the last 10 years with at least one done in the last 5 years. This was a tough guide and some owners not meeting this criteria were included because DNR staff felt they were very active in their- own way.

Forest Industry lands that have had silviculture in the last 10 years.

Group Venture made up mostly of Conform woodlots. Almost all Conform woodlots were identified as all are equally active -with the exception of a few that were not included. Hants County group venture did not identify any woodlots. This group is new and have not done a lot of work.

Ecology Action Centre not involved with private lands

N.S. Nature Trust verbal agreements with landowners to protect habitat. Participants in this program in Hants County are expected to increase significantly in the next few years.

Christmas trees members and nonmembers of the Christmas Tree Council were identified where possible.

EIUV Eastern Habitat Joint Venture - manages wetlands This is record is incomplete as they could not spare the time. Apparently this would be a major undertaking of about 6 to 8 weeks (see attached letter). However A properties owned by Stora and Kimberly-Clark are under an EHJV agreement at a high level All Bowater proper-ties are also under agreement but at a lower level

Trails there are no agreements between private landowners and hiking trail people. The Drift Climbers snow mobile club has an agreement with Elmsdale Lumber to use their roads. This is a verbal agreement and apparently the club is not very active. There is one interpretive forestry trail on private lands in Old Barns.

NSWOODS COOP no records in this database This is because a lot of wood comes from contractors who *may* get wood from many landowners. They do not keep a record of landowners who supply wood.