

WESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND MODEL FOREST

REPORT ON DOMESTIC CUTTING

FIELD SURVEY

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This report consists of the concerns and the comments of the cutters that were interviewed during the first six weeks of the project. Within the six weeks, cutters were interviewed from Hughes Brook to McIvers.

The people that were interviewed within the Hughes Brook area are comfortable with the way things are being handled in regard to the wood supply and cutting policies. These people have a good supply of hardwood and dead softwood in their backyard. Also they have access to Crown land in the Wild Cove area, so the wood supply is not a major concern in this area.

The cutters that were interviewed in the Irishtown and Summerside area are upset with the way things are handled in regard to land ownership. These people have a large land base with a great amount of fire wood and saw logs that are accessible by both communities. The problem that the people have is that they cannot obtain a permit to cut any green softwood, whether it be for fire wood or saw logs, because the land behind both communities is owned by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper. This company does not issue permits for green softwood, only hard woods and dead wood. Behind these communities there is not a lot of either. The cutters that were interviewed have said they would not mind paying for a permit if this permit allowed them to cut green softwood on the land owned by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper.

Cutters have said that Corner Brook Pulp and Paper should turn over some land to the Crown so that the government could issue permits for that area, and to have some type of enforcement to ensure that people practice good utilization of the wood supply.

Within the Meadows and Gillams areas, the cutters are cutting on Crown land in which they can get permits to cut both fire wood and saw logs. The problem that these cutters have is that cutters come from the lower part of Summerside cutting on this block of Crown land. Where as you have people cutting on the lower end of this block behind Gillams that are from McIvers. The people of Meadows and Gillams are finding that they are having to travel too far to get the wood they need for the winter. The cutters say that the reason for this is that the block of Crown land is supplying 4 communities and that block of land cannot sustain the amount of wood being cut for much longer. Cutters in Meadows expect to have to go some where else to get wood because of this. They say they cannot go too far back because there is a deep valley in which Gillams brook run through and the extraction of wood would be next to impossible unless they hauled directly to Gillams and trucked it home to Meadows.

Within the McIvers area, the cutters are in the same situation as those in Irishtown Summerside, meaning that the land is owned by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper and no permits are issued for green softwood. Another problem that cutters in McIvers have is that birch and dead wood is not of great abundance, meaning that they have no choice but to cut green softwood. Again like Irishtown Summerside, the cutters of McIvers would like to see Corner Brook Pulp and Paper turn over land to the Crown so that permits could be issued.

Utilization practices within all the communities noted, are fairly good. Areas that are owned by the Crown have good utilization practices, probably due to the fact that the Department of Forestry has continious enforcement of the areas, and cutters are aware that if they abuse it they will be fined and possibly lose their cutting permit.

Areas that fall outside of Crown land is owned by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper and have good utilization of the wood supply by most cutters. These people realize the value of the wood they are cutting and see the reason for good utilization practices although the wood is owned by Corner Brook Pulp and Paper, whereas other cutters do not care about the wood supply. They take the attitude that it is there to do what they want with. Also, these people realize that Corner Brook Pulp and Paper does very little enforcement and it seems this is why they continue to practice poor utilization.

I must mention that not all the people who cut wood on Corner Brook Pulp and Paper land are cutting green softwood, but are cutting hardwood or dead wood, while the supply last. Also, many cutters are concerned with the cutting practices of Corner Brook Pulp and Paper around the West Coast. These concerns range from leaving too much wood on cut-overs and landings, destroying good fire wood just to get the timber they need for pulp, and destroying the land with heavy equipment use in the extraction of wood.

Information to produce this report was obtained by myself through interviews with domestic wood cutters located on the North Shore. Todate, there are a total of 90 people interviewed. The location of these cutters have been plotted on a Forestry Inventory map to determine stand type and general location, with snowmobile trails also noted.