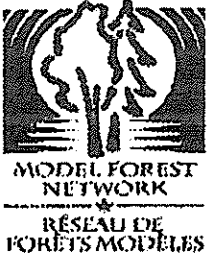


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☛ *What is the WNMF?*

The Western Newfoundland Model Forest is an organization where a group of people are trying new techniques and technologies to study the forest and how it is used. In this area, the forest is mainly being used to generate employment, to provide for firewood, and for recreational and social enjoyment.

The WNMF:

covers an area of 707,060 hectares which is bounded on

- ▶ the north by Gros Morne Park,
- ▶ the east by the Buchans Plateau and Lloyd's River,
- ▶ the south by the Burgeo Highway,
- ▶ and the west by the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

This Boreal forest made up most of balsam fir contains some of the island's richest and most varied habitat for wildlife including the largest concentration of the Newfoundland Pine Marten.

- ▶ Fifty percent of the area is productive forest land (with a major source of employment and income directly related to timber management activities and industries)
- ▶ supplies domestic fuelwood to local households and
- ▶ raw material to two of the province's three newsprint mills.

Management

The WNMF is overseen by a board of directors and a management group who look after day to day operations. Along with its staff, much of the actual work is carried out by a number of subcommittees. Everyone involved in the MF has agreed to a process of decision making based on consensus. What this means is that a veto power is given to each and every participant.

A major aim of the WNMF is to put in place a plan that integrates the uses of the forests. This means taking into consideration timber harvesting activities, the needs of the wildlife, the necessity for good water quality as well as other human uses and values such as recreation. In addition, it provides a means for the public to have a say, and be involved in, the way that the forest is being managed.

☛ What the WNMF is Doing...

IRM PLAN

Since it started, the MF has focused its attention on developing a plan to look after all of the different uses of the forest. The forest means different things to different people - employment for some, enjoyment for others.

When there are so many uses of such a resource, then the reality is that there will be conflicts. Recognizing and finding solutions to these conflicts is what the subcommittees under the Model Forest have been attempting to do. The Integrated Resource Management Plan Working Group who oversees the plan's design and development is the largest group of volunteers at the WNMF.

Keeping the public aware and having them involved is important to the WNMF. Examples of how the public have been included are:

- ▶ inviting them to be members on subcommittees
- ▶ volunteers who sit on groups to deal with specific tasks,
- ▶ providing public forums,
- ▶ distributing a newsletter,
- ▶ coming out to the public such as what we are doing here tonight.

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How did the MF go about in putting together its forest resource management or IRM plan....

The First Step was:

- ▶ was to bring people together

Within the WNMF area, there are a number of individuals, organizations and groups such as snowmobilers, outfitters, cabin owners, environmentalists and resource managers who should have a say in the design of an integrated forest resource management plan. It was these diverse interests that the MF brought together to look at the forest and how it is used.

The Second Step was:

- ▶ to find out the many different uses or values of the forest.

Within the WNMF, these include the value of a good water supply, how wood is harvested, and what amount of firewood is available. The Model Forest also explored economic values in the forest other than timber harvesting such as berries, mushrooms and speciality wood products.

The Third Step was:

- ▶ Conduct research to look at the WNMF area

To determine the variety of wildlife that lived there. The kinds of plants and vegetation that grew there, and at methods, such as modified timber harvesting, that could be conducted, to cut wood in a more environmentally sensitive way.

Results

- ▶ Research has allowed us to look at tree growth and its impact on wildlife. Putting this information into a computer database, such as programs like the Geographic Information Systems, allows us to foresee the future of what the forest will be like in the future and the impact of activities like timber harvesting.
- ▶ It has also lead to the publication of three trail brochures. One each on canoeing, hiking and mountain biking. This in addition to geographic maps which show the best view areas for tourists, and what local people see as being valuable to them in their communities.
- ▶ The WNMF has also experimented with different ways of cutting wood to lessen impact on wildlife and buffer zones to protect bodies of water.
- ▶ Local woodcutters have worked with the MF to look at how domestic wood is cut in their area and to design a system that lessen the possibility of wood shortage yet allows them to continue to have fuelwood in the future.
- ▶ The MF is recommending a wildlife and ecological reserve around certain types of landscapes and wildlife habitat which is seen as being of importance to protect the Newfoundland Pine Marten.
- ▶ The MF is assisting the Newfoundland Forest Service and the paper company in putting together a 5-year harvesting plan. This means that the public now has a way to have a say in where the company cuts its wood and where government decides wood cuts will take place on crown land.
- ▶ Assisted in the startup of a community stewardship committee
- ▶ Working on providing an interpretation centre on recreation and tourism.
- ▶ Providing the information learned to local secondary and post-secondary schools thus providing a valuable resource for the education system

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Much of our research and gathering of information would not have been possible if people living in the MF were not involved. At the WNMF, public participation has been very important in many ways. These include local residents attending public meetings and becoming members of the committees and task-specific groups like the Domestic Woodcutting Working Group. It also means participation through events such as these Kitchen Table Talks and invitations from groups to talk about what is presently taking place at the Model Forest.

Where the MF is Going..


Renewal

- ▶ The WNMF is now entering phase two. This means examining what a second phase MF should look like. This includes looking at:
 - ▶ The way it is managed
 - ▶ Its boundaries (do they need to be expanded?)
 - ▶ Deciding what the day-to-day operation will entail

Once again, the MF is looking to you, **THE PUBLIC**, to provide input and it is for this input that we are meeting with you tonight.

 **What are your views on what the WNMF has done to date**

 **Where should the MF go in the future?**

 **Why and how should you become involved in the MF?**

We are here tonight to listen to what you have to say and encourage you to get others involved.



Accomplishments of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest

INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

An IRM Plan for the Model Forest has been prepared. Each section was written by a stakeholder value group whose members included model forest partners and government, business and community organizations, and interested members of the general public. The IRM planning process is based on the management philosophy that there should be shared decision-making, a high degree of coordination and cooperation, and a recognition and legitimacy of other interests, with the ultimate aim to resolve any anticipated conflict. While close to completion, it has yet to be sanctioned by the partners and the public. This is anticipated to be completed early in 1997. Employed two positions

RECREATION AND TOURISM VALUE GROUP

A stakeholder group comprised of private outfitters, recreational users and tourism officials has been formed to deal with various related issues. A recent initiative of the group is to develop a resource centre for the public to view and express their concerns regarding recreational and tourism matters. In addition, the group has been working on developing standard codes of ethics for outdoor activities to be distributed to the public through magazines and schools. Through the WNMF's interest in recreation, a series of trail brochures have also been developed, one each on hiking, mountain biking, and canoeing.

ECOLOGY BUS TOUR

The Western Newfoundland Nature Ecology Bus Tour during the Summer and Fall of 1996 provided approximately 825 people including both locals and tourists with the opportunity to visit sites throughout the Model Forest. The integration of the insect collection equipment at the balsam fir ecology site proved to be very interesting to the public, and the silviculture management site made people more aware of the benefits gained through pre-commercial thinning. The tour was also enhanced through the distribution of pertinent literature and resources provided by the Model Forest and Provincial Forestry staff. The demand for school tours has increased and could not be met this past year. Employed 2 contract positions



Accomplishments of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest

FIVE YEAR HARVESTING PLAN FOR DISTRICT 15

A Five-Year Harvesting Team has been set up to give the general public and stakeholder groups input into the design of a harvesting plan for Newfoundland Forest Service and Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Ltd. in Forest Management District 15. The aim of the group is to try and reach consensus on two harvesting plans, one for crown lands and one for properties of the paper company, which take into consideration interests and values in addition to those of timber harvesters. This is the first time such an initiative has been undertaken. The process began with a series of meetings and culminated in a day-long workshop. The final 5-year plan will to be completed early in 1997 and will receive public input and sanction and then it will go to the provincial government for approval.

PINE MARTEN CONFLICT RESOLUTION GROUP:

The PMCR Group (now a Working Group under Phase II) has developed:

- ▶ a proposal to look at using a new prototype of a trap for furbearers which does not accidentally trap pine marten
- ▶ a Draft Newfoundland Pine Marten Preliminary Management Options document
- ▶ Proposal for an ecological/wildlife reserve boundary within the MF area
- ▶ Proposal to test the impacts of modified timber harvesting methods on Pine Marten populations

MODEL RIVER PROGRAM

A Model River Program has been initiated on two rivers in the province and one in Labrador. The program is patterned after the Model Forest Program as a result of its success. The consensus-based management approach involving all of the stakeholders, which is being employed by the Model Forest, has proven to be a very effective means by which to involve more interests in the management of our vast natural resources and will be adopted by the Model River Program. Locally, the group, with a partnership of about 20 stakeholders, has undertaken the task of developing a management plan for the Humber River Watershed with a specific focus on public input and sanction. The local program is sponsored by the Humber River Watershed Management Association. The deadline for this management plan is the end of March, 1997. Already, the initiation of the program has lead to government agencies involved in controlling development to defer decisions until after the management plan is completed. Employed two permanent positions



Accomplishments of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The idea of a Pasadena Community Stewardship program surfaced at a Community Forest Talk meeting organized by the Western Newfoundland Model Forest. As a result a steering committee was set up which lead to a planning committee. Plans are being made to involve the whole community in organizing citizens to take an interest in the forest, land use and the overall environment.

COMMUNITY VALUES MAPPING

The implementation of an ecosystem approach to planning requires that issues of community perception, attitudes and values must be addressed. The community values mapping project is one way in which these issues can be considered. The Model Forest provided partial financial assistance for this project, the results of which will be considered in the development of the IRM Plan, especially in the Intrinsic and Intangible Value Section.
Employed 1 full time job

DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM

The Decision Support System (DSS) currently under development will facilitate the integration of timber management objectives and other values, particularly wildlife. We are analysing current marten habitat availability into the future. Ultimately, the DSS will address habitat requirements for additional species of concern. Employed 2 permanent positions

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION TEACHERS INSTITUTE

Under the auspices of the Education Working Group of the WNMF, twenty elementary teachers from across Newfoundland spent a week this past summer learning about environmental science. The object of the teachers institute was to give the teachers access to information and resource material on environmental science. This workshop included nature walks, naturalization of school yards, and the latest technology tools. The workshop was a first time initiative for the Education Working Group. Employed one contractual position.



Accomplishments of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest

DOMESTIC WOODCUTTING STRATEGY

In keeping with the Model Forest's goal of resource sustainability, and the public need for a continuous supply of fuelwood for the future, there has been an effort to develop a strategy for better management of this important resource. Public meetings were held in several locations throughout this area to inform people as to the state of the resource. This was followed by a which provided a forum to discuss solutions for managing the supply of timber on Crown Land. As a result, a "Strategy for Domestic Sawlog and Fuelwood Harvesting" was developed and is now being recommended to the Provincial Government for implementation. Employed two contract positions

PUBLIC MEETINGS

A Model Forest meeting facilitator/community animator has been organizing public meeting relating to forest management issues. These meetings, entitled "*Community Forest Talks*" asked for public concerns and a definition of public forest values. It was a way to gain insight on the uses of the forest as perceived by the public but also to provide a forum for them to learn more about the Model Forest concept, its goals and objectives. Recent meetings, entitled Kitchen Table Talks, have enabled the public to voice their views as to how they see a future WNMf operating. Response to the meetings have been successful and the MF has received much positive feed back. A series of meetings planned for early 1997 will see the WNMf IRM plan being given public scrutiny. Employed one full time position.

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

Since its inception in 1992, the WNMf has conducted research on wildlife, alternate timber harvesting methods, buffer zones, and technological tools, to name a few. One of the results is a library containing 120 reports. These have since become a resource for local forestry students and various requests for copies have been received as a result of internet listing. A focus is to have the reports printed and added to the library of the Centre for Forest and Environmental Studies. Employment: 21 research contracts



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Current Status

The Western Newfoundland Model Forest is approaching the end of phase 1 of its program. Research projects, IRM planning and public involvement activities are continuing within the WNMF. The partners, stakeholders and subcommittees under the WNMF formed a renewal committee which took responsibility for writing a second phase proposal. Funding for the program has been approved based on a clear vision and implementable goals for the 5-year phase.

In addition, a new Forest Centre which is to be situated in Corner Brook will be the future location of the WNMF in 1998. This building will be linked to the Memorial University and will also contain the headquarters for the Canadian Forest Service. The combination of expertise and knowledge gained through integration of the various programs will provide better information and access to forest resource management expertise. As well, the WNMF conducted an internal and an external review of its work over the past 5 years. The review will be used as one of the tools for determining the focus and workplan for the next five years.



Accomplishments of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest

Western Newfoundland Model Forest

A "Good News" Story

The initiation of a Model Forest Program in Western Newfoundland has seen the principles of sustainable forest management being given serious consideration by both industry and the general public. Much of the way that a natural resource, such as the forest, has been perceived has been changed due to recent initiatives of the MF.

Through its public awareness and involvement component, the WNMF has seen stakeholders, community groups, the general public and government come to the table to look at forest management and to assist in the design of an Integrated Resource Management Plan.

As a result, for the first time, forest resource managers and other forest users have worked together as a cohesive group to design a harvesting plan for one of the forest management districts.

The work of the Model Forest has also seen the initiation of a Community Stewardship group in a local community and interest has been expressed by other communities to follow suit.

Perhaps the most dramatic accomplishment is that of the work behind the development of a Strategy for Domestic Fuelwood and Sawlogs Harvesting. This was a strategy that came out of discussions by local people with resource managers and will now ensure sustainable forest management and provide a future wood supply for local domestic woodcutters.