

FOREST MANAGEMENT (NEWSLETTERS)
JANUARY 1993 TO JANUARY 1995
BY:
MARVIN VON MIRBACH

FOREST MURMURS

By Martin von Mirbach, Humber Environment Action Group

Western Newfoundland is one of ten regions across Canada that has been selected as part of the Model Forest program, a Green Plan initiative being administered by Forestry Canada. In this article I'll give a bit of background to the program, and discuss the origins of Newfoundland's model forest.

The History

When the \$54 million Model Forest program was announced back in 1991, it was set up as a competition, inviting proposals from across Canada. Funding would be provided to multi-stakeholder partnerships representing a wide range of interests and values in forests and forestry.

Each Model Forest was to cover a large area of land (at least 100,000 hectares) and include a variety of forest values, including commercial utilization. The money would be used over a five year period to explore innovative and long-term approaches to sustainable development. Preference would be given to partnerships displaying imagination and innovation in all decisions affecting planning, management, operations and research.

The Western Newfoundland Model Forest Committee began meeting in October 1991. Partners included:

- Corner Brook Pulp and Paper (the major leaseholder in the region under consideration);
- Newfoundland Forest Service (bearing the ultimate responsibility for forestry management in the province);
- Wildlife Division (whose concerns include protection of the endangered Newfoundland pine marten - most of the surviving animals are within the Model Forest area);
- Abitibi-Price (with timber leases in a portion of the Model Forest, including some of the area set aside as a pine marten reserve);
- City of Corner Brook (whose protected watershed is also the site of intensive logging);
- Centre for Forestry and Environmental Studies (dedicated to fostering education and technology transfer to support sustainable development of the

province's land-based renewable resources); and

- Humber Environment Action Group (whose Forest Committee has often been outspoken in its criticism of forest management in the province).



NGO Involvement - A Personal Perspective

I participated on the committee as a representative of HEAG, and it was, to say the least, an interesting experience. We met approximately every two weeks from October 1991 to February 1992, with meetings sometimes lasting all day. I was uneasy about the process; to start with, I had to "invite myself" onto the committee, and as an outsider I had no way of knowing how many important decisions might be going on behind the scenes.

The Canadian government has shown great interest in forming "multi-stakeholder" groups to examine a wide range of environmental issues. These groups generally raise serious questions for environmentalists and grass-roots organizations that have the opportunity to participate on them.

Will the presence of an environmentalist on the group simply validate a process that has already been more or less determined in advance, thus allow-

ing government and business interests to wrap themselves in a green flag of environmental righteousness?

Or, on the other hand, is there a sincere commitment to exploring genuine alternatives, is there enough flexibility in the process to accommodate the radically different perspectives of citizen's groups, and is the multi-stakeholder process empowered with sufficient authority to make a real difference?

It's not always easy to decide in advance which of these two alternatives more closely approximates the reality of the situation. In balance, however, the Humber Environment Action Group felt that it was preferable to be involved in the Model Forest process. We felt that, come what may, we could be more effective if we were "at the table" than if we remained outside the process.

By participating in the Model Forest program we can encourage the development of more progressive approaches to forest management. We will certainly have more influence in this regard if we are playing an active part in the process. As well, we can more effectively monitor the activities of the Model Forest program and help to ensure that it stays on the track of its initial objectives.

So the Humber Environment Action Group has gained in influence by participating in the Model Forest program. What we have given up in exchange is the right to condemn the program outright. After all, we are part of the Model Forest and share some responsibility for the goals and objectives of the program.

The Process

As I mentioned earlier, the experience of working on the proposal committee was interesting indeed. To begin with, I felt uncertain as to what we could accomplish, given that we would have to obtain consensus among a wide variety of different interests. Gradually, I came to realize that the other participants on the committee were just as uncertain as I was! Deep down, I think all of us were a little afraid that this exercise might turn into a phenomenal waste of time, or dissolve into factional bickering.

That did not happen, and I think credit is due to all participants on the commit-

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WHAT IS THE NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR CONSERVATION CORPS?

By Don Quigley, NLCC

The Newfoundland and Labrador Conservation Corps is a non-profit agency which provides expertise, training and employment opportunities in the areas of environmental enhancement, protection and conservation. The NLCC works with client groups to assess, plan, develop and implement environmental projects which will contribute to the sustainable development of an area. **Green Teams**

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tee. In general, everyone was prepared to stand back a little and accept that there is a "big picture" that is broader than our own specific interests. There were certainly some difficult moments - especially when we totalled up everyone's "wish list" and discovered that our budget was way out of line with what could reasonably be expected.

In the end, we developed a proposal that everyone was willing to sign. And, as it turned out, when it went before an independent technical review it was judged to be one of the five best of the fifty-one proposals submitted across Canada. In June, Forestry Canada announced that our proposal would be given the green light, and we are now in the process of getting established.

The fact that the Newfoundland proposal was accepted is no reason to be smug, however; we can't assume that we have somehow solved all the forestry problems in the province or discovered the key to sustainable development. Now the real work begins, and the proposal we submitted is no more than a sketchy outline.

In next month's Act Too I'll discuss in greater detail the goals and objectives of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest, and outline how environmentalists across the province have the opportunity to get involved.

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The core of the NLCC will be its "Green Teams," groups of young people (between the ages of 16 and 24) working on projects all over the province, acquiring specific training and valuable work experience in the process. The goal of the Green Team program is to foster a new kind of work/conservation ethic among the province's youth.

The Story So Far

To date the NLCC involvement in projects has been limited to a few on the island of Newfoundland. These projects were in response to a call for proposals made to Development Associations and Municipal Councils in the spring of 1992. At that time it was hoped that we would have our Green Teams up and running in the summer/fall of 1992, but due to the bureaucratic dread of a round peg in a square hole it was not possible to find funding within existing programs.

Facilitation and advice became the routes of involvement for the NLCC in projects this past year. The Corps is involved in projects in Flatrock, Grand Falls/Windsor, Indian Bay, Charleston and Port-aux-Basques. As well, we began the development of a Land Use Capability Index based on the Forest Site

Classification Manual by W. Meades and L. Moores.

Plans For 1993

In 1993 the NLCC is proposing to have 10 to 14 Green Teams up and running throughout the province. These teams will consist of secondary and post-secondary students. Each team will be comprised of a team leader and three team members. Regionally based, these teams will receive some training from the NLCC and then get involved in local environmental projects. The Newfoundland and Labrador Conservation Corps hopes to provide at least eight weeks experience for each team.

The NLCC is asking members of the Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network to consider the Conservation Corps when planning any environmental projects. It is our goal to become more involved throughout the province in meaningful projects that will benefit the local communities as well as provide a learning experience for our Green Team members. For more information please contact us at the address given in the "Call For Proposals" notice below.

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A CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Newfoundland and Labrador Conservation Corps (NLCC) is gearing up for the 1993 season.

The Green Teams, our youth wing, will be working throughout the province, getting involved in environmental projects.

If your association or group has a project in mind and wish to involve the NLCC and its green teams then please contact us at the following address:

The Green Team



**Newfoundland and Labrador
Conservation Corps
3rd Floor, Beothuck Building,
20 Crosbie Place, St. John's
Nfld. A1B 3Y8
phone #: (709) 738-0199
fax #: (709) 738-2469**

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FOREST MURMURS

The Model Forest: What will it do?

By Martin von Mirbach, Humber
Environment Action Group

In the previous issue of ActToo, I discussed how the Western Newfoundland Model Forest came into being. This article will outline the goals and objectives of the Model Forest. Future articles in ActToo will discuss in greater detail the management structure of the Model Forest and the opportunities for environment groups and concerned citizens to participate in the program.

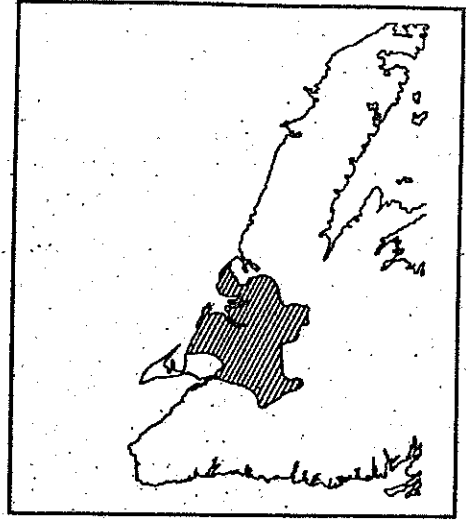
The Model Forest proposal was submitted to Forestry Canada by a committee consisting of representatives from industry, government, educational, municipal and environmental interests. Forestry Canada has agreed to fund the five-year program, using Green Plan money, on the basis of that proposal. The proposal does not have all the answers, but it sketches out in a rough way the general path that the Western Newfoundland Model Forest must follow in order to begin to adopt a genuinely integrated approach to forest management.

Goals and Objectives

The proposal includes a vision statement, a set of five broad goals and eighteen specific objectives. The vision statement (see insert) declares that a multitude of interests are to be served within the Model Forest area. The following are the goals of the Model Forest, with a brief discussion of their importance to environmentalists and reference to some of the most relevant objectives.

Goal #1. Develop an Integrated Resource Management Planning Process. This is undoubtedly the most important goal of the Model Forest program. In fact, until this goal is achieved throughout the province as a whole it is unlikely that we will see a forestry industry that is truly sustainable over the long term. Specific objectives include:

- (a) the establishment of a Management Group representing a variety of interests;
- (b) the inclusion of "meaningful public participation in the develop-



ment of plans for management of the Province's forest resources"; and

- (c) the identification of an area representative of the ecoregion to be set aside as part of a national network of wilderness or ecological reserves.

Each of these three objectives are vitally important from the perspective of environmental interests. Rather than attempt to describe them in detail here, I hope to write an article about each objective in turn, to appear in future issues of ActToo.

Goal #2. Integrate wildlife and timber management objectives. This is an important goal in the Western Newfoundland Model Forest because the area is home for most of the few surviving Newfoundland pine marten, which rely on mature forests for their habitat. The Wildlife Division of the Department of Tourism and Culture will be undertaking extensive studies to learn more about how pine marten and other wildlife are affected by changes in the structure of the forest. The aim is to be able to develop long-term plans that will ensure the continuation of healthy wildlife populations.

Goal #3. Integrate water quality and timber management objectives. The water supply for Corner Brook lies in an area that is extensively logged and a popular recreational area. A recent outbreak of giardia in

through a number of communities from Port Blandford to Winterbrook. The petitions called for a ban on clear-cutting within 5 miles (8 km) of the communities involved. The petitions were signed by 2,000 people 15 years of age and older, an astonishing number when you consider that the total population is just over 4,000 people!

In response to public pressure MHA Glen Greening arranged to meet with Graham Flight, the Minister of Forestry and Agriculture. At this meeting the minister stated that no more government funded clear-cutting would take place in Mr. Greening's district, Terra Nova. This was seen as a partial success by some of our group.

Unfortunately, commitments made at private meetings and not backed up with written changes to policy are not very trustworthy. After taking three months to respond to a letter of mine on the issue, Mr. Flight maintained that his department would initiate and fund clear-cutting (they now call it "Backlog Remnant Removal") in our area and in any areas they felt it was necessary.

On December 3, 1992, upwards of 100 people gathered in front of the Clarendville offices of the Newfoundland Forest Service. The people were peacefully demonstrating their opposition to clear-cutting. Prior to the protest demonstration a list of questions concerning the matter were drawn up and given to Reg Davis, the Unit 2 manager. He requested, and got, permission to speak publicly on this matter, but was unable to respond with clear answers to the questions. The only clear answer we received was that the department will continue to conduct "Backlog Remnant Removal" - i.e., clear-cutting - in any low yield area as it sees fit.

The people opposed to clear-cutting have not given up. Our next action to take the petitions ourselves to the House of Assembly in St. John's, to ensure that our concerns are given a fair hearing. We are building on the broad base of support shown at this protest and will not be satisfied until clear-cutting is stopped on the Bonavista Peninsula.

For further information, contact Harold Heap, Box 300, Jamestown, NF, A0C-1V0, tel. 473-3131.

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the water supply brought home the fact that we can't automatically take for granted a limitless supply of good drinking water. Through close monitoring of water quality it is hoped that guidelines can be developed that will protect all values.

Goal #4. To instill within the public an increased awareness of forest resource management. One of the most promising initiatives toward fulfilling this goal is to work with the Corner Brook Stream Development Committee in establishing a series of interpretive trails that will encourage residents and visitors to explore the scenic beauty of Corner Brook Stream. By promoting a fuller appreciation of our natural surroundings, people are more likely to take an active interest in preserving the recreational and environmental qualities of the area as a whole.

Goal #5. Operate the Model Forest as a working forest. This goal emphasizes that the purpose of the Model Forest program is to develop sustainable forestry practises within the context of industrial demands made of forest resources. This means that the Model Forest partners are not going to

agree to a shutdown of pulp and paper operations in the area so that other forest values may thrive. The Model Forest program guidelines require that an attempt be made to integrate industrial demand with other values.

role whatsoever to be played by the pulp and paper industry in the Model Forest area (see map), we would not have participated in the program. Nevertheless, there are many valid concerns about the program as a whole that cannot easily be

Western Newfoundland Model Forest

Vision Statement

To manage the forest of the Western Newfoundland Ecoregion within a system where short-term (1-5 year) management options are identified and decisions are rationalized with long-term (50-100 year) goals of protecting biodiversity and providing social benefits including employment, recreation, and a healthy environment.

This principle makes the program controversial among many environmental groups across Canada, who believe that it is a "green shield" designed to promote commercial logging in areas where logging shouldn't be taking place at all. (For example, one of the ten approved Model Forest sites is in Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, and in a separate article in this issue of ActToo you'll learn why environmentalists object in principle to any government sanction of logging in this area.)

Evaluating the Model Forest

If the Humber Environment Action Group firmly believed that there was no

dismissed. From an environmentalist's perspective, the success of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest will have to be evaluated according to the following broad criteria:

1. The Results. What will the Model Forest actually achieve and put into practise? Will all the information being gathered contribute to a measurable improvement in practises carried out on the ground, or will it simply be filed away in reports and databases? Will it be clear to everyone exactly how the Model Forest area successfully ensures that a wide range of environmental interests are protected, including biodiversity, water quality, wildlife habitat, aesthetic values and wilderness preservation? How will the Model Forest area be unique or distinctive? Can any improvements initiated within the Model Forest be sustained beyond the life of the program, and can they be readily applied in other regions of the province?

2. The Process. Is there a genuine commitment to developing innovative approaches to forest management? Have the means been developed to successfully enable and encourage active public involvement in forest management? Have communities been empowered and given the tools to become more involved in the management of the forests surrounding their communities? Are interest groups able not only to voice their concerns but to participate effectively in the decisions that will be made? Is the decision-making process both fair and transparent?

These are just a few of the tough questions that need to be asked now and constantly reiterated. If we wait until the end of the five-year program, it will surely fail.

Clayoquot — continued from pg. 4

look for leadership from his government, concrete action that demonstrates a new way of thinking about sustainable ecosystems and resource management.

Immediate action needed

Send a message, as soon as possible, to Mr. Harcourt, asking that: (1) he immediately stop all logging in Clayoquot Sound, (2) he ensure that all of Clayoquot Sound is included in the CORE process and that it is protected from all future development as a permanent wilderness area, and (3) he provide leadership during the CORE process to make sure that the great forests of B.C., which cover an area the size of Spain, are preserved for the health of the planet and for future generations:

Point out that the world recognizes B.C. as containing one of the last great remnant of ancient forests and wilderness. B.C. should take this opportunity to be a world leader in setting new stand-

ards for sustainable ecosystem and forest management. If affluent B.C. is unable to save its rainforests, how can we expect other countries, under tremendous pressures of poverty and debt, to save theirs?

Write:

Premier Michael Harcourt
Legislative Buildings
Victoria, B.C.
V8V 1X4
Fax: (604) 387-0087

(The above information was released by EarthAction. Last summer, a total of sixty citizens were arrested for peacefully blockading a public logging road in Clayoquot Sound. As this issue of ActToo is going to press, the Western Canada Wilderness Committee is organizing a candlelight vigil for March 2 on the lawns of the B.C. legislature building. It's not too late to show support for this cause.)

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Drawing — continued from pg. 1

portation for as many people as possible, including vans from St. John's and the west coast. Let us know if you'd like transportation assistance and we'll do what we can.

Child Care

Day care will be available upon advance request. Cost is \$5 per child per day.

Conference Co-sponsors

The Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network is grateful for the assistance provided by the following groups in helping to organize this conference:

Action: Environment

The Natural History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador

The Protected Areas Association

Say No to American Garbage Group (Placentia)

The Wilderness Society

For further information, contact:

Shelley Bryant - 579-3729
(St. John's)

Martin von Mirbach - 635-2520
(Corner Brook)



**See page 12
for the
Registration Form**

**ACT TOO ADVERTISING
POLICY**

Act Too welcomes advertisements aimed at the province's environmental community. Our press run is presently 350 copies, which are distributed to all environmental organizations in the province as well as many individuals interested in environmental issues.

Advertisements are free to NLEN members. For non-members the cost is \$100 per full page, \$50 per half page, \$25 per quarter page.

The NLEN reserves the right to refuse advertisements which it feels are inappropriate.

**FOREST MURMURS**

By Martin von Mirbach, Humber
Environment Action Group

Whose Forest?

In the early stages of the federal Progressive Conservative leadership race, candidates are remaining pretty coy about their positions and the policies they would espouse if they became leader. Those who are interested in such "abstract" matters (rather than the crucial question of the candidates' relative standings in the weekly polls) have to look for signals and implicit assumptions made in more casual comments. Front-runner Kim Campbell gave such a signal recently, and it is of particular interest to environmentalists and to people concerned about how Canada's forests are used. Just days before announcing her candidacy, Ms. Campbell offered the following observation:

"I've always been interested in going to visit the people in my own province who are very hostile to the forest industry. They invariably live in nice log houses and have wood-burning fireplaces."

On the most obvious level, Campbell is making a gratuitous attack on environmental activists and the environmental movement in general. On this basis alone, the comment would be alarming. But there is more to be concerned about, because she assumes that there is no difference between using forests for domestic purposes and the activities of transna-

tional corporations. Because domestic wood use is such an important feature of the Newfoundland culture and lifestyle, it is worth looking at this comment in a little more detail.

The remark clearly implies that forest activists are being hypocritical if they criticize the forestry industry while themselves cutting trees for their own selfish use. This is incredibly simplistic and just plain wrong. Are there many activists out there who argue that it is always morally wrong to cut down a tree? Of course not, except perhaps in special areas such as parks, designated wilderness reserves or sacred spaces. What we are concerned about is the methods and scale of industrial forestry; whose interests are served and what forest values are disregarded and overwhelmed.

Kim Campbell's comment is a disguised attack on the use of trees for domestic lumber and fuelwood. Why is she so hostile to such activities? I can offer a few suggestions. Perhaps she recognizes that when people build their own homes or cut their own fuelwood they don't pay GST or other taxes. Neither do they contribute to the Gross National Product, or to anything that Statistics Canada can point to in order to make the government look good. Perhaps she feels ashamed of Canada's rugged past and the traditional values still maintained throughout rural Canada. Perhaps her vision of Canada is of a "world class" megalopolis, the population crowded into urban centres in southern Ontario and B.C. while high-tech helicopters zoom low across a denuded wasteland.

Is it, as Campbell suggests, somehow anti-environmental to build a log home or to burn wood for heat? Wood is admittedly not a "clean" fuel, and wood smoke can become a health hazard under certain conditions (high concentration and atmospheric inversion). But wood heat does supply a basic human need: let's look at the alternatives. Oil? Non-renewable, it needs to be transported long distances in tankers that tend to run aground, and we find ourselves fighting wars over it. Natural gas? Again, non-renewable, and in any case it's not available to those of us who happen to live in Newfoundland and Labrador or in rural

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areas across Canada. Hydro? Sure, and while we're at it let's build a new dam and flood your home. Sorry, you'll have to move to Toronto. Nuclear? Don't make me laugh.

Likewise with lumber. Is Ms. Campbell seriously suggesting that environmentalists are being hypocritical if they live in a home made of locally cut logs, instead of buying lumber that has been cut in forests hundreds or even thousands of kilometres away, trucked and shipped in at great environmental cost, and subject to price markups at every step in the process? If this isn't what she meant to say, then exactly what does she mean?

The main point that she ignores is that when trees are cut down and used locally, there is greater likelihood of a spirit of genuine stewardship developing. If you're relying on wood from your region for your heating and building needs, you simply can't contemplate liquidating the forest for short-term gain and moving on to Indonesia or Siberia.

Newfoundlanders and Labradorians should be especially concerned about the implicit assumptions made in Kim Campbell's off-the-cuff remark. It shows a complete lack of sympathy for the traditional values that are still prevalent in this province. And it is not only Kim Campbell and the federal Conservatives that view domestic wood use as competing with commercial interests. The provincial Department of Forestry and Agriculture has recently released a 20-year plan, outlining the serious wood supply deficit being faced by the pulp and paper industry. Proposed solutions include "diverting domestic fuelwood demand away from the softwood forest

and into low volume [i.e., scrub and tuckamore] and hardwood stands" and "encouraging and supporting small private woodlot owners to . . . participate in the industrial harvest [i.e., stop supplying local sawmills]." As well, the Strategic Economic Plan released last summer with great fanfare by Clyde Wells' Liberal government contains sweeping measures aimed at dismantling the local household economy that makes it possible for people to build and heat their own homes cheaply and with their own labour.

We need to stop and re-evaluate this drive for increased productivity in the global marketplace. Whose interests are served? Should local needs be sacrificed in order to maximize the return on investment for a huge industry? When we measure economic benefits are we really providing an accurate reflection of the value of the forest? It is incumbent on all of us to let our so-called leaders know whose interests they have a responsibility to serve.



Father Knows Best?

"Today we hear about 'New Forestry,' 'Holistic Resource Management,' 'Change on the Range' and 'Ecosystem' approaches to correct past failures to successfully 'manage' our natural 'resources.' We fail to recognize that it is not so much a failure of technique as it is a failure of attitude or philosophy. We practise the 'Father Knows Best' approach to management. Until this patronizing attitude is changed, 'better' forestry techniques and 'better' livestock or wildlife management will fail, as earlier attempts to control the environment have failed. We don't need better techniques or technology; we need a new relationship with the Earth."

- George Wuerthner, "Father Knows Best, Or Does He? Wild Earth, Winter 1992/93



THE NLEN IS

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- Friends and Lobbyists of the Waterford River
- Gander & Region Environmental Group
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- Humber Environment Action Group
- Innu Nation
- Manuel's River Natural Heritage Society
- Mt Pearl Senior High Environment Club
- Natural History Society of Nfld & Lab.
- Newfoundland & Labrador Conservation Corps
- Newfoundland & Labrador Environmental Association, Inc.
- Newfoundland Freshwater Resource Center
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- St. John's Oxfam Committee
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- "Save Our Forest" Group
- SNAGG (Say No to American Garbage Group) - Placentia
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- Stella Maris High Recycling Program
- Tuckamore Wilderness Club

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FOREST MURMURS

By Martin von Mirbach,
Humber Environment Action Group

Conflict Resolution

There are many ways of resolving conflicts, some of the most common including bargaining, arbitration and mediation. In resource management policy in Canada, especially where environmental concerns are front and centre, there is a growing interest in developing other methods that are more likely to produce stable results. One important alternative is to establish a team representing varied interests, asking that team to put forward recommendations that are reached through a process of consensus decision-making. This is the avenue being adopted by the Western New-

foundland Model Forest, and in this article I'll describe the process as I've experienced it so far as a member of the Model Forest Management Group. They are personal observations and don't necessarily represent the views of the group as a whole.

The background

The Western Newfoundland Model Forest was established as a partnership of interests including government, industry, environmental and educational representatives. Previous issues of Act Too (January/February and March 1993) have included articles describing the history, goals and objectives of the program. When we formed we agreed that decisions must be made with the unani-

mous consent of all partners. None of us really knew at the time exactly what the implications of this decision would be. There are many different types of conflict that are present in the Model Forest, not just between environmentalists and government or between environmentalists and industry, but also between government and industry and even between government departments. How can consensus decision-making help to resolve these conflicts?

In order to learn more about consensus decision-making we invited a team from the Banff Centre of Management to conduct a workshop on conflict resolution. It was an intensive four-day course, with Keith Morgan and myself attending on behalf of the Humber Environment Action Group. The course had a dual function; to explore the theory and techniques of successful multi-stakeholder negotiation, and to actually negotiate a set of operating "ground rules" governing the activities of the Model Forest. I'll offer a few observations based on the key learning points for me.

All interested parties must be involved. If all parties ("stake-holders") are involved in the process, then there will be tremendous pressure on the powers that be to actually implement the decisions taken by the group. If some interests are excluded - either because they are perceived as too antagonistic or too disorganized - then the whole process risks becoming nothing more than an academic exercise, since it is certain to be challenged at a later date. The Model Forest has not yet achieved the inclusion of all interests - labour, domestic cutting, recreation, outfitters, fishing and sawmilling are just a few of the absent interests. What is even more troubling is that the environment as a whole is not a "stakeholder" in any meaningful sense of the word. In these consultations environment groups are inevitably perceived as "special interest groups," and there is no adequate way to give voice to the "general interest" that encompasses all interests.

If the "other side" has a problem, then you have a problem. I found this to be a helpful principle. It means that

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I am interested in the following caucus(es):

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Provincial

- NLEN Forest Caucus
- NLEN Waste Caucus
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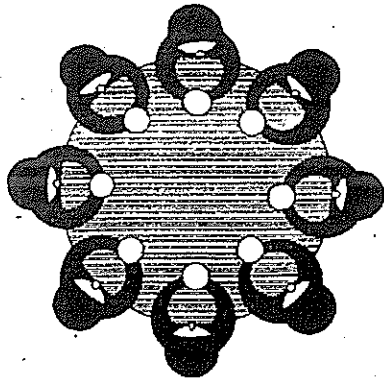
Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network
Box 944
Corner Brook, NF
A2H 6J2
or fax it to 634-2520.

it's futile to browbeat or outmanoeuvre someone into accepting a decision. Any such "agreement" is not likely to last very long. Instead, if there's conflict it's important to explore why the conflict exists, to get to the root of the problem and to look for innovative ways to get around the impasse. Obviously, you can't expect everyone to put all their cards on the table. But through discussion, especially with the skilful guidance of Glenn Sigurdson, the workshop leader that the Banff Centre brought in, I was surprised to find out that there was considerable room for progress in areas that I previously thought were hopeless. When I put forward an idea that was rejected by others at the table, it was usually possible to talk it over and ensure that my basic concern could be addressed in a way that did not threaten the vital interests of the other parties. The key is to find out what the other person's problem really is, instead of stubbornly defending and reiterating your own position.

Conflict resolution is not always the best approach. This is very important to keep in mind. Multi-stakeholder consultations are just one of the valid means to address the concerns of environmentalists. Others include lobbying, media campaigns, public protests and direct action. It would be foolish to discard these options, especially if you are facing an issue where fundamental principles are completely divergent and intractable.

The Model Forest Ground Rules. At the end of an exhausting four-day workshop we did manage to adopt a set of ground rules and agree to them by consensus. One of the most important sections of the ground rules defines in some detail exactly what we mean by consensus.

1. "Consensus" means the explicit concurrence of all "consensus members" of the Model Forest Management Group or Board of directors. The number of consensus members is currently seven, with provisions for expansion, but no agency or organization may have more than one consensus member. This rule has two important implications: silence does not mean consensus - everyone has to say "yes"; and consensus cannot be reached if one member is absent from the meeting. It is what I would call a "strong" definition of consensus.



2. Consensus members agree to act in good faith, to accept the concerns of others as legitimate, to focus on interests and concerns rather than on demands and positions, and to refrain from personal attacks.
3. If one member disagrees with a proposed decision, then that member is

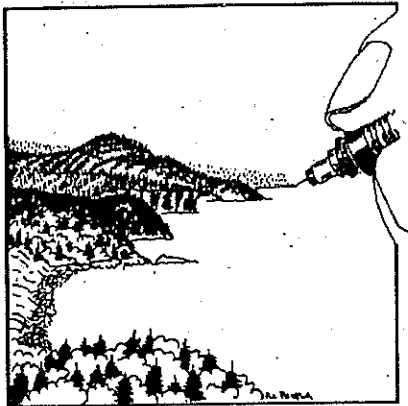
responsible for demonstrating that the item at issue is either a matter of basic principle, or that his or her interests would be specifically impacted by the proposed decision. It is then up to the other consensus members to address those concerns.

4. If consensus still cannot be reached, then we agree to consider a range of other options, including reference to the Board of Directors, a professional mediator or a technical panel. None of these options are binding, however, unless the members agree to it on a particular issue.

I will be happy to send a copy of the complete ground rules to anyone who would like to see them. You can contact me at the NLEN office.



DRAWING THE BIG PICTURE: CONFERENCE UPDATE



Don't forget about the Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network's upcoming Annual General Meeting and conference, taking place on **June 11-13th** at the **Lavrock Centre**, located about 40 kilometres outside of St. John's on the Salomier Line (just a few hundred metres in from the Trans Canada intersection). The conference is entitled **Drawing the Big Picture: A Conference to Address Environmental Issues in Newfoundland and Labrador**, and will feature an abundance of workshops, caucus meetings, plenary sessions and guest speakers.

Included in this mailing of Act Too is a brochure describing the details of the conference. If you don't have this brochure and would like to get a copy, or if

you would like any further information about the conference, call **579-3729 (St. John's)** or **634-2520 (Corner Brook)**. Here are some late-breaking details not included in the brochure:

- The dinner on Saturday night will be a four-course feast, featuring local produce.
- During the dinner on Saturday night there will be a **fundraising auction**. Donations of auctionable items or services are currently being solicited, and if you'd like to contribute something please let us know and bring it along with you to the conference!
- If you wish to attend the events on Saturday evening (dinner, auction and keynote speakers **Dr. Leslie Harris** and **Shane Mahoney**), but do not plan on staying overnight at the Lavrock Centre, tickets for Saturday evening are available at a cost of \$25 (in addition to the daytime registration fee).

A reminder to all NLEN Member Groups to select your voting delegates to the Annual General Meeting on Friday night, if you have not already done so, and let the NLEN office know your selection.

See you there!



FOREST MURMURS

A Tool for Forest Activists

Beyond the Beauty Strip: Saving What's Left of Our Forests

By Mitch Lansky
Published by Tilbury House, Maine
453 pages

Review by Martin von Mirbach, Humber Environment Action Group

One of the difficulties forest activists in Newfoundland and Labrador often face is a lack of relevant information to back up concerns that are based in common sense. Sure, forest management is a "hot" topic this summer due to the blockade at Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island, but that's part of the problem. You see, so much attention has been focused on the forests of B.C. that the majority of environmental literature about forestry in Canada is geared to a discussion of B.C. forests, especially coastal rainforests. Big, spectacular, moss-draped trees over a thousand years old. Little attention gets paid to the lowly balsam fir or stubby black spruce, the trees that make up the Newfoundland forests that we care for so deeply.

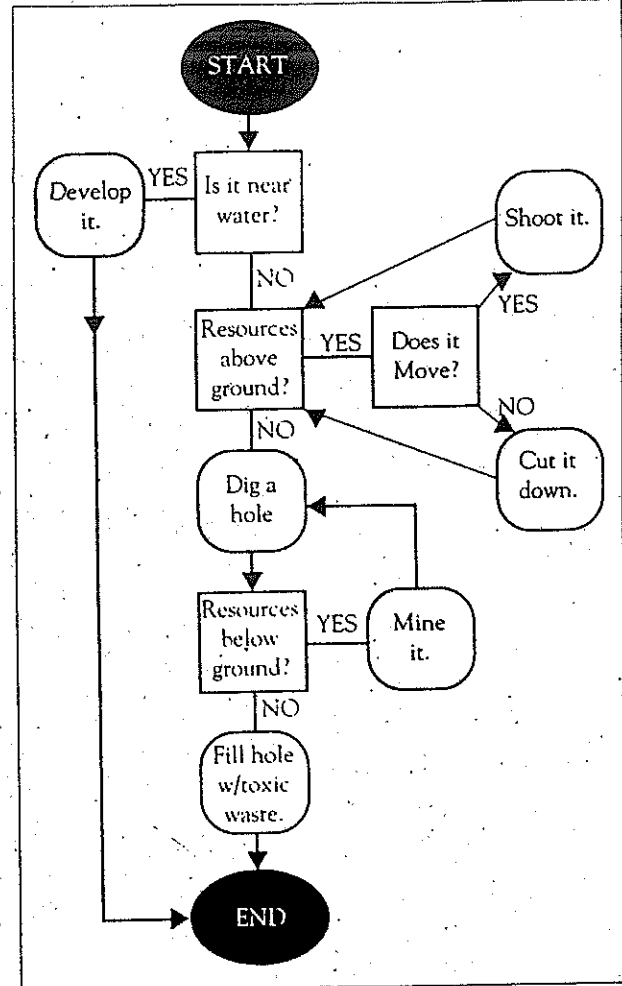
Now, at last, we have a book that is extremely informative, useful and relevant to anyone living in the boreal or Maritime forest regions. Mitch Lansky has been working as a forest activist in Maine for seventeen years, and has now published the results of his painstaking and exhaustive research. The result is an amazing book, one that uses clear and straightforward language to expose the pro-industry bias of forest management policy, and to conclusively show how these policies are leading us down a dead end, both environmentally and economically. And best of all, his research is based in the Maritime forests of Maine, dominated by fir and red spruce. While there are certainly differences between Maritime and boreal forests (red spruce grow a little bigger and live a bit longer than black spruce), the linkages are strong enough to make this book crucial reading material for anyone who is concerned about the state of forests in Newfoundland today, or about the plans to subject much of the best forests in Labrador to so-called "sustained yield" logging.

The book's structure is innovative, and makes it an especially useful tool for activists. Lansky patiently goes through literally hundreds of "myths" or principles that industrial foresters rely on to justify their practises, and then systematically demolishes them, showing them to be nothing more than self-serving rationalizations to feed the profit machine.

Myth: Large capital investments by the paper industry mean a commitment to sustainable forest managements (p.43). Lansky shows how large companies, by investing in mills in different regions, often have a financial interest in deliberately accelerating the depletion of the forest and investing windfall profits in new regions. Good for them, very bad for us.

Myth: Clearcutting on short rotation is more productive than selection cutting (p. 148). Productive of what? Certainly

Multiple Use Working Forest Algorithm, by Mitch Lansky.



not of quality sawlogs, mature-forest wildlife habitat, soil fertility or water quality. Indeed, Lansky shows how, even if you accept that the forest solely exists to supply pulp fibre, clear-cutting still carries with it the high costs of intensive management, such as herbicide spraying, planting and precommercial thinning, costs that are largely borne by the taxpayer.

Myth: The industrial forest is managed for multiple use, taking care of the needs for wildlife and recreation (p.306). Just because there is some consideration being made for other values (buffer zones, etc) doesn't mean that all the relevant values have been taken into account and given proper weight. And just because a forest is being used for a variety of purposes doesn't mean the interests are being adequately considered. Talk to any of the outfitters who return to their camps in the spring to discover that every stick of wood around their camp has been clearcut.

This book contains insights that are important for everyone, not just forest activists. For instance, Lansky gives a very sharp critique of the myth that the Gross Domestic Product is a measure of social welfare, showing how industry can result in

continued on next page



EARTH ACTION ALERT

CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Just over a year ago, the leaders of 120 nations met at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. They made fine speeches, and declared their commitment to building a more sustainable world. They signed two legally binding treaties: the Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity.

The two treaties dealt with two of the world's most critical problems: the threat of global warming and the rapid extinction of species. But on both these problems, a year after the Earth Summit, there has been little improvement. The concentration of "greenhouse" gases in the atmosphere is higher than a year ago, and thousands more species have been lost forever since the Summit ended. Public pressure is needed now to make governments act with a stronger sense of urgency.

Climate Change

A UN panel of scientists estimates that to avert the danger of rapid changes in our climate, global emissions of greenhouse gases need to be reduced by at least 60%. This can be done by conserving energy, shifting to renewable energy sources such as wind and sunlight,

and protecting forests, which release carbon dioxide when they are destroyed. But instead, the Convention on Climate Change contains a vague statement that the industrialized countries "aim" to return, perhaps by the year 2000, to 1990 levels of greenhouse gas emissions - the levels that were causing the problem in the first place.

Biological Diversity

The Convention on Biological Diversity commits governments to draw up a national action programme on biological diversity, but without strong public pressure few countries are likely to make fundamental changes in policy. The Convention also includes measures which aim to give Southern nations - where two thirds of the world's species are found - a greater share in the profits derived from biological diversity, such as those from new pharmaceuticals.

The issues of climate change and biological diversity are closely linked. Rapid global warming could cause massive extinctions, as changes in temperature and rainfall alter the environments for which species have adapted. And the destruction of rain forests - where a ma-

majority of the world's species live - not only destroys countless life-forms, but also contributes substantially to global emissions of carbon dioxide.

Action

Send a message to federal Environment Minister Pierre Vincent. Tell him that you are deeply concerned by the slow progress toward real solutions to the problems of climate change and species extinction since the Earth Summit. Urge him to:

- Call for immediate negotiations on a protocol to be added to the Convention on Climate Change committing the world - in particular the industrialized nations - to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20% below 1990 levels in the next ten years.
- Develop, with full citizen participation, an urgent programme to help protect the biological diversity of Canada and the whole planet, with the people living in areas of rich diversity receiving a fair share of the income derived from its sustainable use.

Tell him that, as a voter, one of your highest priorities is that the next generation should inherit a planet as rich in life as that which we inherited, and that, since current policies are clearly failing in this regard, you hope that his government will act boldly to make the changes in policy necessary to achieve that goal.

Write to:

Hon. Pierre Vincent
Minister of the Environment
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

(This alert is being sent to more than 700 citizen groups in 101 countries which are part of the EarthAction Network. When you act, you are acting together with citizens in all parts of the world.)

Murmurs — continued from pg. 4

pollution and deteriorating health, generating a need for more doctors and consultants to clean up the mess; all of these costs adding to the GDP while our quality of life goes down the toilet.

I was especially amazed to see how relevant the "Multiple Use Working Forest Algorithm," (see figure) is here in Newfoundland and Labrador, with the current waste importation schemes fitting neatly into the bottom of the chart. Read it and weep.

Lansky concludes by outlining some of the "metashifts" that must take place before we can really bring about sustainable forestry practises. These shifts are

centered on recognizing our limits and living within these limits. The strength of the book, however, lies in its criticisms of the system of industrial enterprise, and Lansky makes it clear that his primary interest is in writing a book for activists, not for philosophers.

My thanks to Harold Heap of the Save Our Forest Group for bringing this book to my attention. He has brought in a few extra copies of the book from the United States, and copies are available through the Newfoundland and Labrador Environment Network for \$30 postpaid.



FOREST MURMURS

The Model Forest: Getting Down to Work

By Martin von Mirbach, Humber
Environment Action Group

In past issues of the newsletter I have reported on the formation of the Western Newfoundland Model Forest, on its goals and objectives, and on its approach to consensus decision-making and conflict resolution (contact the NLEN office if you would like copies of these articles). In this article I will describe how it is actually going about its business. My point isn't to score PR points for the Model Forest, but simply to let you -- environment groups, conservation groups and concerned individuals -- know about where there might be possibilities for you to get involved.

Model Forest activities

Several projects got underway this summer, thanks to Model Forest funding. Pine marten were live captured and equipped with radio collars to trace their movements. A bus tour gave visitors and residents an introduction to boreal forest ecology. Students combed the Lewis Hills, identifying rare plants. Walking trails were constructed around Glynmill Inn Pond in Corner Brook. Equipment was purchased that will allow for accurate digitized mapping of all aspects of the land base, from forest type to wildlife habitat to soil sensitivity. And many more activities, which I won't begin to describe here.

Most of this work was supervised and guided, not by the Model Forest, but by other agencies -- the Wildlife Division, the Wilderness and Ecological Reserves Advisory Council, the Corner Brook Stream Development Committee, etc. It's an important point, since the Model Forest was never intended to be just another top-heavy centralized bureaucracy droning on about sustainable development. **Anyone** who has a worthwhile project that meets the goals of the Model Forest can request funding for their activities, whether or not you are currently "on the inside."

The Management Group

This is the main decision-making body of the Model Forest. Decisions require the consensus of all members, cur-



rently including representatives from Corner Brook Pulp and Paper, Abitibi-Price, the Newfoundland Forest Service, the Wildlife Division, the City of Corner Brook, the Centre for Forest and Environmental Studies and the Humber Environment Action Group. If you do have a good idea you'd like to bring forward, this is the group that will usually make the decision whether or not to fund it. Project proposals received by **December 31, 1993** will be considered for funding in the 1994-95 fiscal year (although if you miss this deadline, don't despair; there are other ways to initiate projects on shorter notice).

The Working Groups

The Management Group meets only about four times a year, and much of the real work in achieving the Model Forest's goals will be coordinated by different working groups or standing committees. Some are fairly technical, such as the **Scientific Research Committee**, which provides for independent peer review of research proposals. Below, I'll briefly describe some of the working groups whose activities NLEN members might be most interested in.

Domestic Cutting Working Group. This group is looking at the domestic firewood situation in western Newfoundland with an eye to developing long-term strategies at the community

level. With that in mind, the three Development Associations in the Model Forest area are participating in this group, as is Gros Morne Park, which has some unique challenges with regard to managing domestic cutting. We hope to hire people this winter to spend time in the field talking to firewood cutters and learning their views.

Public Awareness and Involvement Working Group. From my perspective, this is the biggie. Everybody's talking about "meaningful public involvement" these days, but no-one really seems to know how to go about doing it, at least not without revolutionary changes to our political system, which is likely beyond the mandate of the Model Forest and beyond what is possible through consensus decision-making. I will devote a future "Forest Murmurs" column to discussing this subject in detail. Suffice it to say that the group has had an initial meeting to put together a draft terms of reference. We're still seeking additional members, especially from outside the usual circuit of Model Forest partners.

Integrated Resource Management Working Group. This will be a mammoth undertaking, since the Management Group has agreed that this group will have to find ways to involve all relevant interests, not just those on the Management Group. The group hasn't actually formed yet, but it will get its initial boost at the Integrated Resource Management workshop that the **Banff Centre of Management** is mounting in Corner Brook in December.

Education Working Group. This group hasn't met yet, although a number of people have been nominated as potential participants. It will certainly look at educational opportunities in learning institutions all the way from primary schools to post-secondary colleges. Whether it goes beyond that will depend in part on its initial terms of reference.

How to get involved

Are you interested in getting involved in the Model Forest or in any of these working groups? The Model Forest is

continued on next page



certainly seeking input from anyone who can contribute to the process. While the Model Forest boundaries are located on the west coast of the island, there are many aspects of Model Forest work that are relevant right across the province, and so you should not feel that you have to be living in the Model Forest in order to contribute. For further information about Model Forest activities contact **Bob Mercer**, General Manager, Western Newfoundland Model Forest, 89 West Valley Rd., Corner Brook, A2H 2X4, tel: 634-6383, fax: 634-0255. Or, if you have a particular idea that you'd like the Humber Environment Action Group to support at Management Group meetings, contact Martin von Mirbach at Box 944, Corner Brook, A2H 6J2, tel/fax: 634-2520.



NEWFOUNDLAND T'RAILWAY

"This past summer Wade Kearley, following in Joey Smallwood's footsteps, walked the railbed from Port aux Basques to St. John's. During his trip he came across many stretches seriously damaged by indiscriminate logging and quarrying operations, over which there is apparently little or no control or enforcement of existing regulations. These and similar practises raise a number of environmental as well as aesthetic concerns, and in total may jeopardize the long-term integrity of the railbed and its viability as a world-class recreational resource."

*- from a presentation to
Cabinet in October 1993 by
the Newfoundland and
Labrador Rural Development
Council*

STOP THE LOGGING IN CLAYOQUOT SOUND

Earlier this year, EarthAction began campaigning against logging in Clayoquot Sound, an area with some of the world's most magnificent surviving temperate rainforest. As you can see in the information below, thousands of people are working to oppose the logging which will result in clearcutting of 74% of the big-treed ancient forests.

Prime Minister Jean Chretien campaigned on a promise to work to preserve Clayoquot Sound as a National Park. We have a unique opportunity to ask him to live up to that promise immediately and stop the logging in the area. Here's what's been happening since July of this year:

- Over 750 people (from Canada, Europe, Australia and the US) have been arrested while peacefully blockading logging roads in Clayoquot Sound, making this the biggest civil disobedience action in Canada's history.
- More than 9,000 people supported these acts of civil disobedience by visiting the "Clayoquot Peace Camp."
- On October 15, the first 44 of the 750 arrested were sentenced to jail terms ranging from 45 to 60 days and fines ranging from \$1,500 to \$3,000; very harsh sentences for acts of peaceful disobedience.
- The First Nations' Chiefs of Clayoquot's indigenous peoples are appealing to the United Nations Human Rights Commission seeking an injunction to stop all logging in the Clayoquot Valley until the indigenous claims to the land have been settled.
- In a speech to forestry officials, Arthur Campeau, Canada's Ambassador for Environment and Sustainable Development, stated, "I believe the Clayoquot

conflict has gone on long enough, in fact too long. It is causing us damage greater than we are prepared to admit. Abroad, Canada's envied image of world leader in the protection of the environment is being eroded and replaced, unacceptably, by one of environmental outlaw." (Congratulations to all of you who played a part in that pressure.)

- On October 25, Jean Chretien, leader of the Liberal party, was elected the new Prime Minister of Canada. During his campaign, he promised, if elected, to initiate talks with the Premier of B.C. and the indigenous leaders to bring Clayoquot Sound under federal protection as a national park.

Action

Send a message to our new Prime Minister. Congratulate him on his victory and ask that he honor his campaign promise and take immediate steps to halt all logging in Clayoquot Sound while talks regarding its permanent preservation are carried out. Write, telephone or fax him at:

The Right Honorable Jean Chretien
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6
Telephone: (613) 992-2441
Fax: (613) 995-5980

In the next issue of Environment Network News we will have a report on the **Clayoquot Caravan**, which started its journey on October 27th with meetings in St. John's, Gander and Corner Brook, and included the involvement of a number of Newfoundlanders.



FOREST MURMURS

INTEGRATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: – NOT A SIMPLE SOLUTION

By Martin von Mirbach,
Humber Environment Action Group

Last December the Western Newfoundland Model Forest sponsored a three-day workshop on the subject of "Integrated Resource Management." Attending the workshop were representatives of more than twenty different forest "stakeholders," including interests such as fisheries, mining, recreation and wilderness protection, which had not previously been directly involved in the Model Forest. The workshop was organized by the Banff Centre, with the principal resource people (Gordon Baskerville, Peter Duinker and Tom Moore) all coming from the forestry sector.

Speaking personally, I found it enlightening and informative, but for all the "wrong" reasons. I learned a lot about Integrated Resource Management (IRM), but most of what I learned was about what IRM can't do, or at least can't do very well. In this article I'll give a simplistic overview of how IRM is supposed to work, and then outline what I see as critical limitations to IRM.

What is Integrated Resource Management?

On the first day of the workshop we did a very interesting exercise, sketching out what needs to be done at the beginning of the IRM process. We were divided into small groups and asked to identify all the values that we wanted to "manage for," define how these values are to be measured, and then indicate how each value relates to all the other values.

A value, for example, might be canoeing. It would be measured by kilometres of canoe routes or by person-days of canoe travel. This value is generally antagonistic to values such as logging or hydroelectric development, and for the most part compatible with values such as wildlife protection or wilderness preservation. (Of course, the situation isn't that simple, since canoeists benefit greatly from woods roads, even though they don't like canoeing through clearcut valleys.)



Once you have this information, the theory goes, you can decide what you want to manage for, and can construct a model that will help show how to sustain each value in the area you're managing for. Using computers and Geographical Information Systems (G.I.S.) software, you can forecast how management decisions made now will affect the forest in the future, and what impact those changes will have on the values you're interested in. Timber managers have used G.I.S. for years, but only to provide information about timber volumes, not the wide range of other values that the forest supports.

Of course, your forecasts will always be wrong, since things in the real world almost never unfold the way they do on a computer screen. You will have to constantly go back and modify your forecasting tools, in a process that is called "adaptive management."

What's wrong with this picture?

This, in a nutshell, is how IRM works. Below I'll outline in a very rudimentary form some of the problems that IRM can't easily solve.

1. **The forest is not merely a collection of "resources."** This is really the fundamental limitation of integrated

resource management. The need to preserve biodiversity, spiritual and traditional values; these are not "resources" in any meaningful sense of the word. Above all, our ethical responsibilities to the land itself take precedence over any use we might put the forest to. So right from the beginning IRM is unable to deal with the most important and overriding values.

2. **Non-economic values can't easily be measured.** According to the principles of IRM, you can't manage what you can't measure. But how can you measure the value of a boil-up by a pond on a fine spring day? The value of solitude and quiet? the value of a warbler's song? This is a much more serious problem than it at first seems, since it applies to many values that we might at first think we can adequately measure. For instance, the Forestry Department measures domestic fuelwood cutting in terms of cords of wood cut and burned. But does this really measure the value of domestic cutting? People cut wood because they enjoy the activity, as an outing with family or friends, because their fathers before them did it. How can you measure tradition, or sunshine?

3. **IRM tends to overlook specific, local interests.** We were told at the workshop that you can't have everything, everywhere, all the time, but that with IRM you can have everything, somewhere, all of the time. This is obviously a valid point, and works as long as you keep things abstract and theoretical. But many values are specific to a particular region. If the swimming hole behind my community gets silted up because of logging operations, it is small consolation to know that somewhere else there is a brook that is still pristine.

4. **IRM is a vague concept, and can be used to justify almost anything.** For example, last December the Forestry Department released its Forest Management Plan for Unit 20 (Cartwright,

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Active Living - Go for Green

Under a federal health and environment program initiative, \$45,000 will be made available in Newfoundland and Labrador to support "Active Living - Go for Green" initiatives. This Green Plan program seeks to encourage healthy outdoor physical activities that are environmentally friendly by providing funds for local projects. Grants will be available to environment groups, community organizations, schools and other recreation committees throughout the province. This year, the breakdown of funding includes two grants of \$5,000, 10 grants of up to \$2,000 and 20 grants of up to \$1,000. For more information contact Dave Feener at 729-6291.



Interested In The Environment And International Development?

AFS International Canada is organizing a Canada/Brazil-Columbian intercultural exchange with a focus on the environment and development. To qualify for the program, you must be between the ages of 18 and 29, you must have already participated on an international exchange or its equivalent, and you must demonstrate an interest in international development and in the environment. You will spend 4 months (September through December 1994) in Brazil or Columbia working with environmental or development organizations, living with a family and learning the language. It won't cost you anything, but you will be expected to fundraise \$1200. The deadline for applications is March 31, 1994. To receive an application form, call 1-800-361-7248.



continued from pg. 3

Labrador), which came complete with a commitment to practise "integrated resource management." Acknowledging that many values cannot be reconciled with clearcut logging, they determined that IRM could be achieved by excluding a mere 15% of the land base from logging. How did the Forestry Department come up with this figure? They don't say, despite the fact that the department's own 20-Year Plan uses a figure of 50%. Draw your own conclusions; the conclusion I reach is that the 15% figure was picked because it allowed the department to set the 100,000 m³ annual allowable cut figure that was their "target" quota. It had nothing whatsoever to do with any actual assessment of what would be required in order to practise IRM.

5. **IRM does not deal with the principle causes of resource over-exploitation.** This is a broad topic, and there'll be an article devoted to it in an upcoming issue of the newsletter. But I'd like to offer a quote from a remarkable article that was circulated during the IRM workshop I attended. Entitled "Uncertainty, Resource Exploitation, and Conservation: Lessons from History," it was written by Donald Ludwig, Ray Hilborn and Carl Walters, and published in the April 2, 1993 issue of "Science," a prominent scientific journal. The main point of the article is to show how science has consistently been used to justify and rationalize resource over-exploitation, with particular reference to fisheries mismanagement (the Atlantic fishery collapse was preceded by many similar calamities around the world).



"It is more appropriate to think of resources as managing humans than the converse: the larger and more immediate are prospects for gain, the greater the political power that is used to facilitate unlimited exploitation. . . . Forests throughout the world have been destroyed by wasteful and shortsighted forestry practises. In many cases, governments eventually subsidize the export of forest products in order to delay the unemployment that results when local timber supplies run out or become uneconomic to harvest and process."

Of course, these subsidies only make the inevitable collapse that much more severe.

What is IRM good for?

IRM can be useful in situations where you can clearly identify and agree on specific goals, when you can accurately measure the values you are managing for, and when you're dealing with values that affect each other in relatively uncomplicated ways. It may be possible, for instance, to integrate management plans for wildlife with timber management plans. Even here, though, biologists are telling us that we don't know enough about how certain wildlife species are affected by changes in the forest to be able to construct reasonable predictive models.

Integrated Resource Management is certainly not a panacea for the terrible problems we are facing, problems brought about by corporate greed, societal greed and individual greed. In fact, IRM may make the situation worse, by allowing resource managers to make inflated claims about what they have achieved, and to cloak resource over-exploitation in yet another fashionable buzzword. Above all, integrated resource management can never be a substitute for making tough political questions about what values we give priority to in our society.



FOREST MURMURS

Forest values and "stakeholders"

Martin von Mirbach, Humber
Environment Action Group

In many discussions about forest management, there is a lot of talk about managing the forest for "the full range of forest values." While this is certainly a big step forward from the view that forests are nothing more than "fibre farms," it's not so easy to agree on what constitutes the "full range" of forest values.

It is probably impossible to develop a comprehensive list of forest values, especially one that addresses the specific local interests of communities and individuals. In a recent issue of Taiga-News, the newsletter of the Taiga Rescue Network (an international network of environmental organizations concerned about the state of boreal and northern forests), there was an interesting list of "Taiga Ecosystem Values and Benefits" published. It was compiled by Larry Mayo in Alaska, and is the most thorough such list I've ever seen. Here it is, minus a few of the values that are specific to local conditions in Alaska:

INTRINSIC

- Wildness
- Existing for thousands or millions of years
- Unique to Earth
- Having unwritten rights
- Self-renewing
- Self-regulating
- Self-healing
- Home of the circumpolar Boreal Forest
- Home of Lakes, Bogs, Marshes, Meadows and Rivers
- Solar powered Energy reservoir of the sub-arctic
- Storehouse of natural Genetic Materials
- Ecosystem and Habitat biodiversity
- Makes its Soil from rock
- Makes and stores its complex chemical Nutrients
- Habitat for all sub-arctic animal life



PRACTICAL

- Supply of abundant clean water
- Air shed, the source of clean Air with moisture, fragrance, and oxygen
- Recycles our wastes such as sewage and CO2
- Setting for physically healthy Living
- Tent sites and Campfires
- Fish and game Meat
- Wood for Shelter and Furniture
- Wood for industry
- Fuel
- Wood for Export
- Wood for Art and Toys
- Entertainment for curious Children
- Water Storage in times of flood and drought
- Holds soil against wind and water erosion
- Stabilizes Climate
- Scenic resource for Tourism
- Shelter from wind
- Moss and snow for Insulation
- Sound barrier
- Birds and Flowers
- Outdoor Classroom of wildlife and nature
- Object for Science of sustainable systems

- Herbs, berries, teas, mushrooms, and medicines
- Dye materials
- Ambience for pleasant Homes and Business sites
- Soils for Agriculture and Gardens
- Feed for domestic Livestock
- Genetic source for agriculture and domestic animals
- Fence rows
- Assets for great Recreation
- Environment that promotes psychological Health
- Wildlife to watch and hear
- Ever-changing tapestry of natural Art
- Object of Poetry and Photography
- Place for evolution of Sustainable Lifestyles
- Source of Alaskan Native Cultural Attributes
- Birch bark and syrup

SPIRITUAL

- Quietness that one can hear
- Clarity and colour that one can see
- Freshness that one can smell
- Strength that one can feel
- Tranquility and Hope
- Fellowship with all Life on earth
- Solitude for spiritual Renewal
- Inspiration for philosophical Development
- Naturalists find Cathedrals
- Peace
- Quite a remarkable list, to be sure, going a long way toward outlining the bigger picture. As long as this list is, I can immediately spot several omissions, or at least values that would certainly be included in any list pertaining to Newfoundland:
- Pools, eddies and riffles for excellent Fishing

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Provider of many kinds of
Employment

Familiar pathways to revisit Year after
Year

There are just a few examples; I'm sure you can all come up with values that you hold near and dear that you'd like to see added to the list.

Values and stakeholders

It's all well and good to develop a list of values, but what do you do then? The typical answer (typical in the Canadian system, at any rate) is to form a "multistakeholder" group to give a "balanced" perspective. Here in Newfoundland there are many such examples, including Environmental Assessment Committees, the Round Table on the Environment and Economy, and the Western Newfoundland Model Forest (I am a member of the latter two). Many one-day forums set up to discuss a particular issue are in effect multistakeholder groups.

These groups sometimes achieve tangible results, and often provide good opportunities to expand the horizons of the people participating. But I still get the willies whenever I hear the term "stakeholder." I think of crazed prospectors during a gold rush, driving wooden stakes into "their" territory; and heaven help anyone who tries to encroach upon it. I'm constantly afraid of getting whacked across the head with one of these stakes. And sometimes they're made of rebar, not just lightweight spruce.

If we return to the above list, it should become apparent that the values listed as "Intrinsic" and "Spiritual" can't really be "staked out" in the way that the "Practical" values can be. The problem arises when environmentalists who participate in multistakeholder groups are expected to "defend" these values. The values almost inevitably get lost in the shuffle,

since they're vague, airy-fairy concepts that seem somehow foolish next to sturdy statistics about cubic metres of wood fibre and derisive talk of "weed species".

What's the solution? Well, I'd like to quote R. Edward Grumbine, naturalist and director of the Sierra Institute. In an article entitled "Policy in the Woods," published in *Clearcut: The Tragedy of Industrial Forestry*, he points out that "Conservation biology [a new field which seeks to understand the dynamics of species extinction and habitat loss and to outline the biological requirements of wild species] is now making it clear that biodiversity is not just another multiple-use goal but a condition fundamental to viable ecosystems over the long term." In other words, biodiversity is not a "stake" at all, but rather the whole terrain. Without biodiversity, no forest values can be sustained over the long term.

I'd suggest that the same can be said about many of the other intrinsic and spiritual values. They may not be quantifiable in the same way that economic indicators can be, but that doesn't make them less important; quite the opposite. In fact, they're so vital that they can't be bought, sold, traded or bargained away. So that while it's important to acknowledge them, and to write them down in lists such as the above, we also have to be careful not to presume to "represent" these values when we participate in multistakeholder groups. They can't be represented by individuals with specific interests, and the danger in environmentalists taking them under our wings is that we implicitly absolve other people of the obligation to take responsibility for them. They are shared responsibilities and they must stay that way, taking priority over the "special interest wrangling" that occurs in so many multistakeholder forums.

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Fact: Metro Toronto pays \$2.75 per kilogram to handle household hazardous wastes from chlorine-based cleaners and pesticides that often sell for less than that in the store.

(Source: Metropolitan Toronto Department of Public Works Annual Report 1992, cited in "Get a Life: A Green Cure for Canada's Economic Blues.")
Environment

Recycling Centre Opens

On May 27, 1994, the Stella Maris Recycling Center is scheduled to officially open. The centre is located at Stella Maris Central High. The current labour dispute may affect the opening date; for further information contact Ted Winter, P.O. Box 39, Trepassey, NF, A0A-4B0, Tel: 438-2060(w), 438-2254(h), Fax: 438-2442.

Canadian Environmental Achievement Awards

Nominations for the annual awards issued by Environment Canada are currently being accepted, with awards being given in the following categories:

Non-Profit Organization

Outstanding Communications for Environmental Awareness

Corporate Environmental Leadership

Lifetime Achievement

Environmental Leadership by a Municipality

Environmental Science Fair Project

Nominations must be submitted by June 6, 1994 to the Inquiry Centre, Environment Canada, Place Vincent Massey, 351 St. Joseph Boulevard, Hull Quebec, K1A 0H3, tel: 1-800-668-6767.

Sustainable Fisheries - International Networking Project Approved

The "Networking for ecologically and socially responsible, sustainable fisheries" project will provide a chance for members of the Oceans Caucus to interact with southern fishers and coastal communities affected by fisheries collapses that are happening world-wide. Four activist fishworkers (selected by the International Collective in support of Fishworkers) from South America, Africa, India and Southeast Asia will be in Halifax during the week August 8-14, 1994. ECO-PEI, CUSO Atlantic and the Oceans Caucus will be working collaboratively, together with any fishermen's organisations who want to join, to plan and host three days of workshops and associated social events and field trips. If your organization is interested in joining the Oceans Caucus or simply finding

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FOREST MURMURS

Horse Logging: Everything Old is New Again

By Martin von Mirbach,
Humber Environment Action Group

Loggers, environmentalists and other interested people in western Newfoundland recently had an opportunity to learn more about how old-fashioned logging methods are finding renewed relevance in helping to satisfy our need for wood products, our desire for employment and concerns about the environmental impacts of industrial logging. Douglas Gook of the Cariboo Horse Loggers Association gave a number of public presentations and participated in a workshop. The events were organized by Greg Mitchell, a small-scale logger from the Bay of Islands (and a member of the NLEN Forest Caucus) and sponsored by the Western Newfoundland Model Forest, a Green Plan program of the Canadian Forest Service.

The problems of industrial forestry

Anyone who spends time in the woods is familiar with the damage caused by logging operations — the soil compaction, eroding skid trails, ruined wetlands and removal of nutrients; in addition to the primary impact of industrial forestry, which leaves the land looking like a "barbarized wasteland," as one caller to a phone-in radio program recently termed it.

But that's not all. One major result of using large-scale mechanized equipment has been the drastic reduction of the numbers of people working in the woods. The money that used to go into loggers' paycheques now leaves the province to pay for the equipment, interest on the loans to buy the equipment, and the fuel to run it. What is especially galling is the fact that this trend is actively supported by our government through funding agencies such as ACOA, which provides assistance for contractors to purchase some of the most offensive feller-bunchers currently trashing our landscape. In its report to the United Nations Commission for Sustainable Development, the federal government is promoting Canadian "advances" in forestry such as "robotic technology."



Who benefits from such "progress"? How do we ensure that the benefits remain in the community, thus giving local people the strongest motives to conserve resources? How do we preserve fully functioning ecosystems while deriving economic benefit from them? In searching for answers to these questions people like Douglas Gook have been exploring ways to obtain benefits from the forest, using methods that are practical but that don't rely on the industrial forestry model.

Natural selection forestry

Natural selection forestry means the removal from a forest stand of trees that have been "naturally selected"; that is to say, they have already died or will soon die for any of a number of reasons: They may be crowded out by other, more vigorous trees, they may be genetically inferior and more prone to insect attack, or they may be growing on a poor site.

These trees are identified as "candidate" trees, and after assessing the whole stand a certain number of candidates (anywhere from 5-40% of the whole stand) are cut and removed.

It is important to not remove all the candidate trees, since some are required to ensure continuity of the kinds of features that dead trees provide — ospreys nest in standing snags, woodpeckers feed on insects in diseased trees, and fallen trees provide a wealth of benefits, including hiding spaces for small mammals, diversion channels to prevent slope erosion and habitat for fungi, mosses and new seedlings. When trees fall in streams they play an important role in generating suitable fish habitat.

Appropriate technology

Once the trees have been cut, the next important decision is how to remove

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THE NLEN IS

MEMBERS:

- ACAP Humber Arm Environmental Association
Action:Environment
- Atlantic Centre for the Environment
- Brother T.I. Murphy Center Environmental Science Class
- Canadian Society of Environmental Biologists
- Central Avalon Environmental Association
- Centre for Longterm Environmental Action in NFLD
Enviromun
- Extension Community Development Co-operative
- Foxeye Environmental Coalition
- Gander & Region Environmental Group
- Happy Valley/Goose Bay Recycling Committee
- Humber Environment Action Group
Innu Nation
- Mt Pearl Senior High Environment Club
NAPE Environment Committee
- Natural History Society of Nfld & Lab.
Newfoundland & Labrador Conservation Corps
- Newfoundland and Labrador Federation of Labour Environment Committee
- Northeast Avalon Community Futures
- Pippy Park Conservation Society
- Protected Areas Association
- St. John's Harbour ACAP Inc
- St. John's Oxfam Committee
- Save Our Forest Group
- Save Newfoundland - Anti-Garbage Group (SNAGG Central)
SNAGG St. John's
- Stella Maris Recycling Program
- Trinity Conception Development Corporation
- Tuckamore Wilderness Club
- Victoria Park Action Group
- Virginia River Conservation Society

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS:

- Centre for Forest and Environmental Studies
- City of St. John's, Environmental Initiatives
- Department of Environment
- Department of Fisheries
- Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Newfoundland and Labrador Round Table on the Environment and the Economy
- Norpen Technical College
- Terramon, Centre for Earth Resources Research



Murmurs - continued from page 6

them, and here is where horses can be a tremendously valuable asset. Most heavy machinery is suitable only for clearcutting; it is not manoeuvrable enough to move between trees or to avoid crushing younger trees and seedlings. Horses, on the other hand, are very effective at moving logs out from around standing trees with almost no damage to the surrounding understorey. The skid trails they use need minimal preparation, and leave little or no long-term impact.

During his visit to Newfoundland Mr. Gook showed slides and discussed his experiences in central British Columbia, where he and other members of the Cariboo Horse Loggers Association use horses to log in forests of wide diversity, ranging from sub-boreal spruce forests all the way up to forests containing giant cedars and hemlocks. They use horses in conjunction with various forwarders and trucking systems, designed to bring the wood to market with minimal impact on the forest, and with minimal intrusion in the form of roads, landings and skid trails.

To see how selective logging with horses might work in Newfoundland, Greg Mitchell arranged for a demonstration, with Lloyd Wells from Irishtown and his horse Ginger. Participants at that demonstration were able to witness firsthand the might of real horsepower. It's truly laughable to hear Black and Decker boast of a 5-hp push lawnmower, and then watch a single horse pull logs along

the forest floor, two at a time, at a near trot.

I was struck by how beautiful it was to watch horse and driver working together as a team, harness jingling in the stillness of the snow-lad trees, steam rising from the horse's back. Having seen mechanized operations, with feller bunchers and delimiters wailing away like dentists from hell, I was overwhelmed by the difference. Sometimes people are afraid of appearing naively romantic in talking about horse logging this way, but I know I am not alone. At a phone-in radio program the lines were jammed with people eager to share their fond memories of the horse logging that was common throughout Newfoundland until recently. Without exception the callers were delighted and excited to learn that some farsighted loggers are interested in reintroducing horses in active commercial operations.

In the coming months a group of us will be exploring ways to make alternative logging methods economically viable in Newfoundland, taking into account our forest ecosystems, current forest management and the changes to forest management policies (and land tenure) that we can realistically hope to bring about. If you are interested in further information about horse logging and its potential in this province, please contact me at the NLEN office, Box 944, Corner Brook, NF, A2H-6J2, tel (709) 634-2520.

