



FORESTRY FUTURES TRUST ONTARIO

Forestry Futures Trust

2022/23 Annual Committee Report

Forestry Futures Trust Committee

1294 Balmoral Street, Suite 2003
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5Z5

Telephone: (807) 343-8010 ext. 8503

Email: admin@forestryfutures.com

Website: www.forestryfutures.ca

Table of Contents

FFTC FOREST OBSERVATIONS - 2023.....	4
---	----------

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Forestry Futures Trust	6
Forestry Futures Trust Committee.....	6
Our Support Team.....	7
FFT Secretariat—Ministry Of Natural Resources and Forestry	7
State of the Trust.....	8
Committee Operations Budget.....	8

OUR PROGRAMS

Silviculture Program	9
Forest Genetic Resource Management Program (FGRM)	10
Independent Forest Audit Program (IFA)	12
Tenure Modernization Program	15
Forest Management Component Program (FMC).....	15
Enhanced Sustainable Forest License Program (ESFL)	15
Local Forest Management Conversion Program (LFMC)	16
Forest Resource Inventory Program (FRI).....	17
Treaty Settlement Transition Component (TSTC).....	19

FFTC Forest Observations - 2023

On the Conceptual Role of the Forestry Futures Trust

There is wisdom in occasionally reviewing the rationale for the existence of an institution if for no other reason than to ensure its purpose is still valid and, thus, this quick overview is provided on the Forestry Futures Trust (FFT or Trust).

The Trust was conceived in the early 90's during the overhaul of Ontario's forest legislation from the outdated Crown Timber Act to what is today's Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994 (CFSA). While the Trust was initially enabled under the Crown Timber Act and the first Trust Agreement signed October 4, 1994, that agreement's authority was transferred to the CFSA on its effective date of April 1, 1995.

Ontario's Crown forest estate is owned by the people of Ontario and managed by government via the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry. Access to the forest resource on that estate by Industry has been administered over time via a licensing regime whereby the government, as 'landlord', would make fiber available off the forest estate to Industry for a fee, commonly called Crown dues. Those dues were designed to provide "economic rent" (think income, including cost of management) to the landlord for the use of the fiber. As with any financial transaction, industry and government would each be looking for the best possible deal – Crown dues too low and the government loses potential revenue from the public asset; Crown dues too high and Industry moves to a jurisdiction where a better arrangement can be negotiated.

While Industry has always understood its responsibility to cover the cost of regenerating that part of the forest it had harvested, it had been reluctant to invest in such things as regeneration after natural disturbances which includes, among others, wildfire and pest destruction; they are commonly seen to be the responsibility of the landlord.

During the development of the new 1994 legislation, discussions between Industry and government saw Industry agree to provide the landlord some assistance in managing long-term, naturally occurring negative effects on the forest. However, it agreed to do this under three key conditions;

- i) that a special fee be collected based on every cubic meter harvested by all players,
- ii) that the collected fees would be deposited into a specific Trust account to be managed by the Minister of MNRF and otherwise inaccessible to the vagaries of government, and
- iii) that the Minister would create an independent committee to manage the Trust and provide advice on Trust criteria as well as direction on expenditures out of the Trust.

The eventual legislation also gave the Minister discretion to use the Trust and its Committee to assume other functions that applied generally across the managed forest and that merited some independence beyond MNRF, *i.e.*, the Independent Forest Audit being, perhaps the best example.

The Trust has now been in place for almost 30 years. It appears to have ably met its statute requirements and indeed additional purposes assigned it from time to time by the Minister. Most importantly, the Trust has become recognized by both Industry and government as an important partner in the ongoing challenge of ensuring the continued sustainability of Ontario's forest estate.

On Changes in the Membership of the Forestry Futures Trust Committee

Our former colleague Herb Bax, R.P.F, a member since 2012, resigned from FFTC as of March 31, 2023. Herb was a member of the first graduating class of foresters out of Lakehead University in 1973. In the following year, he initiated his career as a principal of KBM Forestry Consultants out of Thunder Bay where he worked in all facets of forestry work through inventory to scarification to forest management planning to forest business planning to auditing. Herb came to the Committee as a past president of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association, bringing with him an exceptional depth of professional integrity. During his tenure, he also provided the Committee with the wisdom of his extensive professional forestry experience generated across Canada as well as internationally in both the US and Chile. Herb was always quick to ensure that the Committee was aware of the potential effect of a proposed decision on the Ontario forestry consulting community. His vibrancy, integrity, and forest wisdom will be missed.

The FFTC has been fortunate to recently have appointed to the Committee new member George Gretes from the greater Toronto area. George has a background in history and political science from the University of Toronto. He comes to FFTC as a vice president of Execution and Growth of Ekagrata Inc., a financial investment firm with business activities in both Canada and the US. The Committee looks forward to incorporating George's unique perspective into our ongoing consideration of forest matters.

R. A. Riley

FFTC Chair

WHO WE ARE & WHAT WE DO

Forestry Futures Trust

The Forestry Futures Trust (FFT) was established under the authority of the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act* (1994), Part V. Section 51 of this Act states that the Minister may appoint a Forestry Futures Trust Committee to provide advice on the following matters:

1. *The funding of silvicultural expenses in Crown forests where forest resources have been killed or damaged by fire or natural causes.*
2. *The funding of silvicultural expenses on land that is subject to a forest resource license, if the licensee becomes insolvent.*
3. *The funding of intensive stand management and pest control in respect of forest resources in Crown forests.*
4. *Such other purposes as may be specified by the Minister.*

(Source: *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, Part V, Section 51(3))

Other purposes specified by the Minister for which the Trust fund is currently used include:

- Independent Forest Audit Program
- Forest Tenure Modernization
 - Enhanced Sustainable Forest License - design and development
 - Local Forest Management Corporation – design, development and transition
 - Forest Management Component – FMC – forestry on forests returned to the Crown
- Enhanced Forest Resource Inventory production and delivery
- Forest Genetic Resource Management Program
- Treaty Settlement Transition Program

The Trust fund is managed by RBC Investor Services Trust. Funds are allocated to

successful applicants under the direction of the Forestry Futures Trust Committee Chair, supported by decisions made through consensus by the Forestry Futures Trust Committee. The Committee members are appointed by the Minister for up to a three-year term, which may be renewed at the discretion of the Minister. The Trust is funded by harvest volume charges on Crown timber.

Forestry Futures Trust Committee

CHAIR



R.A. (Ray) Riley, R.P.F. (Hon) (member since February 2016). Ray holds degrees in geology from Acadia and Queens and has been a member of the Professional

Engineers Ontario for over 40 years. He comes to the FFTC after 30 years with the Ontario government culminating as Assistant Deputy Minister of Operations for Ontario's Ministry of Natural Resources. Subsequent to his career in government, he was active as a consultant for some 21 years focusing on natural resource management.

MEMBERS



Mike Barker, (member since 1999) enjoyed a 32-year career in natural resource management, holding positions such as District Manager within the Ministry of

Natural Resources, and Assistant Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines. He now runs his own consulting firm.



Herb Bax, R.P.F. (member since 2012) is a forestry consultant with over 35 years of experience. He is the past president of the OPFA and has served on numerous international committees and

boards. Herb retired in March 2023 from the committee and we thank him for all the wisdom he shared during his tenure and wish him all the best.



W.D. (Bill) Baker, (member since February 2016) had a 30-plus year career in natural resource management primarily as a senior manager with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Bill has worked throughout Ontario in a variety of capacities but has spent much of his career in northwestern Ontario and Thunder Bay.



James Harrison, (member since February 2016) holds a Forestry Degree (1975) from Lakehead University. His 39-year career with industry included positions with Kimberly-Clark of Canada and Greenmantle Forest Inc. James sits as the FFTC representative on the Provincial Forest Inventory Advisory Committee.



Dr. Sandy M Smith, (member since January 2017) is a Professor in Forestry at the University of Toronto, having served as Dean of the Faculty of Forestry (2010-2012), published 140+ papers, supervised 65+ graduate students. She specializes in forest health and urban forests, specifically natural controls to manage invasive species. She is a Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society (UK), Minjiang Scholar (China), Past President of the Entomological Societies of Canada and Ontario, and currently serves on the Boards of Trees Canada and the Ontario Invasive Plant Council. She has been an Associate Editor of the Can J of Forest Research and participated on national NSERC grant review panels as well as Federal and Provincial invasive species science panels (ALHB, EAB, *Sirex*, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid).

Our Support Team

Assisting the Committee is a small team reporting to the Chair:

- Peter Street, R.P.F., Independent Forest Audit and Treaty Settlement Transition Coordinator
- Shelley Vescio, R.P.F., Silviculture, Genetics and FRI Program Coordinator
- Anastasia Frisby, R.P.F., Office Administrator, Forest Tenure Programs Coordinator

FFT Secretariat – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry

Since its inception in 1995, the FFTC has enjoyed a productive working relationship with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) staff. As the Committee's mandate expanded over the decade, the lines of communication and the number of Ministry contacts correspondingly increased. In this regard, the Secretariat functions are provided by Director Peter Henry, and Rhonda Hancherow of Forest Guides and Silviculture Section, and Cathy Hamor of Forest Tenure and Economics Branch. Key staff are listed below by program area.

- *Independent Forest Audit Program* – Linda Touzin, R.P.F., Ngaire Roubal, R.P.F.
- *Forest Resource Inventory Program*– Michelle Colley, Ian Sinclair, R.P.F. and Geordie Robere-McGugan, R.P.F.
- *Tenure Modernization*– John Harvey R.P.F., and Andy Lemmetty R.P.F.
- *Treaty Settlement Transition Component*: Hugh Loughheed (retired midyear), Jennifer Card, Erin Banton R.P.F.

The MNRF's FFT Secretariat continues to fulfil its role while honouring the principle of committee independence on all matters related to funding allocations for projects. The FFTC thanks the Directors and staff of Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch, Operations Branch, Forest Tenure and Economic Branch, Integration, Science and Research Branch (including FRI and Growth and Yield) and Business Development Branches for their continued support.

State of the Trust

The Forestry Futures Trust fund is in a healthy position and has fully recovered from the economic difficulties that previously affected the sector. The fiscal financials, which provide the details, are available through our website, www.forestryfutures.ca once tabled in the Provincial Legislature.



Forestry Futures Trust Committee 2022

Committee Operations Budget 2022/23

Available Funds	
Received from the <i>Forestry Futures Trust Fund</i> accounts	\$380,000.00
2021/22 unspent balance	\$22,233.87
TOTAL Funds Available	\$402,233.87
Expenditures	
Meetings/Travel	\$28,503.42
Committee Honorariums	\$70,922.88
Professional /Administrative/Contract Staff	\$211,227.78
Supplies (Communication/Consumables)	\$13,455.46
Equipment / Signage	\$3,069.48
Overhead	\$53,378.57
TOTAL Expenses	\$380,257.59

OUR PROGRAMS

Silviculture Program

The Silviculture Program funds silviculture needs resulting from forces of natural depletion such as fire, wind, insects, disease, and flooding, as well as remediation of the forest land base due to historic harvesting practices. Funding requests are received in five categories: 1. Intensive Stand Management; 2. Rehabilitation after Natural Disturbances; 3. Pest Control; 4. Insolvency; and 5. Other, as designated by the Minister. Details on each category can be found on the FFTC website.

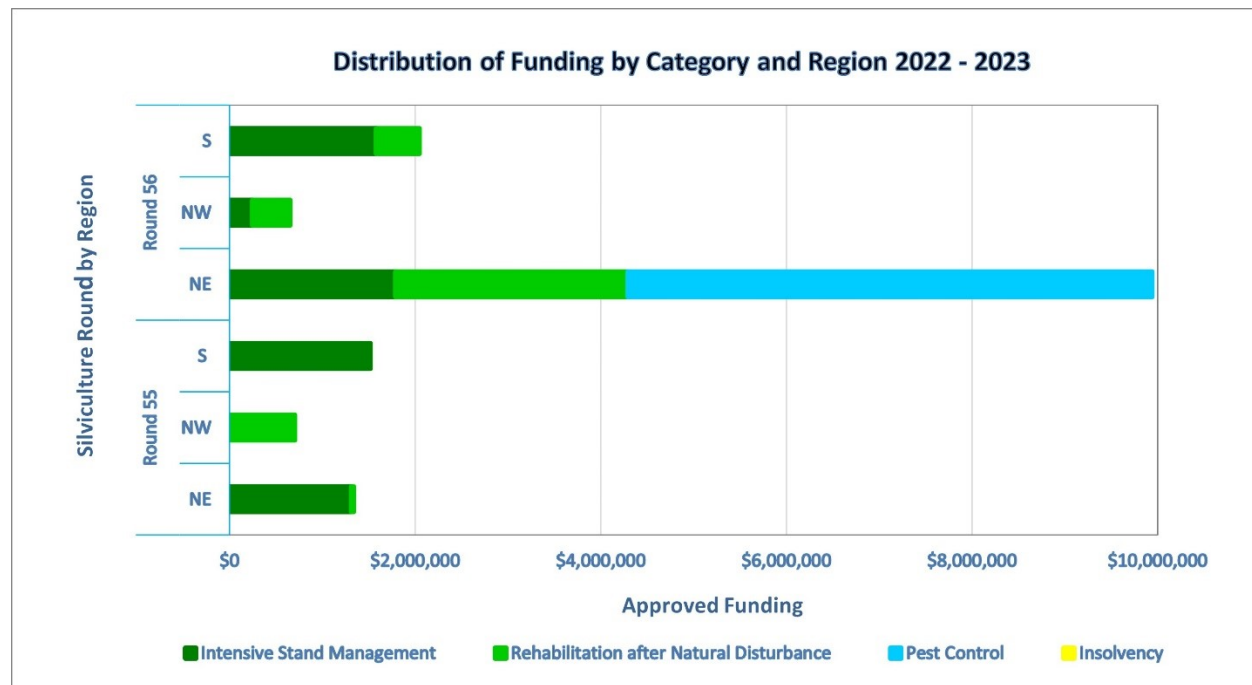
Silviculture Rounds 55 and 56

The Committee extended invitations to SFLs to submit applications for the funding of projects under Rounds 55 and 56 of the FFT Silviculture Program. In 2022-23, \$16.5 M was approved in total project funding, with \$3.8 M and \$12.6 M allotted to Rounds 55 and 56, respectively. From the Round 55 budget, \$5.6 M was allocated to the Northeast Spruce Budworm Insect Pest Management Programs for activities that are to be completed in summer of 2023. That makes for a total of about \$25 M allocated to four pest control programs initiated by the Province since 2019.

The chart below illustrates the amount of funding approved under each round for projects submitted under the four silviculture categories for each of the South, Northwest and Northeast regions in 2022-2023. Among regions, 68% of the funding was awarded to the Northeast, 8% to the Northwest, and 23% to the South. Among categories, 23 Intensive Stand Management projects received 39% of approved funds, one Pest Control project received 34%, and 12 Rehabilitation after Natural Disturbance projects were awarded 34% of the approved funding.

Last year, the FFTC began collecting data and reporting on the number of employment days that were generated from its silviculture projects. This year, 17,136 person days were estimated to have been generated through silviculture activities associated with the 44 projects that submitted year-end reports.

Note: Lists of New, Ongoing and Completed FFT Silviculture Program projects can be found on the FFTC website www.forestryfutures.ca

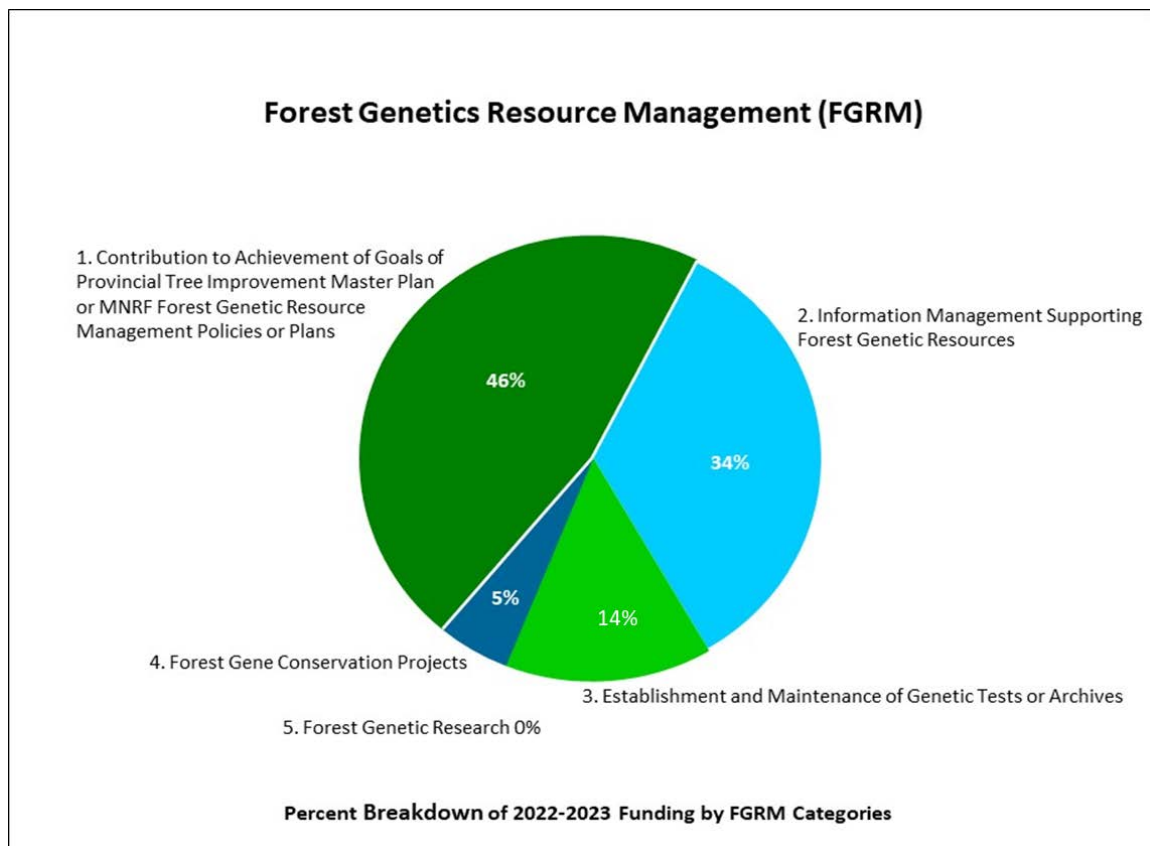


Forest Genetic Resource Management Program

On December 17, 2021, the Minister provided a five-year extension for the Forestry Futures Trust to continue funding the Forest Genetic Resource Management (FGRM) Program. Funding of activities within this Program benefit Crown forests and are carried out by the Superior Woods Tree Improvement Association (SWTIA), Northeast Seed Management Association (NeSMA), and Forest Gene Conservation Association (FGCA). Annual funding remained consistent with the previous directive for this purpose and is not to exceed \$675,000 per annum, providing the three regional associations with \$375,000 in core funding and eligibility for \$300,000 in project funding for five fiscal years ending March 31, 2027. The FGRM program is financed from the Forestry Futures Trust base charge.

In 2022-2023, the Associations directed the majority of funding (46%) toward activities that Contributed to the Achievement of the Province's Tree Improvement Master Plan Goals or its FGRM Policies or Plans, 34% to Information Management Supporting Forest Genetics Resources, 14% to the Establishment and Maintenance of Genetic Tests or Archives, 0% to Forest Genetic Research, and 5% to Forest Gene Conservation Projects (see chart below).

Progress has been made in developing an FGRM Program 10-Year Strategic Plan that will be used by the FFTC and Associations to ensure its instructed allocation of funds is done with sufficient oversight and to demonstrate how funding supports important strategic priorities. This Plan will serve as an interim document until such time as the Province develops updated strategic policy direction for the FGRM Program.



Annual Report 2022/23

FGRM 2022-23 Projects		
Association Project #	FGRM Category	Project Name
SWTIA 2022-1	1	Prepare grafted stock and establish in Lake Nipigon East black spruce second-generation clonal orchard
SWTIA 2022-2	2	Measure the Lake Nipigon West black spruce second-generation series 2 and 3 open-pollinated and elite tests
SWTIA 2022-3	1	Apply herbicide in the Rugby white spruce clonal orchard
SWTIA 2022-4	2	Measure Lakehead University black spruce assisted-migration tests (3 or 4 sites)
SWTIA 2022-5	2	Analyse Lake Nipigon West black spruce second-generation open-pollinated and elite test data.
SWTIA 2022-6	1	Maintenance and protection of tree improvement sites.
NeSMA 2022-1	1	Site preparation for jack pine stability trial
NeSMA 2022-2	1	Establishment of jack pine screening and stability climate change trials
NeSMA 2022-3	3	Site maintenance and tending of climate change studies
NeSMA 2022-4	2	Climate change test assessments
FGCA 2022-1	1	White pine renewal under climate change
FGCA 2022-2	2 & 4	Bancroft Minden Forest Company Forest Vulnerability
FGCA 2022-3	2	Seed quality guidelines
FGCA 2022-4	1 & 3	Seed orchard management
FGCA 2022-5	1, 2 & 4	Sustainable Forest Licence/Forest Gene Conservation Authority site tours
FGCA 2022-6	1	Seed production area management



Field tour of English River Forest



Field tour of Lakehead Forest

Independent Forest Audit Program

The Forestry Futures Trust Committee has traditionally implemented the annual Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Program for the MNRF. FFTC responsibilities have included the allocation of funds to cover the cost of the audits; contract management of and communication with the audit firms and key audit participants; attending audit meetings and field examinations; ensuring the audit program is implemented according to the IFA process and protocol; reviewing all draft reports and ensuring final reports are of the highest quality. The Committee also provides recommendations to MNRF concerning revisions to the audit program and IFA process and protocol, coordinates auditor orientation sessions with MNRF, and makes recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry as required or appropriate

Four Independent Forest Audits (IFAs) were completed in 2022 using the 2022 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP). While there were no additional requirements in the 2022 IFAPP over the 2021 IFAPP, there were changes to improve the clarity of the wording, updates to responsibilities and/or alignment of responsibilities with the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPAA) requirements. Examples of changes include:

- Consistency in definitions (e.g., sustainable forest licensee as used in FMPM) and evolution in Regional Operation Division (ROD) roles.
- Added ROD/Integration Branch responsibilities in coordinating obtaining related information as needed.
- Changed Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring to Silviculture Monitoring.

- Added establishment assessments to the free to grow (FTG) assessment.
- Approval of MNRF and Forestry Futures Committee is required prior to any changes to the schedule.
- If a helicopter is to be used, audit proposals must demonstrate that it is the most cost efficient means available.
- Added wording related to succinctness of text to address non-conformities without repeating information.
- Added wording to address Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), posting needs for Ontario.ca.
- Connected reporting deadline and process requirements from text to template to ensure the actions are reported as completed by the deadline date indicated by RD Regional Director approved action plan.
- Procedures outlined in Appendix A are mandatory unless specified as optional.

The four audits-conducted in 2022:

- NorthWinds Environmental Services Inc. audited Dog River-Matawin Forest – managed by Resolute FP Canada Inc. under Sustainable Forest Licence # 542459.
- ARBEX Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. audited Mazinaw-Lanark Forest – managed by Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. under Sustainable Forest Licence #542621.
- NorthWinds Environmental Services Inc. audited Pic Forest – managed by Nawiingnokiima Forest Management Corporation (a Crown Corporation), under Sustainable Forest License # 553395.

- NorthWinds Environmental Services Inc. audited Trout Lake Forest – managed by Domtar Inc., under Sustainable Forest License # 542461.

On three of the four audits, the auditors found that the management was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations, and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forests were being managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of their Sustainable Forest Licenses.

On one of the four audits, the auditors found that the management, with a number of exceptions, was generally in compliance. The four audits were awarded at a total cost of \$301,294.16 (including HST), or on average \$75,323.54 per audit (as compared to 2021 which averaged out to \$57,033.72 (including

HST)). The increase in the average cost per audit can be attributed to the complexities of these particular four forests, and the increased scope of the audits which averaged 6.5 years compared to 5.5 years in 2021. As shown in Table 1 below, the audits identified a number of findings in all four audits. All four reports have now been accepted by the Ministry. Detailed action plans to address the findings presented in the audit reports are being prepared and will be posted on the Ontario government website alongside the audit reports.

Table 1. Summary of the 2021 Audit Findings and Best Practices for all four audits with respect to the eight IFA Principles

IFA Principles	# Findings	Percentage %*	Best Practice
1 Commitment	0	0	
2 Public consultation and Aboriginal involvement	2	6	
3 Forest Management Planning	4	13	1
4 Plan assessment and implementation	8	25	1
5 System support	1	3	
6 Monitoring	13	41	
7 Achievement of management objectives and forest sustainability	1	3	
8 Contractual Obligations	3	9	
Total	32	100	2

*rounded to the nearest whole number.

Common Findings

While most of the findings from the 2022 audits were unique to the Forest being audited, there were a few that were common to two or more reports. These have been grouped below by IFA principles:

Principle 3 - Forest Management Planning

Two audits (Dog River-Matawin and Trout Forests) identified that the late submission of a new Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) resulted in forest management planning delays.

Principle 4 - Plan Assessment and Implementation

Three out of four audits (Dog River-Matawin, Trout, and Pic Forests), identified that the operational standards for forest aggregate pits were not consistently met. This has been a trend over the last several years of audits.

Principle 6 - Monitoring

All four audits identified issues with both District and SFL monitoring programs (either with their compliance and/or silvicultural effectiveness monitoring program). While some of this can be attributed to recent COVID restrictions, there was an overall reduction in monitoring activities and silvicultural achievements. This has also been a recurring issue over the last several years of audits.



*2022 Mazinaw Lanark Forest
Field portion of IFA*

Tenure Modernization Programs

Forest Management Component Program

When Sustainable Forest Licenses (SFLs) are returned to the Crown due to bankruptcy or insolvency, MNRF assumes responsibility for all forest management activities on that management unit. Forest management expenditures incurred by the Crown to do this work are funded from additional revenue paid to the Forestry Futures Trust from the Crown stumpage system. The additional funds are generated by a management fee charged for each cubic metre of wood harvested in the area. This has been termed the Forest Management Component (FMC).

FMC accounts are open for Pic, Kenogami, Wabadowgang Noopming (formerly Armstrong), Whiskey Jack, Missinaibi (formally Magpie Forest now amalgamated with Martel), Pic River, Ogoki, and Sapawe Forests.

Enhanced Sustainable Forest License

The Enhanced Sustainable Forest License (eSFL) program was established in late 2011, as an outcome of the Ministry's tenure modernization initiative, with an allocation of the remaining funds (\$1.8 M) from the SFL Conversion program. In 2012, the Committee developed an application process and the first application was submitted in April of 2013.

There are no current eSFL projects.



*2022 Trout Forest
Field portion of IFA*

Local Forest Management Corporation Conversion Program

In August 2012, the MNRF added funding of the Local Forest Management Corporation (LFMC) Conversion Program to the Forestry Futures Trust Fund. The purpose is to provide financial support to the establishment and start-up of Ontario LFMCs. The Trust serves as an interim mechanism to capture redirected Crown stumpage charges required for forest management activities on the proposed LFMC land area until such time as the Sustainable Forest Licenses are issued to the LFMC.

The first LFMC, Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFM), was established in May 2012. NFM has been issued the SFLs for Pic, White River and Pic River Forests.

For more information follow the links on the MNRF website: www.ontario.ca/page/forest-tenure-modernization or visit the NFM website: <https://nfmforestry.ca/>

The government approved the establishment of the Temagami Forest Management Corporation December 2020. For more information follow the links on their website: <https://www.temagamiforest.com/>



*Silviculture Project 1123-1-R53
English River Forest*



*FGCA 2021.6
Cayuga Seed Orchard
Photo credit to FGAC*



*2022 Mazinaw Lanark Forest
Field portion of IFA*

Forest Resource Inventory Program

The Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) program is designed to develop a forest resource inventory using current technologies for the managed forest area of Ontario. Funds for this program come from harvest volume charges paid by sustainable forest licensees on Crown timber. These funds are administered from a dedicated Forestry Futures Trust (FFT) account. The FFT administers the FRI program funding in partnership with the MNRF. The FRI is a MNRF-designed program with components of the work contracted to qualified firms through the government procurement process. The FFT leads the design of and co-delivers the knowledge transfer and tool (KTTD) component of the FRI.

The 2022/23 fiscal was the 16th year of the FRI Program that built on an earlier forest inventory program. The bullets below describe MNRF Program accomplishments for 2022/23.

1. Acquired 73,731 km² of LiDAR imagery and 4,890 km² of optical imagery in support of forest inventory development. By the end of 2022-2023, 70% of the 455,000 km² planned for LiDAR imagery and 90% of the 100,000 km² planned for optical imagery had been acquired.
2. Used the Vegetation Sampling Network protocol as an integrated approach to field data collection for calibrating LiDAR models and monitoring forest resources. Data were collected on 113 plots in the Pic River Forest, 186 plots on the White River Forest, 131 plots on the Temagami Forest, 212 plots on the Pineland Forest, and 95 plots on the Spanish Forest. By the end of 2022-2023, 40% of the planned field data has been collected.
3. Made substantial progress in developing and testing aspects of the long-term cloud-based data management solution for FRI with the Land and Resources Cluster and its Microsoft vendor.
4. In addition to the FRI, foundational provincial geospatial imagery and elevation data are being made available for viewing and general use by a broad public via Ontario Web Raster Services and for downloading via Ontario GeoHub, as they become available. In 2022–2023, these services were launched and made available via a centralized landing page ([Forest Resources Inventory | Ontario GeoHub \(gov.on.ca\)](https://forestresourcesinventory.on.ca)).
5. To ensure that field data collection complied with the VSN protocol, a quality assurance/quality control program was undertaken by the ministry's Biodiversity and Monitoring Section. Twenty plots were visited in the Pineland, Spanish and White River forests.

Knowledge Transfer and Tool Development (KTTD) Component of FRI

The goal of the KTTD program is to support the Provincial Forest Resource Inventory Program in advancing its mandate by facilitating the development of open-source tools and research that addresses identified needs and transferring that knowledge back to government, industry, academia, and the forestry community.

Rounds were held in 2015, 2018, and 2021 and a fourth is scheduled for the 2023. A \$1.5 M budget was applied to the funding of 15 projects under Round 3, five of which are now complete as of March 31, 2023. The remainder are on-going as shown in the following table.

Researcher	KTTD Project Title	Status
Small-Scale Project: up to \$25,000 and one year in duration		
Craig Robinson, Forsite Consultants Ltd.	Enhancements for eFRI Next Generation Handhelds - for VSN Plots	complete
Donald Robinson, ESSA Technologies Ltd.	Linking FRI Data to FVS-Ontario	complete
Alain Richard, Ducks Unlimited Canada	eFRI Wetland Crosswalk and Applied Products	complete
Adam Anderson, Resource Innovations Inc.	Development of LiDAR-based Geospatial Tools to Aid in Operational Planning in Ontario	on-going
Dr. Ben DeVries, University of Guelph; Dr. Chris MacQuarrie, Natural Resources Canada	Developing an Inventory of Eastern Hemlock for Ontario	on-going
John Pineau, Ontario Woodlot Association	Private Land Inventory and Economics Study	complete
Andy Welch, JWRL Geomatics Inc.	Assisting Ottawa Valley Forest Transition to T2 FRI	on-going
Large-Scale Project: greater than \$25,000 and two years in duration		
Alexander Bilyk, Overstory Consultants	Assessing Site Productivity from Remote Sensing and Historic Information	on-going
Dr. Nicholas Coops, University of British Columbia	Automated Road and Attribute Extraction from SPL Data	on-going
Dr. Nicholas Coops, University of British Columbia	Integration of Photo Interpreted and LIDAR Attributes Into a Polygonal Forest Inventory Framework Attributes	on-going
Dr. Margaret Penner, Forest Analysis Ltd.	Automated Characterization of Forest Vertical Structure using Single Photon LIDAR	on-going
Dr. Mahadev Sharma, Ontario Forest Research Institute, Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry	Developing Growth and Yield Models for White Pine and White Spruce Plantations	on-going
Craig Robinson, Forsite Consultants Ltd.	FIM Compliant LiDAR Inventory of Selected Areas in the Romeo-Malette Forest	on-going
Dr. Kara Webster, Canadian Forest Service, Natural Resources Canada	Advancing Digital Soil Mapping Tools in Support of Forest Resource Inventory, Planning, and Decision Making	on-going
Murray Woods	Accelerating the Implementation of Enhanced Forest Inventories in Ontario	complete

For more detailed information and project deliverables, refer to our website under the programs tab. A webinar series will be held in the fall of 2023 to showcase KTTD Round 3 projects and transfer the knowledge and tools that were development through them.

Treaty Settlement Transition Component

This program enables the Forestry Futures Trust Committee to provide funding to certain Indigenous communities in the Algonquin Land Claim Area for capacity building and economic development related to forestry on proposed treaty settlement lands.

The revenue for this initiative results from redirecting Crown dues charges on timber harvested from proposed settlement lands to a fund administered by FFTC.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and the Forestry Futures Committee have been working with the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) and have established the specifics of how the funding may be accessed. Eligible activities, funding eligibility criteria, the application (including evaluation and approval criteria) and the disbursement process have been defined and an announcement of the opening for applications is pending.



*NeSMA 2022-2
Screening Trial planting on the
Missinaibi Forest
Photo credits to NeSMA*



*SWTIA 2022-3
Rugby white spruce clonal orchard
Photo credit to SWTIA*

