

Title

VARIABLE RETENTION TRIAL

Model Forest

Western Newfoundland Model Forest

From

2004

To

2005

Keywords

Ecosystem, Silvicultural, Harvesting, Habitat

Objective

To expand on a pre-existing Innu Nation initiative and to enhance Innu capacity in understanding, promoting and participating in sustainable forest management models in the boreal region.

Description

The Innu Nation and the Department of Natural Resources proposed a variable retention trial to determine the effectiveness and ecological value of The Annual Allowable Cut for District 19A, estimated at 198, 600 m³. The study areas, Block 2 and Block 9 in Forest Management Unit 2 are scheduled for harvest within 2 years, creating the rare opportunity for a before and after control impact design. Block 2 overlaps with the Ph.D. study area of Neal Simon, Regional Ecologist Department of Natural Resources. Under Neal's Ph.D. study, vegetation and 3 years of songbird abundance data which will serve as the basis of a monitoring program to evaluate the ecological value of variable retention. Songbird point count stations will be resurveyed for several years following harvest treatments. This study was expanded to incorporate mammal and game bird abundances deemed important for the Innu and settler populations through winter track surveys: 1-2 years pre-harvest and several years following harvest.

Reports and Products

Winter-Track Study of Blocks 2 and 9, District 19A, Labrador: Final Report. Innu Nation Forestry Office. 2005. First Nation Forestry Program, Atlantic Region. WNMF: 10006-4-001, 15p.