

Results-based Plan 2012-13

Ministry of Natural Resources

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MINISTRY OVERVIEW

Ministry Vision, Mission and Mandate

The Ministry of Natural Resources is the steward of Ontario's provincial parks, forests, fisheries, wildlife, mineral aggregates, petroleum resources and the Crown land and waters that make up 87 per cent of the province.

The ministry envisions a healthy environment that is naturally diverse and supports a high quality of life for the people of Ontario through sustainable development. The ministry's mission is to conserve biodiversity and manage our natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way to ensure that they are available for the enjoyment and use of future generations.

The following are the ministry's core activities¹:

Biodiversity Management

- Provide provincial leadership and oversight in the conservation of Ontario's biodiversity. This includes the management of fish and wildlife resources; species at risk; fish culture, stocking and aquaculture; resource monitoring, assessment and allocation; research, fish health and control of pathogens; conservation officer delivery of natural resource and public safety law enforcement; and enhancing fishing and hunting opportunities. This mandate area has significant linkages with all other areas of the ministry.

Natural Heritage and Protected Area Management

- Provide leadership and delivery in the management and protection of natural heritage in Ontario. This includes identifying significant natural heritage features and landscapes and determining effective ways to protect them, including the establishment of provincial parks and conservation reserves; policy to influence the development of municipal official plans and bylaws; identification and confirmation of areas of natural and scientific interest; planning and management of natural heritage systems; providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities and education on natural heritage; delivery of the Ontario Parks program, including provincial parks operations and providing tourism opportunities; and research.

Crown Land, Water, and Non-Renewable Resource Management

- Provide leadership and delivery in the management of Crown lands, water resources, and non-renewable resources. This includes being accountable for the sale, disposition and stewardship of the Crown lands in Ontario and ensuring their use is sustainable; for the management of water resources through flood, low water,

¹ The list of core activities reflects the realignment of the business and economic aspects of forestry back to the Ministry of Natural Resources from the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines effective April 1, 2012.

and drought management, including the protection of the Great Lakes; for the management and regulation of surveys and the surveying profession within the province; and for the protection and extraction of aggregate, oil, gas and salt resources in Ontario.

Renewable Energy

- Support the provincial commitment to renewable energy and facilitate the availability of Crown land for renewable energy projects, including water, wind, solar and biomass.

Forestry

- Provide leadership and oversight to support the sustainable use of forests for a healthy forest products sector and thriving forest-dependent communities. Management of Ontario's forests includes policy and program development; intergovernmental co-operation on national forestry initiatives; ensuring a healthy, viable forest industry in Ontario, and fostering a competitive business environment by promoting jobs and investment in the forestry sector; Crown forest management planning, renewal and protection from pests; and monitoring, auditing, information management and public reporting.

Emergency and Forest Fire Management

- Provide leadership and program delivery for the protection of people, property and communities threatened by forest fires, floods and other natural resource emergencies. This includes planning and delivery of MNR's emergency management program, and aviation services for the Ontario government.

Land and Resources Information and Information Technology Cluster

- Provide leadership and program delivery in the development and application of information management and information technology for five client ministries: Natural Resources; Aboriginal Affairs; Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Environment; and Northern Development and Mines. Ensure the delivery of an integrated Information Technology infrastructure to facilitate and streamline government operations through electronic service delivery and enhance government service through e-business and e-government.

Ministry Administration

- Provide leadership for corporate strategic business planning and reporting, including fiscal controllership, sustainable infrastructure management, strategic human resources, organizational performance, supply chain management, legal counsel, communications and other administrative services in support of the ministry's activities. These functions support the ministry so that it can effectively deliver on results, priorities and core programs while remaining within its financial and human resource allocation.

Key Priorities and Results

Over the next three years, the ministry will undertake transformation initiatives to modernize its role in natural resource management, support economic growth and job creation, and achieve financial and operational sustainability.

There are four elements to the ministry's transformation plan. The first element is streamlining ministry approvals, including proposing amendments to nine pieces of legislation. The second is transforming operational delivery, and moving to larger management units and regional scales. The third element entails engaging in more strategic partnerships and transfer payments to ensure that these are more closely aligned with the ministry's core priorities. The final element involves redesigning and rationalizing the ministry's science and information functions so that there is a stronger focus on ecosystems rather than individual species.

The ministry's corporate priorities for 2012-13 are:

- Ensure future fiscal and operational sustainability through the coordinated and timely delivery of the ministry's transformation initiatives.
- Far North Planning: working with First Nation communities in the Far North to implement long-term plan for environmentally sustainable economic development while protecting the boreal region in Far North.
- Develop streamlined approaches to the Endangered Species Act/Program and other Acts in support of the government's jobs and economic priorities.
- Lead the reform of Ontario's forest tenure and timber pricing system.
- Ontario Public Service leadership for the review of government use of herbicide 2,4,5-T, including the establishment of the Independent Fact-finding Panel and Provincial coordinating office.
- Support the Government's agenda, including Ring of Fire; Climate Change plan; working with aboriginal peoples and First Nations; Green Energy; Natural Heritage.
- Achieve organizational excellence through effective leadership, engaged staff, building a greener workplace, and a diverse and inclusive healthy and safe organization.

In pursuing these goals and priorities, the ministry will contribute to the achievement of the government's key commitments, priorities and results.

Meeting Government Commitments

The government has a five-year plan to balance the budget by 2017-18. As part of this plan, it is undertaking initiatives to transform the delivery of public services while ensuring Ontarians receive the best value for their tax dollars. The ministry will undertake transformation initiatives to modernize its role in natural resource management, support economic growth and job creation, and achieve financial and operational sustainability. The government is working toward a more prosperous Ontario by promoting jobs and investment, by seeking to grow the green economy and by enhancing the province's business climate.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is doing its part to support economic development through sustainable resource management activities. Through implementation of the Ontario Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy, the ministry seeks to foster a competitive business environment by promoting jobs and investment in the resource sector. The ministry is promoting a new forest economy to help the sector develop and use green technologies, contribute to the mitigation of climate change, and improve environmental sustainability. This includes making under-utilized wood available for new investment and green jobs in the bio-economy.

The ministry is also working with the Ministry of Energy to implement the Green Energy Act and facilitate increased energy generation from wind, water, bio-energy and other opportunities. It is also providing outdoor recreation opportunities and seasonal jobs, which promotes tourism and stimulates demand for related businesses. The ministry is working with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to ensure the province capitalizes on the economic opportunity represented by the Ring of Fire, an area in Ontario's Far North that contains many globally significant deposits of chromite, a key ingredient in stainless steel, as well as numerous deposits of nickel, copper and platinum. It will also continue to support the creation of faster, smarter and streamlined government-to-business services that make Ontario more attractive for business development while protecting the public interest.

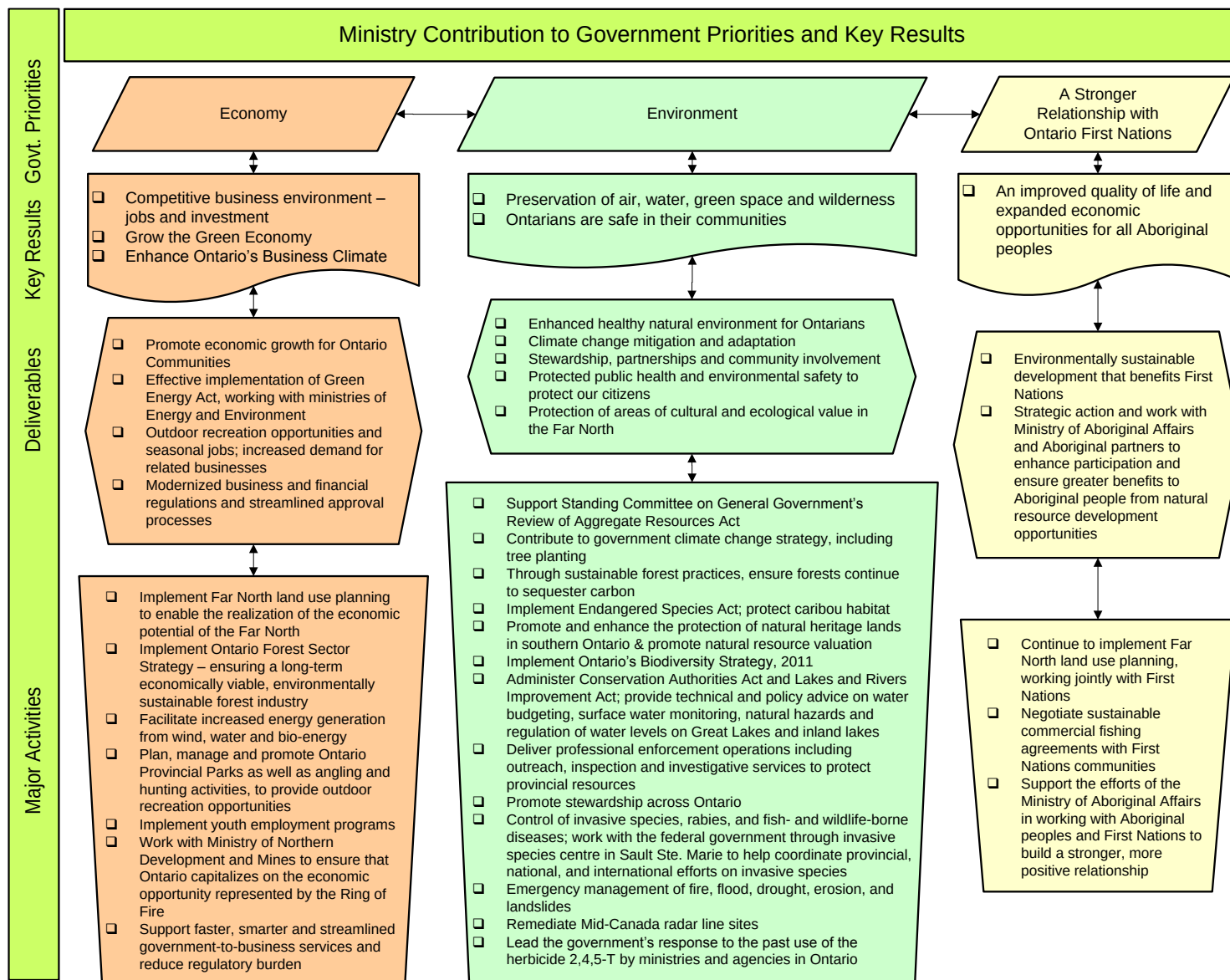
The government is committed to ensuring a greener Ontario by protecting air, water and green space, and protecting Ontarians from natural resource emergencies. In pursuing its goal of a healthy natural environment for Ontarians, the ministry is contributing to the government's climate change strategy by planting 50 million trees in southern Ontario and ensuring sustainable forest practices. The ministry is also putting Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy into action. The ministry is implementing the Endangered Species Act, which provides protection for our most vulnerable species and has made us a leader in North America in species protection. It will support the Standing Committee on General Government's review of the Aggregate Resources Act in an effort to strengthen the Act. The ministry is leading the government's response to the past use of the herbicide 2,4,5-T by ministries and agencies in Ontario, and the Independent Fact-Finding Panel is scheduled to release a report in the early fall of 2012. The ministry is

coordinating and enhancing efforts to protect natural heritage lands in southern Ontario. The ministry will continue to promote stewardship across Ontario.

The ministry continues to develop a water management framework to clarify its role relative to other ministries dealing with water. The ministry's water mandate includes administering the Conservation Authorities Act, the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, providing technical and policy advice on water budgeting, surface water monitoring, natural hazards and regulation of water levels on the Great Lakes and inland waters, and supporting the development of a proposed Great Lakes Protection Act for Ontario.

To make Ontarians safer in their communities, the ministry will continue to protect people, property and communities from natural resource emergencies. The ministry works to make Ontarians safe from natural resource hazards, such as forest fires and floods. The ministry also works to control invasive species, rabies and wildlife diseases, to clean up hazardous lands such as Mid-Canada radar sites, and to rehabilitate abandoned oil and gas wells.

The government is committed to a stronger, more positive relationship with First Nations. The ministry will continue to implement Far North land use planning, working closely with the ministries of Northern Development and Mines and Aboriginal Affairs, First Nation and northern communities, resource industries and environmental groups. It will continue to work with First Nations to develop community based land use plans in the Far North that clarify both where land is set aside for protection and where development can occur that will enable the region's resources to contribute to a more prosperous, healthy and sustainable future for its people, the communities and the entire province.

Diagram 1: Ministry Contribution to Government Priorities and Key Results


Ministry Programs Biodiversity Management

The Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to work with the Ontario Biodiversity Council to assist with the implementation of the Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011. The ministry is also coordinating the development of a government response to this strategy, which will confirm the government's commitment to biodiversity conservation and outline the actions that Ontario government ministries will implement to achieve the strategy's vision and goals. The strategy is an overarching plan to protect Ontario's rich natural heritage of plants, animals and ecosystems and guide the use of natural resources in a sustainable manner. The Ontario government has recognized the importance of biodiversity and, through the Ontario Public Sector Biodiversity Network, will continue to take steps to conserve it, contributing toward a strong, healthy and prosperous future for our province and generations to come.

In light of the 2012 provincial budget and proposed changes to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, the ministry will continue to make progress towards policy modernization and transformation to help manage Ontario's fish and wildlife populations in a way that balances both environmental and economic concerns. This will ensure our fish and wildlife resources are protected and available for the use of all Ontarians — today, tomorrow and in the future. The modernization efforts will focus on enhancing landscape-based fisheries and wildlife management, which means ensuring a consistent management approach across landscapes with similar ecosystems. This includes consulting on new landscape-based moose population objectives and harvest management strategies.

The ministry will also continue to support sustainable wildlife management through consultation on a proposal to require mandatory harvest reporting for snapping turtles, a species of Special Concern, and provide input into the management plan required under the federal Species at Risk Act for this species.

Implementation of the Endangered Species Act continues to be a key priority of the Ministry of Natural Resources. The ministry is committed to business improvement and streamlining processes by focusing on modern approaches to those operations that undertake activities which intersect with species at risk, while continuing the protection of these species and their habitats. A Caribou Conservation Plan continues to be implemented, with policies and practices that protect, conserve and recover caribou habitat.

The ministry will continue to implement Far North land use planning, working closely with the ministries of Northern Development and Mines and Aboriginal Affairs, First Nation and northern communities, resource industries and environmental groups. This includes implementing the Far North Act, which has a key objective of protecting at least 225,000 square kilometres of the Far North boreal region and working jointly with First Nations to develop community based land use plans which clarify where development can occur and where land is set aside for protection. The ministry will

also work with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to ensure the province capitalizes on the economic opportunity represented by the Ring of Fire.

Invasive species pose a significant threat to Ontario's biodiversity and affect our natural environment, society and economy. The government is pursuing a number of projects and partnerships to control invasive species on the land and in our waters.

The ministry will finalize and begin to implement the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan. The plan will help to provide a cross-ministry provincial management framework to better address threats posed by invasive species. The objectives of the plan focus on prevention, early detection, and rapid response to new invaders, and effective management of existing invaders when eradication is not possible.

In addition, the ministry:

- monitors forest health and works with the federal government and other partners to manage pests and invasive plants that threaten our forests;
- acts to eradicate aquatic invasive species that infect Ontario's water bodies, including Water Soldier in the Trent River and Water Chestnut in Voyageur Provincial Park;
- works together with partners and other governments to monitor for invasive species which pose a threat in neighbouring jurisdictions, including the presence of Asian carp in the United States; and
- has a partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters that delivers extensive programs to raise awareness of invasive species and how to prevent their spread.

The ministry, together with the federal government, established the Invasive Species Centre at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. The Centre promotes cooperation, collaboration and efficiencies in invasive species management and helps coordinate provincial, national and international efforts to address the spread of invasive species and the negative effects they can have on the health of Ontario's ecosystems and economy.

The ministry will work with the Ministry of the Environment and other ministries to respond and adapt to climate change, while building a cleaner, greener and healthier Ontario. This includes implementing specific actions from Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan 2007 and Climate Ready: Ontario's Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2014. As part of the plan, the ministry is working with partners to plant 50 million new trees in order to sequester 6.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The ministry is on track to plant the 11 millionth tree in 2012-13.

Under the Ecological Framework for Recreational Fisheries Management in Ontario, Fisheries Management Zone advisory councils have been set up in 13 out of 20 zones. The councils are supporting fisheries management planning initiatives across the province. Two Fisheries Management Zone plans have been completed. Draft plans are anticipated to be brought forward for consultation in three to four more

Fisheries Management Zones. The first five-year cycle of the broad-scale fisheries monitoring program ends in 2012-13. Reporting on the results of monitoring efforts will be a priority.

The ministry has successfully launched Fish-ON Line, a web-based application that anglers can use to find information on Ontario's vast fisheries resource. It has information on more than 13,000 lakes in the province, including fish species information, angling regulations, fish stocking records and lake characteristics. The Ministry will continue to enhance and add information to the application, including releasing a version for mobile devices.

In response to ecological concerns associated with live bait in Ontario, the ministry will be consulting on its review and renewal of Ontario's approach to the harvest and use of live bait. The goals of the review are to reduce the ecological risk associated with this activity, appropriately value the resource and streamline the approach for businesses.

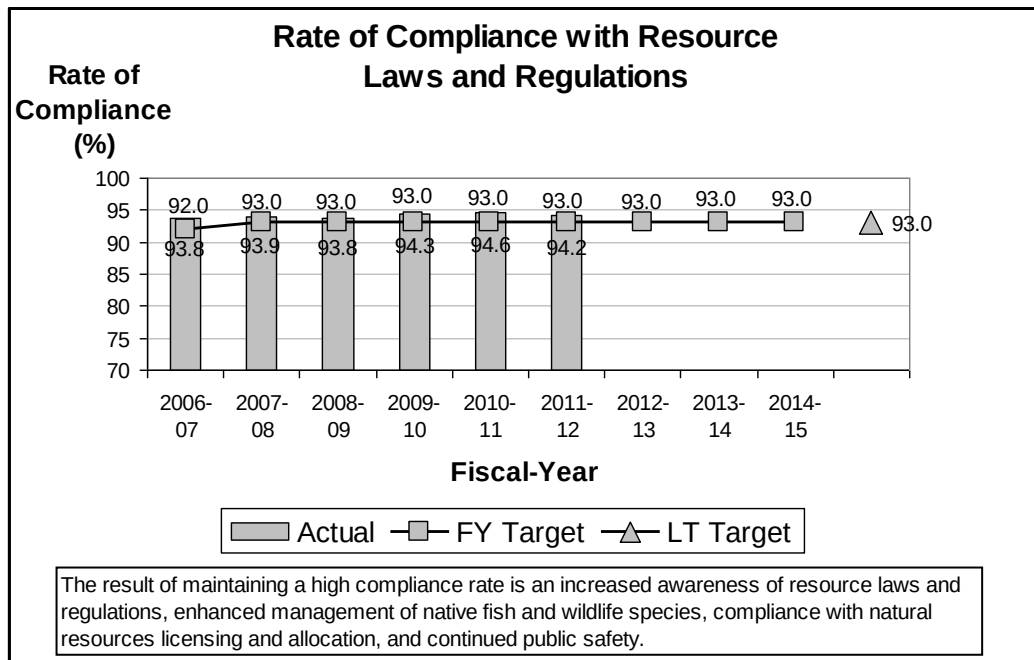
The ministry continues to work with the Federal government to coordinate activities associated with the management of fisheries and aquaculture through a number of committees designed to ensure clear roles and responsibilities associated with the delivery of these programs, and where possible, development of partnership initiatives. The ministry also works with Canadian Food Inspection Agency to ensure the safety of food fish and prevent the spread of aquatic diseases such as Viral Hemorrhagic Septicaemia.

The ministry will continue to be vigilant in controlling rabies and other fish- and wildlife-borne diseases. Although the raccoon rabies strain has been eliminated from Ontario, monitoring and baiting along the New York border to help prevent any new cases will continue. To control Ontario fox strain rabies, the ministry will continue its vaccine bait distribution program using Ontario's rabies vaccine, ONRAB[®].

The ministry is leading the government's response to the past use of the herbicide 2,4,5-T by ministries and agencies in Ontario. The Independent Fact-Finding Panel that was established to review the historic use of the herbicide is expected to submit a report to the Minister of Natural Resources in the early fall of 2012. The report will be made available to the public.

The ministry will continue to manage Ontario's commercial and recreational fisheries to ensure they provide sustainable ecological and economic benefits. It will complete construction work on the main station at Normandale Fish Culture Station. Fish culture stations will provide approximately eight million fish for stocking purposes.

The ministry continues to deliver professional law enforcement to protect Ontario's natural resources for present and future generations. The rate of compliance with resource laws and regulations has remained relatively constant at over 94 per cent since 2009-10.



Natural Heritage and Protected Area Management

The Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act and related regulations are being implemented and serve to enhance protection and ecological integrity of Ontario's provincial parks and conservation reserves.

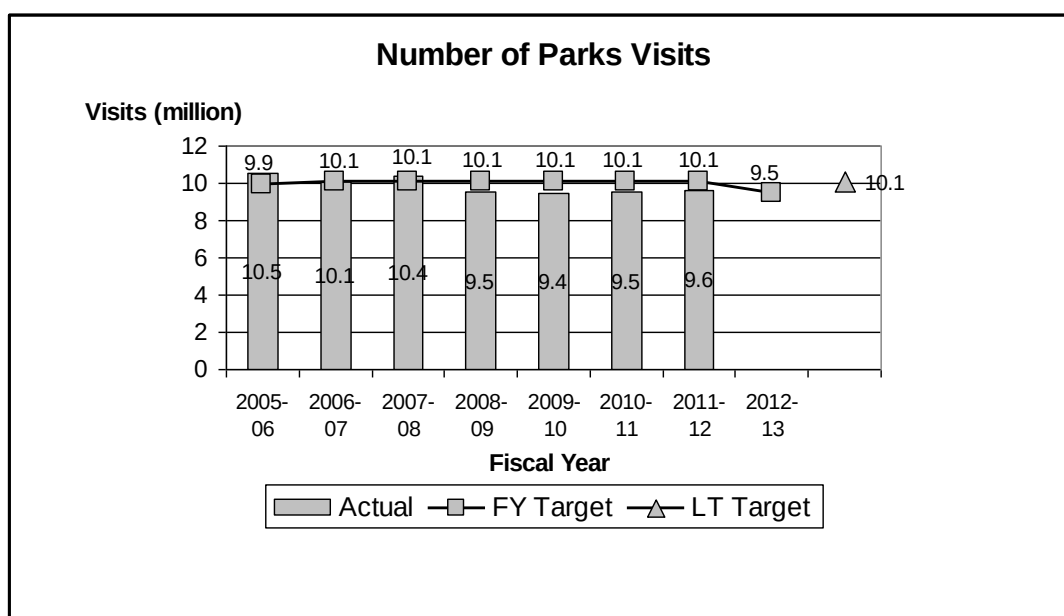
Guidelines to support the new Ontario's Protected Areas Planning Manual will be released to the public.

Stewardship will continue to be promoted across the province. Through resource stewardship, the ministry safeguards the public interest in Ontario's resources and acts as the steward of our natural legacy.

The ministry is finalizing seven park management plans, including one for the Spanish River Valley Signature Site. The management planning process will continue for the Whitefeather Dedicated Protected Areas and an additional 31 provincial parks and two conservation reserves. The Whitefeather Dedicated Protected Areas are part of a completed land use plan under the Far North Act and will contribute to the goal of including at least 225,000 square kilometres in an interconnected network of protected areas. The ministry will carry out management plan amendments for three parks and complete management direction examinations for several parks and conservation reserves. One new conservation reserve will be regulated, the boundaries of five provincial parks will be amended, and one provincial park will be de-regulated as part of the settlement of a land claim.

Through the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Niagara Escarpment Plan, MNR helps provide for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment, and ensures only such development occurs as is compatible with that natural environment. The Commission is operated as an arms length agency of the government, and works with the ministry to ensure that the requirements of the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act are met.

Parks visits have averaged 9.5 million visits per year since 2008-09. Park visitation was up 52,988 visitors in 2011-12 compared to 2010-11. Visitation appears to have levelled off with only a 0.5 per cent increase over last year. Total park visitation in 2011-12 was 9,595,051, which is consistent with the previous four-year average.



Crown Land, Water and Non-Renewable Resource Management

The ministry will continue to develop a water management framework to clarify its role relative to other Ontario ministries dealing with water. Important components of the ministry's water mandate include administering the Conservation Authorities Act and the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, providing technical and policy advice about water budgeting, surface water monitoring, natural hazards and the regulation of water levels on the Great Lakes and inland waters through dam management and operations. It is also the lead for ensuring healthy aquatic ecosystems.

The Ministry will provide policy and program advice to a number of government and stakeholder initiatives, such as:

- the proposed modernization of the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, including updating our approach to approving plans for dams, structures and other water projects

- Conservation Authorities Liaison Committee to address Open for Business commitments to the building industry
- supporting bi-national Great Lakes initiatives such as implementing the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and by representing Ontario's interests on the Agreement's Regional Body
- Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem
- working with the International Joint Commission on new Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River and Upper Great Lakes regulations and orders governing water levels, and adaptive management strategies to help address climate uncertainty.
- supporting the development of a proposed Great Lakes Protection Act for Ontario.

The ministry will support the Standing Committee on General Government's review of the Aggregate Resources Act in an effort to strengthen the act.

The ministry will continue its work on the remediation of the Mid-Canada Line radar sites under a cost-sharing agreement with the federal government by implementing year four of the six-year project. Work will continue to decommission abandoned oil and gas wells in the province to ensure protection of the environment and local residents.

The ministry will continue to provide leadership and program delivery in the development and application of geographic information for natural resource management and decision-making, such as the protection of the boreal forest in Ontario's Far North and preservation of natural heritage in southern Ontario. The ministry will also contribute to the government's Information and Information Technology initiative by making land information available through a suitable infrastructure.

Renewable Energy

The ministry will continue to work with the ministries of Energy and Environment to implement the Green Energy Act and facilitate increased energy generation from wind, water, bio-energy and other opportunities. It will implement a strategic policy approach on how Crown land is used to support provincial renewable energy targets. The ministry will also continue to work with industry, stakeholders, communities and the public to foster environmentally sound renewable energy development, advance science and research and facilitate community economic benefits.

Forestry

The ministry will continue to provide leadership and oversight in the sustainable management of Ontario's Crown forests, ensure a healthy, viable forest industry in Ontario, and foster a competitive business environment. Efforts will be made to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the forestry program to account for changing social, economic and environmental conditions.

The ministry will work toward enhancing the competitiveness of the forest industry. It will promote jobs and investment in the forestry sector through activities such as establishing the first Local Forest Management Corporation and initiating the transition of 11 enhanced Sustainable Forest Licences through the Forest Tenure and Pricing System Reform. It will also seek approval of 18 Wood Supply Agreements and their subsequent implementation, and continue to implement the Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy.

The ministry is proposing legislative modernization to allow for streamlining forest management planning and approval requirements. These efforts are supported by observations made by the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario during an audit of the forest management program that took place in 2011.

The ministry will enhance its focus on forest renewal efforts through a number of initiatives, including ongoing improvements to the operation of the Forest Renewal and Forestry Futures Trusts in maintaining the sustainability of Ontario's Crown forests and the continued development of revised silviculture guides.

Nine audits will be undertaken by independent third-party auditors and the State of Ontario's Forest Report will be finalized for tabling in the Legislature. The ministry also intends to make available for public review, and to finalize, the draft Forest Management Guide for Boreal Landscapes, which provides direction on ecosystem-based management approaches for forest managers.

The ministry will also continue to administer capital assistance programs, such as the Forest Sector Prosperity Fund and Loan Guarantee Program, to assist in making the forest industry more viable and sustainable. While applications are no longer being received, there will continue to be disbursements into 2012-13 associated with legal commitments. The ministry will also administer the Wood Promotion Program to promote and enhance the value-added manufacturing business within the industry.

Emergency and Forest Fire Management

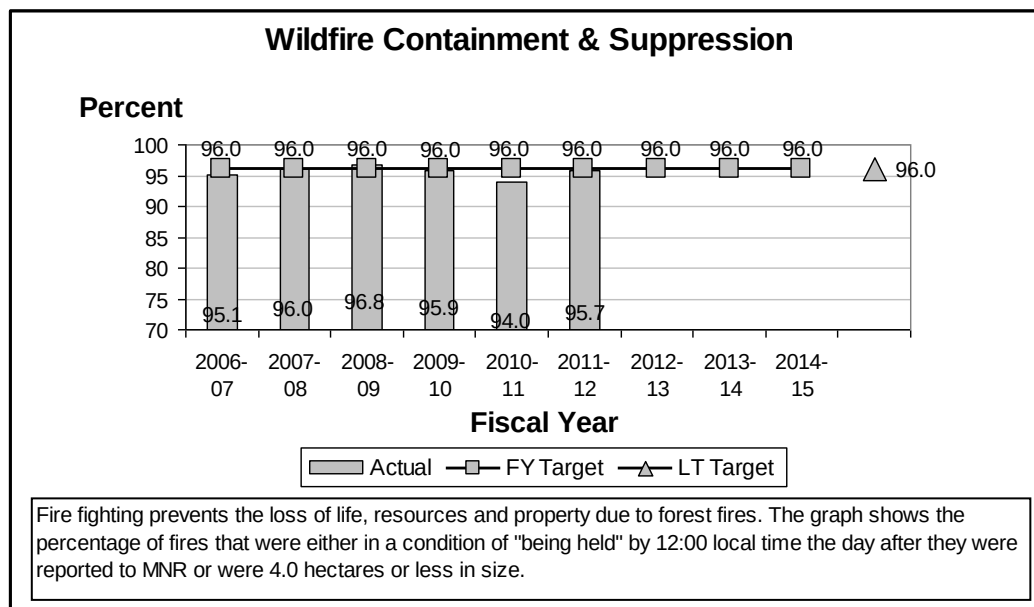
The ministry will maintain the protection of people, property and communities from forest fires, floods and other natural-resource emergencies. It will continue the planning and delivery of the ministry's emergency management program and the provision of aviation services for the Ontario government.

The ministry will continue to implement an emergency management program meeting the requirements of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act while advancing the program to a comprehensive level. The ministry will continue to work closely with the Federal government, Emergency Management Ontario, other ministries, communities and agencies to ensure a coordinated and effective response to emergencies within Ontario.

Construction on the Flight Training Centre for CL-415 heavy water bombers is anticipated to be completed in the late fall of 2012 with pilot training beginning the

summer of 2013. Facility improvements are planned for Thunder Bay, Dryden and Sudbury. Avionics upgrades are being implemented into the CL-415s in order to introduce new Global Positioning System capabilities to help with navigation.

Ministry Wildfire Containment and Suppression has been above 94 per cent since 2003-04. Wildfire Containment and Suppression shows the percentage of fires that were under control by 12:00 local time the day after they were reported to the ministry or held to four hectares or less in size.



Land and Resources Information and Information Technology (I&IT) Cluster

The mandate of the Land and Resources I&IT Cluster is to provide and manage strategic services in the lifecycle management of its five client ministries' IM&IT assets, and to offer and manage the delivery of a comprehensive set of IM&IT products and services to the ministries. The cluster serves the following ministries, which work collaboratively with LRC to achieve this mandate: Natural Resources; Aboriginal Affairs; Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs; Environment; and Northern Development and Mines.

The cluster:

- supports the ministries' mandates and their transformation initiatives
- seeks opportunities across the ministries to streamline and leverage solutions and services to maximize business value
- provides business solutions that deliver results
- executes responsibilities with a focus on maintaining and/or increasing overall service levels at the overall lowest possible per unit costs for IM&IT products or services

- seeks continuous improvement opportunities as part of its modernization agenda and journey to service best practices and excellence
- leverages and optimizes the use of both human and capital resources
- ensures that its activities support the cluster and take into consideration the overall IM&IT direction set out by the Office of the Corporate Chief Information Officer (OCCIO) and other recognized corporate IM&IT governance bodies
- provides stewardship of the IM&IT assets.

Corporate Management

The ministry's administration program provides the corporate focus to advance the OPS modern controllership agenda. The program:

- supports the ministry so that it can effectively deliver on results, priorities and core programs while remaining within its financial and human resource allocation
- leads enhanced accountability in MNR through strengthened internal controls such as effective application of Directives, Delegation of Authority and cost containment strategies
- leads controllership initiatives to support compliance with government Directives related to Transfer Payments, Special Purpose Accounts, Procurements and Agencies, Boards and Commissions
- leads organizational excellence through leadership renewal, engaged staff and an inclusive, diverse, healthy and safe workplace
- develops strategies and guidelines that support innovation and actions to green ministry operations, aligned with government direction and MNR's role as a conservation organization, and
- leads the corporate strategic business planning and reporting to support government decision-making.

Table 1: Key Performance Measures and Achievements

Performance Measures	2009-10 Achievement	2010-11 Achievement	2011-12 Target*	2012-13 Target**
Rate of compliance with resource laws and regulations	94.3%	94.6%	94.2% (actual)	93.0%
Wildfire containment and suppression	95.9%	94.0%	95.7% (actual)	96.0%
Number of acres and total percentage of Ontario's land and water area formally identified for a level of protection equivalent to regulation	5,668,687 acres or 2.1%	5,669,687 acres or 2.1%	5,670,687 acres or 2.1%	New measure to be developed in 2012-13
Percentage of Independent Forest Audits recommending Sustainable Forest Licence extension (without conditions)	80%	100%	63%*** (actual)	85%
Number of Crown Land Renewable Energy Projects Requiring MNR Authorizations (review, permits, tenure)****	n/a	58 (Baseline)	58	62
Number of Private Land Renewable Energy Projects Requiring Review, Confirmation Letter, and Comments for Renewable Energy Approval or Class Environmental Assessment†****	n/a	143 (Baseline)	201	203

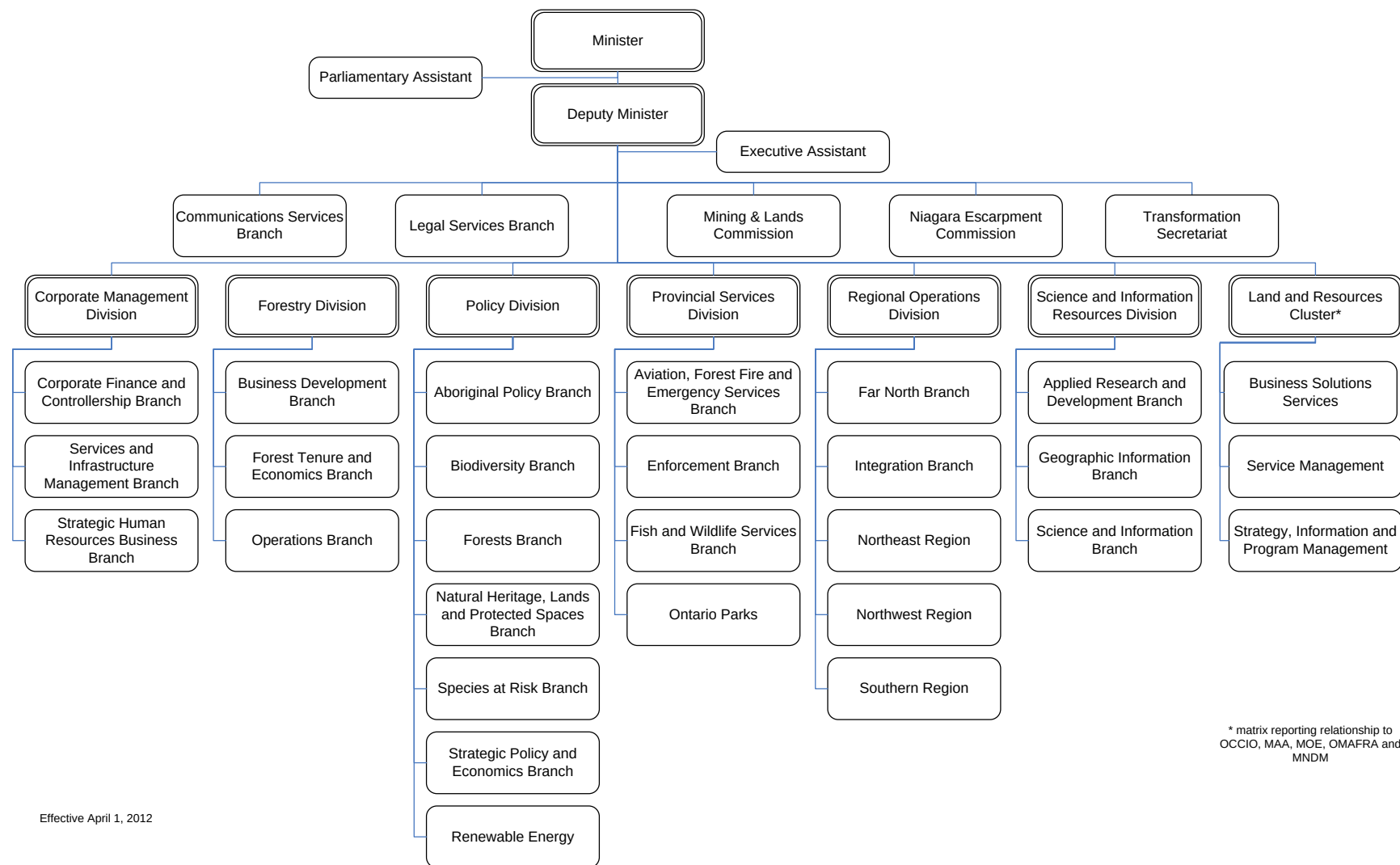
* All 2011-12 achievement data was not available at time of printing. Those that were available are marked as "actual."

** May be revised in the first quarter of fiscal 2012-13.

*** Three of eleven audits did not make a recommendation, since in each case a new licence had recently been issued.

**** Estimates represent projects currently contracted under the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program, as well as other procurement types; Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program, Renewable Energy Supply I, II and III and Combined Heat and Power III, and known redevelopment and OPG projects. They do not reflect the unknown potential future workload that will result from the Ontario Power Authority's biannual review of Economic Connection Test projects that will likely result in more procurement contracts. This additional workload will be quantified in out-year targets in future RbP submissions, as required.

Ministry Organization Chart



Legislation

Aggregate Resources Act

- Regulates the operation of pits and quarries in designated parts of Ontario and the disposition of Crown owned aggregate.

Algonquin Forest Authority Act

- Establishes a Crown corporation known as the Algonquin Forestry Authority to harvest Crown timber in Algonquin Provincial Park and public lands adjacent to the park, to sell the logs and also to carry out other such activities as authorized by the Minister of Natural Resources.

An Act for the Settlement of Certain Questions between Governments of Canada and Ontario Respecting Indian Reserve Lands (1891)

- Permitted the Ontario government to enter into an agreement with the government of Canada to settle certain questions relating to the provision of Indian reserve land in the area that was the subject of the Northwest Angle Treaty (Treaty No. 3).

An Act to Confirm the Title of the Government of Canada to Certain Lands and Indians Lands (1915)

- Act by which the Ontario government transferred to the government of Canada certain lands to be set apart as Indian reserve lands in the area that was the subject of the Northwest Angle Treaty (Treaty No. 3).

Arboreal Emblem Act

- Adopts the Eastern White Pine as the arboreal emblem of Ontario.

Avian Emblem Act, 1994

- Adopts the common loon as the avian emblem of Ontario.

Beds of Navigable Waters Act

- Legislation relating to title in the beds of navigable waters.

Conservation Authorities Act

- Provides for the establishment of conservation authorities for the purpose of establishing and undertaking programs designed to further the conservation,

restoration, development and management of natural resources in their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation Land Act

- Provides for the establishment of grant programs to promote the recognition, encouragement and support of the stewardship or conservation of certain lands, and for the making of easements for conservation.

Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994

- Provides for the sustainability of Crown forests and the management of Crown forests to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of present and future generations of Ontario.

Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act, 2005

- Amended the Conservation Land Act to expand the scope of conservation easements.

Endangered Species Act, 2007

- This act came into effect on June 30, 2008. Provides for protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats through science-based listing, automatic protection of species and their habitat, mandatory requirements for recovery strategies and management plans and government accountability through reporting requirements.

Far North Act, 2010

- Provides for the development of community based land use plans initiated by First Nations designating permitted land uses.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997

- Provides for the conservation and management of wildlife and fish resources, including the protection of game wildlife and specially protected wildlife as defined in the act.

Fish Inspection Act

- Authorizes inspection of fish storage and processing establishments. Regulations under the act provide standards for quality and labelling of canned and frozen fish, as well as operating and equipment requirements for establishments.

Fisheries Act (Canada) – Ontario Fishery Regulations

- The Ontario Fishery Regulations made under this act relate to open seasons for angling and commercial fishing and the licences required.

Fisheries Development Act (Canada)

- Allows the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to undertake projects to enhance fishery resources in order to develop the commercial fisheries of Canada.

Fisheries Loans Act

- Provides for loans to persons carrying on the business of commercial fishing or any other business dependent on fishing in waters where fishing has been prohibited due to contaminated fish caused by polluted waters.

Forest Fires Prevention Act

- Prohibits activities that cause or promote forest fires, and allows the ministry to put in place restrictions, such as restricted fire zones and restricted travel zones during fire emergencies, to help prevent forest fires.

Forestry Act

- Under this Act, the Minister enters into agreements with landowners, such as municipalities and conservation authorities, to manage forest lands. The Minister may also establish programs for the encouragement of forestry.

Forestry Workers Lien for Wages Act

- Provides a lien and an enforcement procedure for forestry workers to ensure payment of wages.

Freshwater Fish Marketing Act (Ontario)

- Complements the Freshwater Fish Marketing Act (Canada). Through these acts and the federal-provincial agreement, the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, established under the federal act, is the sole purchaser of commercial fish in a defined area in Northwestern Ontario.

Gas and Oil Leases Act

- Sets out the procedure for declaring a gas or oil lease void.

Heritage Hunting and Fishing Act, 2002

- Recognizes the right to hunt and fish recreationally in accordance with Ontario laws and created the Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission to provide advice to the Minister of Natural Resources on fish and wildlife related initiatives.

Indian Lands Act, 1924

- Passed by the Legislature of Ontario and the Parliament of Canada to deal with certain questions relating to the administration and control of Indian reserve land, surrendered Indian reserve land in Ontario and mineral rights on reserve.

Indian Lands Agreement (1986) Confirmation Act, 2010

- Confirms the 1986 Indian Lands Agreement between the governments of Canada and Ontario which authorizes the parties and any Indian band to enter into specific agreements relating to such matters as those dealt with under the Indian Lands Act, 1924, disposition of lands or natural resources, minerals and hydro powers.

Industrial and Mining Lands Compensation Act

- Provides for agreements between the owner or operator of a mine and the owner or lessee of any land for payment of compensation for any damage or injury resulting, or likely to result, to the land or to its use and enjoyment from the operation of the mine.

Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act, 2003

- Provides for the protection of the ecological integrity of the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park and ensures that the policies governing the park will protect its natural and cultural values, maintain its traditional uses and provide the opportunity for recreational activities that are compatible with the natural heritage values and semi-wilderness character of the park.

Lake of the Woods Control Board Act, 1922

- Complementary to a Federal Act of 1921. Deals with the regulation of the water levels of the Winnipeg River, the English River, Lac Seul and Lake St. Joseph.

Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act

- Provides for the use of the water of lakes and rivers and regulates improvements in them and gives the Minister discretionary powers relating to the repair, reconstruction and removal of dams, maintenance of water levels, and regulation of use of waters or works.

Migratory Birds Convention Act (Canada) – Ontario Regulations

- Open seasons for migratory birds are set under this act.

Mineral Emblem Act

- Adopts the amethyst as the mineral emblem of the Province of Ontario.

Mining Act (s. 100, 101, 102)

- Part IV of the act deals with exploration licences for oil and gas, leases for production of oil and gas and storage leases for the temporary storage of hydrocarbons in underground formations. The Minister of Natural Resources administers sections 100 to 102 (oil, gas, underground storage and salt solution mining).

Ministry of Natural Resources Act

- Created the Ministry of Natural Resources by amalgamating the former Department of Lands and Forests and Department of Mines and Northern Affairs. (A separate Ministry of Northern Development and Mines was established in 1985.) The act provides for the appointment of a Mining and Lands Commissioner and advisory committees.

Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act

- Establishes the Niagara Escarpment Plan and Commission and provides for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment where only compatible development occurs.

North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve Act, 1962-63

- Establishes the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve, provides for the planning and development of the reserve and the appointment of a committee to advise the Minister.

Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act

- Sets out requirements for various aspects of oil and natural gas exploration, drilling and production and provides for the making of regulations respecting oil and gas conservation and the safe operation of drilling and production facilities.

Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act

- This Act allows for changes to the forest tenure and pricing system in Ontario, including the establishment of local forest management corporations (Crown

agencies) to manage Crown forests and oversee the competitive sale of Crown forest resources in a given area.

Ontario Geographic Names Board Act

- Provides for the establishment of a Geographic Names Board for Ontario having the duty to gather information respecting the names of places and geographical features, make recommendations, collaborate with the Geographical Names Board of Canada, and provide information to government departments.

Ottawa River Water Powers Act, 1943

- Ratifies and confirms an agreement between Ontario and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario with Quebec and the Quebec Streams Commission respecting the development of water power on the Ottawa River.

Professional Foresters Act, 2000

- Regulates the practice of professional forestry in Ontario.

Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006

- Provides for the establishment of provincial parks and conservation reserves and their management. Parks may be classified as a natural environment park, a nature reserve park, a wilderness park, a recreational park, a waterways park or a historical park.

Public Lands Act

- Provides for the disposition and management of Crown land, the administration of roads on Crown land, the administration and control of the construction and maintenance of dams, and the granting of water powers and privileges.

Seine River Diversion Act, 1952

- Confirms the partial diversion of the Seine River and authorizes the completion and operation of the diversion by Steep Rock Iron Mines Limited.

Steep Rock Iron Ore Development Act, 1949

- Authorizes a water power lease and various agreements between Ontario, the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company and Steep Rock Iron Mines Limited respecting supply of power, maintenance and operation of certain dams and of the Seine diversion, and dam construction.

Surveyors Act

- Establishes the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, regulates the practice of professional land surveying, and prescribes the rules governing membership and conduct.

Surveys Act

- Prescribes the methods and monuments to be used in performing surveys of land.

Wild Rice Harvesting Act

- Governs the harvesting of rice on Crown land.

Wilderness Areas Act

- Provides for the preservation of areas having some unique features.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

The Agencies, Boards and Commissions that report to or have appointments made by the Ministry of Natural Resources are listed below with a brief summary. A classified agency, though established by the government, is not considered part of the ministry. However, the government appoints the majority of its members, assigns responsibility to perform a public function and holds the agency to account.

Algonquin Forestry Authority (Classified Agency)

The Algonquin Forestry Authority is responsible for forest management, including timber harvesting, in Algonquin Park. The Authority sorts, sells and delivers harvested logs to regional mills. It also may advise on, undertake and carry out forestry, land-management and other programs and projects as the Minister may authorize.

Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (Classified Agency)

The Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario is responsible for assessing and classifying species that may be at risk in Ontario.

Council of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors

The Council of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors regulates the practice of professional land surveying and governs the profession in accordance with the Surveyors Act, its regulations and bylaws.

Council of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association

The Ontario Professional Foresters Association regulates the practice of forestry, and governs its members in accordance with the Professional Foresters Act, its regulations and by-laws. The governing council manages, administers and oversees the functioning of the association.

Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission (Classified Agency)

Established under the Heritage Hunting and Fishing Act, the Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission makes recommendations to the minister on ways to encourage people to value our fish and wildlife resources, promote more participation in conservation and other programs, and to search out new fish- and wildlife-related opportunities.

Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation

Established under the federal Freshwater Fish Marketing Act, the Corporation is the buyer, processor and marketer of freshwater fish from Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Northwest Territories, and part of Northwestern Ontario (the area north and

west of Thunder Bay). It markets and trades in fish, fish products and fish by-products for export abroad and among the provinces.

**Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Management Advisory Board
(Classified Agency)**

The Board was established under the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act and provides advice to the minister on the planning and management of the park.

Lake of the Woods Control Board

The Lake of the Woods Control Board regulates the water levels in the Lake of the Woods, Lac Seul and in the Winnipeg and English Rivers between the lake outlets and their confluence.

Niagara Escarpment Commission (Classified Agency)

The Niagara Escarpment Commission administers the Niagara Escarpment Plan through promoting the objectives of the plan; processing and making decisions on development permit applications and making recommendations on plan amendments.

Ontario Geographic Names Board (Classified Agency)

The Ontario Geographic Names Board manages and defines the treatment of official geographic names of places and geographical features in Ontario.

Ontario Moose-Bear Allocation Advisory Committee (Classified Agency)

The Ontario Moose-Bear Allocation Advisory Committee advises the minister on the allocation of moose among tourist outfitters and on the issues arising from the allocation of black bear management areas of tourist operators.

Ontario Parks Board of Directors (Classified Agency)

The Directors of the Ontario Parks Board provide advice on planning, management and development of the provincial park system.

Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board

The Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board is a partnership among Canada, Quebec and Ontario to formulate and review policies that will lead to integrated management of the reservoirs in the Ottawa River basin.

Rabies Advisory Committee (Classified Agency)

The Rabies Advisory Committee advises on the scientific steps necessary for developing a successful rabies research and response program, which includes developing suitable vaccines and systems for vaccinating wild animal populations.

Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee (Classified Agency)

The Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee provides advice on matters related to implementation of the species at risk program, other than matters addressed by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (Classified Agency)

The Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Committee provides advice to the Minister on matters related to rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and human-wildlife conflict as it relates to wildlife rehabilitation.

Table 2: Expenditure and Revenue Data for Agencies, Boards, Commissions

Name	2012-13 Estimates		2011-12 Interim Actuals		2010-11 Actuals	
	Expenditure \$	Revenue \$	Expenditure \$	Revenue \$	Expenditure \$	Revenue \$
Algonquin Forestry Authority	23,265,000	22,900,000	22,473,200	21,807,000	20,574,304	20,708,359
Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario	20,000	0	15,592	0	16,560	0
Council of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors	22,000	0	20,700	0	16,203	0
Council of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association	20,000	0	20,800	0	20,904	0
Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission	45,000	0	44,052	0	29,288	0
Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation	0	0	511	1,300	2,000	6,343
Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Management Advisory Board	2,000	0	1,753	0	3,850	0
Lake of the Woods Control Board	7,000	6,000,000	6,500	5,000,000	6,500	5,000,000
Niagara Escarpment Commission	2,403,506	100	2,399,900	75	2,512,254	165
Ontario Geographic Names Board	10,000	0	8,800	0	9,253	0
Ontario Moose-Bear Allocation Advisory Committee	25,000	0	19,632	0	15,243	0
Ontario Parks Board of Directors	16,500	0	16,000	0	7,450	0
Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board	50,000	15,000,000	36,926	14,887,624	41,857	12,266,802
Rabies Advisory Committee	4,500	0	2,500	0	2,500	0
Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee	10,000	0	5,993	0	8,660	0
Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Committee	0	0	2,236	0	0	0

Note: Expenditure and revenue reported in this table are also reported as part of the Ministry's overall expenditure and revenue.

MINISTRY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following graph depicts the Ministry's planned 2012-13 expenditures by activity.

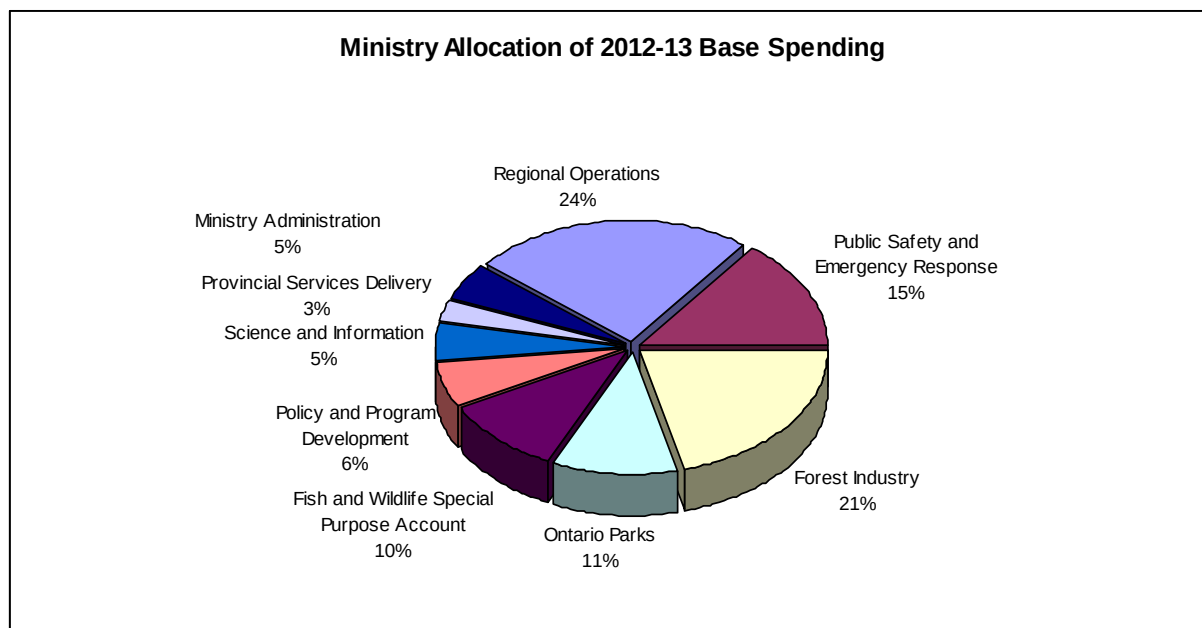


Table 3: Ministry Planned Operating Expenditures by Activity 2012-13

Activity Name	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M)*
Regional Operations	\$164.9
Public Safety and Emergency Response	\$101.4
Forest Industry	\$145.6
Ontario Parks	\$73.5
Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account	\$70.3
Policy and Program Development	\$42.2
Science and Information	\$34.5
Provincial Services Delivery	\$19.1
Ministry Administration	\$33.5
Land and Resources Information Technology Cluster (spends and recovers \$80.5 million for a net nil balance)	\$0.0
Total Planned Expenditures by Activity	\$685.0

Table 4: Ministry Planned Total Expenditures 2012-13

	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M)*
Operating	\$685.0
Capital	\$66.8
TOTAL	\$751.8

*All amounts may not add correctly due to rounding.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Table 5: Operating and Capital Summary by Vote

The Ministry envisions a healthy environment that is naturally diverse and supports a high quality of life for the people of Ontario through sustainable development.
The Ministry's mission is to manage our natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way to ensure that they are available for the enjoyment and use of future generations.
Ecological sustainability focuses on safeguarding the province's natural capital and nature's capacity to renew itself. It is directed towards resource management practices that protect and maintain nature's capacity to renew itself and generate sufficient natural "interest" to meet Ontarians' present and future needs.

	Estimates 2012-13	Change from 2011-12 Estimates		Estimates 2011-12 **	Interim Actuals 2011-12 **	Actuals 2010-11 **
	\$	\$	%	\$	\$	\$
OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSE						
Ministry Administration	33,429,300	756,200	2.3	32,673,100	34,789,000	33,682,421
Natural Resource Management	398,184,200	(21,466,600)	(5.1)	419,650,800	412,812,499	447,953,372
Public Protection	102,647,700	(1,091,600)	(1.1)	103,739,300	242,212,400	137,650,257
Land and Resources Information & Information Technology Cluster	1,000	--	--	1,000	1,000	--
Less: Special Warrants	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Operating and Capital Expense to be Voted	534,262,200	(21,802,000)	(3.9)	556,064,200	689,814,899	619,286,050
Special Warrants	--	--	--	--	--	--
Statutory Appropriations	17,929,414	2,581,400	16.8	15,348,014	16,104,814	14,459,984
Ministry Total Operating & Capital Expense	552,191,614	(19,220,600)	(3.4)	571,412,214	705,919,713	633,746,034
Consolidation & Other Adjustments - Fish & Wildlife Special Purpose Account	70,289,000	2,000,000	2.9	68,289,000	68,289,000	64,491,409
Consolidation & Other Adjustments - Ontario Parks Special Purpose Account	64,063,000	--	--	64,063,000	68,313,000	65,075,000
Operating Expense Adjustment - Algonquin Forest Authority	21,974,400	3,502,000	19.0	18,472,400	18,514,642	16,269,000
Operating Expense Adjustment - Forest Renewal Trust	43,265,400	165,400	0.4	43,100,000	43,198,558	15,426,801
Operating Expense Adjustment - Section 15 Recoveries	--	--	--	--	--	9,833,463
Total Including Consolidation & Other Adjustments	751,783,414	(13,553,200)	(1.8)	765,336,614	904,234,913	804,841,707
OPERATING AND CAPITAL ASSETS						
Natural Resource Management	20,910,100	(12,643,300)	(37.7)	33,553,400	33,553,400	43,245,712
Public Protection	24,143,400	13,471,800	126.2	10,671,600	10,671,600	10,407,681
Land and Resources Information & Information Technology Cluster	181,500	(418,500)	(69.8)	600,000	600,000	511,329
Less: Special Warrants	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Operating and Capital Assets to be Voted	45,235,000	410,000	0.9	44,825,000	44,825,000	54,164,722
Special Warrants	--	--	--	--	--	--
Statutory Appropriations	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Assets	45,235,000	410,000	0.9	44,825,000	44,825,000	54,164,722

* Estimates for the previous fiscal year are re-stated to reflect any changes in ministry organization and/or program structure. Interim actuals reflect the numbers presented in the 2012 Ontario Budget.

Note: Commencing in 2009-10, the Province's minor Tangible Capital Assets (mTCA) are capitalized on a prospective basis.

APPENDIX

2011-12 Annual Report

Biodiversity Management

The ministry provided Secretariat support to the Ontario Biodiversity Council for the review and renewal of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, with the renewed strategy released in June 2011. For the first time ever, the strategy has clearly defined objectives, outcomes and 15 time-bound targets. The strategy also has 39 suggested key actions and has identified roles and responsibilities for groups that can lead those actions.

In 2011-12, the ministry continued to work with Trees Ontario to plant 50 million trees in southern Ontario; a total of 8.6 million trees had been planted by Trees Ontario as of March 31, 2012.

The ministry continued to implement the Endangered Species Act. It published 19 more recovery strategies in 2011-12, for a total of 49 strategies completed since the act came into force in June 2008. In response to the published recovery strategies, the ministry also completed an additional 27 government response statements, bringing the total number of species with a completed response statement to 41.

In addition, the ministry continued to move forward on a proposed approach to caribou habitat protection, with the release of consultation summaries, as well as a progress report on implementation of the Caribou Conservation Plan. The ministry passed two foundational policies that increase clarity around habitat protection and streamline the permitting process for work conducted in areas where species at risk live, while continuing to protect these species.

As part of the province's Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, \$3.5 million in funding was distributed to 90 projects through grants with numerous organizations. Projects helped to protect and recover species at risk and their habitats. Through the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program, \$800,000 was distributed to just over 130 stewardship projects on privately owned agriculture lands that support the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats.

Following passage by the Legislature in October 2010, the Far North Act came into force on January 31, 2011. The Act includes the key objective of the protection of at least 225,000 square kilometres of the Far North boreal region. Community based land use plans developed and approved under the Act clarify where development can occur and where land is set aside for protection. Five First Nation communities have approved community based land use plans in place, and 27 other First Nation communities have started to work with the ministry on the initial steps of preparing community based land use plans, including the mapping of aboriginal traditional knowledge. Topographic, land cover and disturbance mapping of sufficient scale and quality for land use planning has been produced and interim mapping products have been provided to First Nation communities.

The ministry consulted with stakeholders and the public on the draft Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan. The plan will improve Ontario's ability to address the threat of invasive species, and guide us and our partners on priority areas for action. The ministry, along with Fisheries and Oceans Canada, invited stakeholders, media and the public to a "table top exercise" to test Ontario and Canada's state of readiness for a confirmed case of Asian carp in Ontario waters.

Ontario's hunting heritage was enhanced through additional hunting opportunities. Under the policy guidance of the Elk Management Plan, the ministry successfully implemented the first modern-day elk hunt in Ontario in 2011. The ministry will continue to manage elk to ensure long-term sustainability of the population. The province's falconry program was also enhanced by allowing falconers to take raptors from the wild for use in falconry.

To better serve Ontarians and support sustainable wildlife management, a new licensing automation system was implemented which modernizes Ontario's approach to fish and wildlife licence products for resident and non-resident anglers and hunters. Fish and wildlife licences are available through the Internet, an automated toll-free phone system and point of sale terminals at licence issuers and ServiceOntario counters.

Education efforts were enhanced in a number of areas, including an updated public website featuring useful information on preventing and managing human-wildlife conflicts with a variety of species, big game species management, and harvest statistics. Trapper education standards were also updated and trapper education instructors were retrained using the new standards.

Wildlife disease detection and monitoring was enhanced for White Nose Syndrome in bats. In partnership with the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, the ministry investigated cases of White Nose Syndrome and examined the potential effects that this disease could have on the sustainability of bat populations.

The ministry continued to implement the ecological framework for recreational fisheries management in Ontario, which includes new zones, managing on a broader landscape scale, enhanced public involvement in the decision-making process and regular monitoring and reporting. Fisheries Management Zone advisory councils are operational in 13 zones. Surveys on fish communities, invasive species, aquatic habitat and water quality have been carried out on 673 lakes across Ontario.

Fish ON-Line, a web-based application that anglers can use to find information on Ontario's vast fisheries resource, continues to be a tremendous success. The Fish On-Line webpage received nearly 90,000 page views in the 2011 fiscal year. In addition, a number of enhancements were made to the application, including development of a version for mobile devices for release in April 2012, the addition of bathymetry data for another 350 lakes, and improved functionality of the application.

Support continued for the Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program, an effort to bring back wild populations of Atlantic salmon to Lake Ontario. Construction work was completed on the substation at the Normandale Fish Culture Station.

The ministry continued its successful rabies management programs in 2011. Research focused on the continued implementation and development of the oral rabies vaccine known as ONRAB[®], which was used in its sixth year of field trials. As a result of success in controlling rabies in the province, approximately 374,000 ultra-lite baits containing ONRAB[®] were required this year, down from previous years. The baits were dropped by aircraft and distributed by hand. Ontario has now been free of the raccoon rabies strain since 2005, and there was an unprecedented low of only two cases of terrestrial rabies in the province this year. This marks the lowest number of cases of Ontario fox strain rabies in the province since rabies became established in Ontario in 1958.

The ministry coordinated information searches across the Ontario Public Service, including within the Archives of Ontario, and all known records related to 2,4,5-T were shared with the Independent Fact-Finding Panel on herbicide 2,4,5-T.

The ministry continued to deliver professional enforcement operations including outreach, inspection and investigation services to protect provincial resources.

Natural Heritage and Protected Area Management

In 2011-12, the ministry added a total of 89 hectares to five existing provincial parks. It added one new 614-hectare park, Dupont Provincial Park, and five Whitefeather Dedicated Protected Areas totalling 349,481 hectares, to Ontario's system of parks and protected areas, as well as amending the boundaries of seven more.

The ministry continued to make progress on the Quetico Provincial Park Management Plan process. It also advanced the planning process to prepare management direction for an additional 27 provincial parks and two conservation reserves. Management direction examinations were completed for several provincial parks and conservation reserves. The planning process for the Spanish River Valley Signature Site was deferred until 2012-13.

The ministry released the first State of Ontario's Protected Areas Report to the public. Guidelines to support the new Ontario's Protected Areas Planning Manual were drafted in preparation for release to the public but will be further revised to reflect the proposed legislation modernization. The ministry prepared an amendment of the Class Environmental Assessment for Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves for submission to the Ministry of the Environment.

Crown Land, Water and Non-Renewable Resource Management

The ministry worked on developing and implementing key policy supporting legislation related to water quality, water quantity and protecting dependent natural ecosystems in Ontario and the Great Lakes by working with the federal government, bi-national commissions, partners and stakeholders. Among others, these include:

- releasing updated dam management guidelines, making Ontario a national leader in providing guidance on public safety around dams
- adjusting Conservation Authority program regulations to streamline plan review approvals and to standardize fees to address Ontario's Open for Business commitments to the building industry
- implementing the Great Lakes-St Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement signed by Ontario, Quebec and the eight Great Lakes States
- the continued extension of the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem
- influencing Canada's position in the re-negotiation of the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement with the U.S.
- participating in both the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River Regulation plan review and the International Upper Great Lakes Study of the International Joint Commission.
- developing a Draft Response Plan for a potential discovery of Asian carp in Ontario waters.

Further to the government's commitment in the fall of 2011 to review the Aggregate Resources Act, the Standing Committee on General Government has been asked to review the Act and report to the House its observations and recommendations with respect to strengthening the Act. The research conducted through the State of the Aggregate Resource in Ontario Study will provide valuable information for the committee and stakeholders.

The ministry is leading an \$85-million six-year plan with local First Nation communities to clean up 16 abandoned radar sites that are part of the Mid-Canada line dating back to the Cold War. In 2011-12, the ministry, with the help of several contractors, completed 70 per cent of the clean-up of Site 500 (Winisk), north of Peawanuck, which is the largest of all the Ontario sites.

The ministry launched a web-based Weather and Water Information Gateway designed to help collaborative groups share information related to climate change adaptation. It also completed high-resolution orthophotography mapping of southwestern Ontario that provides a current and accurate base for resource management.

Renewable Energy

The ministry worked with the ministries of Energy and Environment to implement the Green Energy Act and to support renewable energy development opportunities and

natural heritage on private and Crown lands. The ministry issued 82 Natural Heritage Assessment confirmation approvals under the Green Energy Act. The ministry released three technical guidelines to provide procedural clarity for industry: a Natural Heritage Assessment Guide, and Bird and Bat Wind Power Guidelines. It also worked closely with the Ministry of the Environment to develop regulatory amendments which will streamline the overall renewable energy approval process.

Forestry

The ministry completed a formal review of the Independent Forest Audit process which will inform the program moving forward. Also, 14 Independent Forest Audits were completed in 2011 and action plans are being developed in response. Forest Resources of Ontario, a summary of Ontario's forest inventory, was completed and posted on the ministry's website.

The largest wood supply competition ever held in North America was completed, and 41 Supply Agreement offers were made as a result of the competition. Adjustments to wood supply commitments are underway. Also, Available Volume Reports have been prepared for each management unit to support the ministry's continued commitment to work with impacted communities and new investors to explore opportunities for putting available wood supplies to work.

The Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act was passed in June 2011, and plans are proceeding to establish the first Local Forest Management Corporation under the Act.

The Ontario Wood brand was launched in July 2011. It has received Official Mark status from the Intellectual Property Office, and licence agreements for use of the brand have been executed for 33 manufacturers and associated stakeholders.

Emergency and Forest Fire Management

In 2011, the ministry recorded 1,330 forest fires affecting 632,533 hectares. This represented the most area burned in the last 50 years, and Ontario also recorded the largest fire over this time period – Sioux Lookout Fire #70 at 141,000 hectares.

Much of the 2011 fire activity was concentrated in the northern parts of the Northwest Region. Smoke from these fires affected a number of communities and businesses, and led to the evacuation of 4,476 people from 11 communities between July 21 and August 9. The evacuation effort involved a number of agencies, including the Ministry of Natural Resources, Emergency Management Ontario, non-government organizations, First Nations, host communities and the Department of National Defence.

Considerable assistance from other Canadian provinces and other partner agencies was also needed during the 2011 fire season to address the increased fire activity. Ontario received 23,314 person-days of assistance from other fire management agencies from mid-July until September.

In 2011-12, the ministry invested approximately \$9 million in capital initiatives to help protect people, property and communities from natural resource emergencies.

Corporate Management

The ministry provided more than 2,500 jobs in support of natural resource management to young people across the province through six youth employment programs. Participating youth can help support biodiversity, combat climate change and protect our forests, wetlands, fish, wildlife and natural spaces for future generations.

Table 1: Ministry Expenditures

	Ministry Interim Actual Expenditures (\$M) 2011-12
Operating	\$838.5
Capital	\$65.6
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2012)	3781.65

WHO TO CALL

Questions or comments about the ministry's Results-based Plan are welcomed.
Please contact:

Office of the Minister of Natural Resources
Whitney Block, Room 6630
99 Wellesley Street West
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3
(416) 314-2301

or

Communications Services Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
Whitney Block, Room 5440
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Toronto, Ontario M7A 1W3
(416) 314-2114

Further information about the ministry and its programs can be found on the ministry's website at ontario.ca/mnr (www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en).