New Brunswick's Crown Lands Need Your Help

"Whatever determines the fortune of the land also determines the fortune of the people."

Wendell Berry - author

What Kind of Crown Forest Do You Want?

We are rapidly losing the native diversity and value of our forests on Crown lands to widespread clearcutting, herbiciding and tree plantations.

The low impact forestry practiced by a growing number of woodlot owners is a model for how we can better take care of our Crown land while creating more work for New Brunswickers.

New Brunswick's

CROWN FORESTS

What's a Forest For?

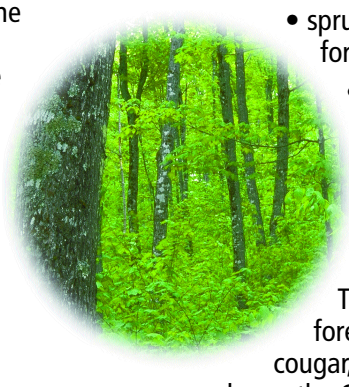
Obviously forests supply us with wood and paper products, and livelihoods. They also control soil erosion, store and cycle nutrients, regulate the water flows in our streams and rivers, and moderate our climate.

Forests are trees and birds, shrubs and rodents, fungi and insects, lichens and bears, flowers and frogs, and more. They form a complex web of interdependent species, habitats and processes, functioning in ways we do not, and probably cannot understand.

New Brunswick's forests shape our culture, our society, and our politics.

New Brunswick's Crown Forests

Half of New Brunswick's forests are found on Crown land – covering 3.4 million hectares of land held in trust by government to serve the common good. This is Acadian forest – made up of a diversity of forest types, including:

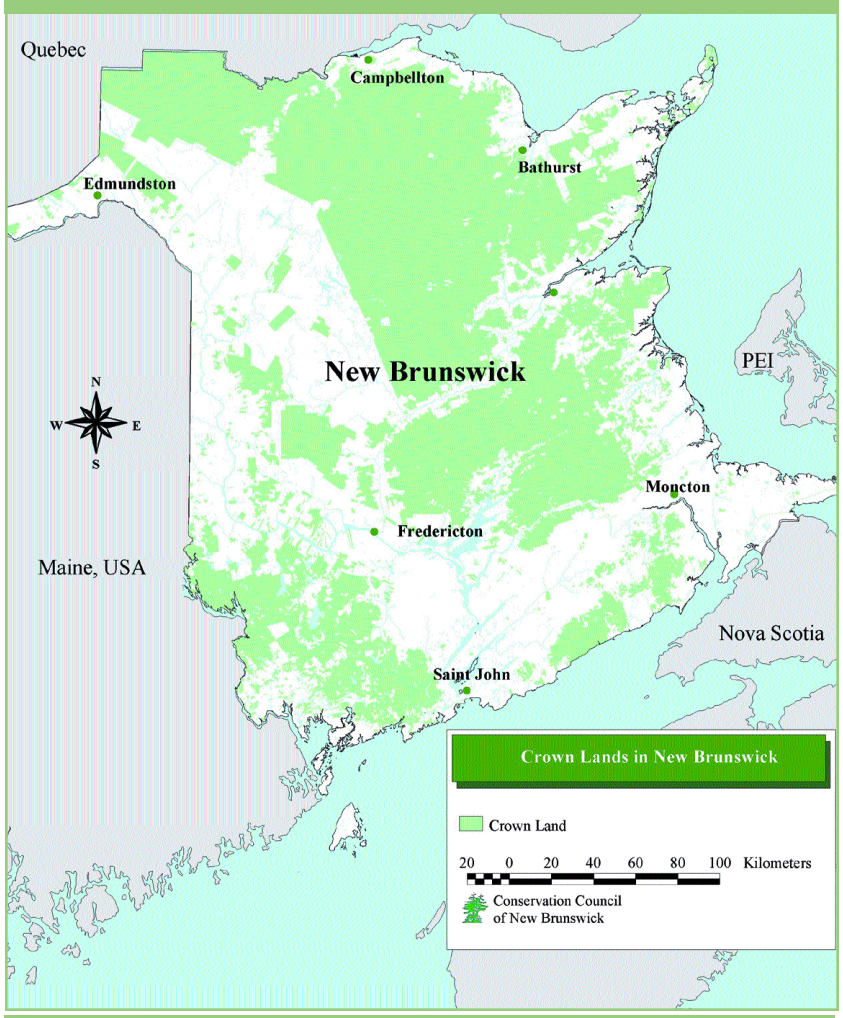


- red spruce, yellow birch, sugar maple, beech, white pine, eastern hemlock forests
- cedar forests
- upland hardwood forests of sugar maple, yellow birch, beech and red maple
- rich lowland forests of basswood, butternut, ironwood, the ashes and silver maple
- spruce-balsam fir forests
- black spruce-balsam fir-tamarack forests
- pine forests.

These are the forests of the eastern cougar, the Atlantic salmon, the Canada lynx, the barred owl, black bear, moose, pine marten, fisher, woodland caribou (last seen in New Brunswick in 1935) and songbirds of every description. Through these forests flow the Miramichi, the Restigouche, the Usalquitch, the Nepisiguit and the St. Croix rivers on their way to the sea.

These are also the forests that produce high quality lumber, beautiful veneer and other wood products, which should sustain the local economies of the communities in their midst in perpetuity.

Crown Lands in New Brunswick



Crown Land License Holders 2000

Company	Head Office	Crown Land	Licenses
Irving	Saint John, New Brunswick	965,138 ha	Queens-Charlotte & Fundy
UPM-Kymmene	Finland	681,143 ha	Lower and Upper Miramichi
Nexfor (Fraser Papers)	Toronto, Ontario	534,014 ha	Restigouche-Tobique & Carleton
Bowater	Greenville, South Carolina	419,430 ha	Upsalquitch
Smurfit-Stone Containers	Chicago, Illinois	258,235 ha	Nepisiguit
Parsons and Whittemore (St.Anne Nackawic)	Rye Brook, New York	155,550 ha	York
Weyerhaeuser	Tacoma Florida	71,569 ha	Kent

Who Calls the Shots on Crown Land

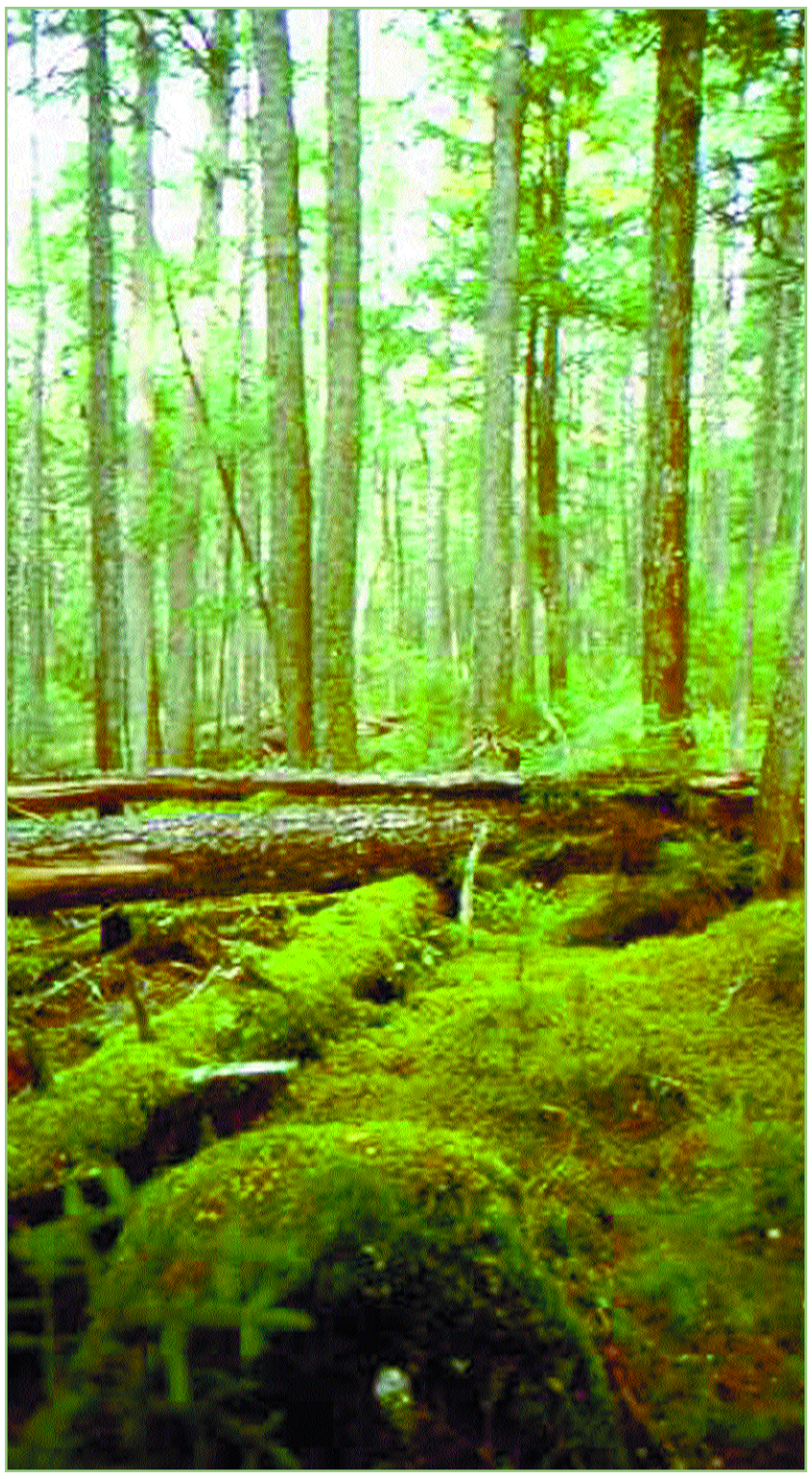
Crown land is held in trust for all New Brunswickers, so the provincial government decides what happens there. Seven companies which own mills in the province are charged with managing Crown forests. They hold 25-year licenses, and operate under government approved five-year management plans designed by them to meet the goals and objectives established by the Department of Natural Resources and Energy.

Eighty-five other mill owners (sub-licensees) and fifteen aboriginal bands also have allocations of wood from Crown land, operating under the licensees' management plans. Royalties are paid to the provincial government on the amount of wood cut, with those monies collected from aboriginal cutting transferred to aboriginal communities.

> **"If you control a people's economy you don't have to worry about its politics; its politics become irrelevant."**
>
> - Wendell Berry

Licenses are issued and renewed without public hearings. Nor are public hearings used to solicit input into the development of the goals and objectives which guide the development of forest management plans by the license holders.

New Brunswick's CROWN FORESTS



Red Spruce Characteristic of Old-Growth Forests

In many areas of New Brunswick, red spruce is a tree species that is characteristic of old-growth Acadian mixed wood forests. Its presence can indicate the potential for the development of old-growth characteristics. These trees have a life expectancy These trees have a life expectancy of 250 to 400 years, as compared to the 70 to 150 years of the now ubiquitous balsam fir. Only eastern hemlock, white pine and cedar have such a long life-expectancy in our forests.

More budworm resistant that the shorter-lived white spruce, red spruce has declined in New Brunswick's forests as it does not regrow well in clearcuts outside of the damp Fundy coast. It regrows vigorously in the shade and dampness provided by forests managed with low impact techniques. Red spruce has tremendous commercial value because of the size it can attain and the quality of its timber. Clearcut forestry is making red spruce increasingly rare in New Brunswick and throughout eastern North America.

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Hardwoods are Key Nutrient Cyclers

The evidence suggests that longer-lived hardwood tree species are declining in abundance and distribution in our forests. Sugar maple, beech, yellow birch and ash are less abundant and less widespread than was the case in the 1800s.

After clearcutting, many of these tree species are out competed by other types of trees such as balsam fir, poplar and white birch. So the forest that replaces a hardwood or mixed wood forest that has been clearcut is composed of an entirely different mix of species. The primary prohibition on clearcutting tolerant hardwoods on Crown land is when regional foresters determine they have a high enough potential to produce sawlogs for lumber production.

The deep roots of these shade tolerant hardwoods play an important role in drawing nutrients to the surface, ultimately making them widely available to the forest ecosystem when leaves drop and decay on the forest floor.

Forest Songbirds Eat 90% of the Budworm

Forest birds such as the Cape May, Blackburnian, and Bay-breasted warblers significantly influence budworm populations. It is thought that they reduce the frequency and severity of budworm outbreaks. However forest songbirds depend on a variety of forest insects in their diet, which in turn may depend on the diversity and abundance of tree lichens.

Older forests and forests that have been managed using low impact forestry have a greater abundance of lichens and insects and therefore songbirds. In fact, the variety of lichens, mosses and fungi in our oldest forests are reminiscent of what is found in the temperate rain forests of coastal British Columbia. Maintaining such variety is essential to maintaining healthy populations of songbirds, securing their ability to influence spruce budworm outbreaks.

Low impact forestry can also ensure a good abundance and diversity of budworm parasites. Some budworm parasites require a mixed wood forest for a portion of their lifecycles. Current forest management practices on Crown land are perpetuating the decline of our mixed wood forests, which could reduce the diversity of budworm parasites, thus increasing the severity of budworm outbreaks when they occur.

If low impact forestry was used to bring about a more natural forest on Crown lands in terms of the mix of species, ages and structure, there would be less need to spray to protect trees against pests.

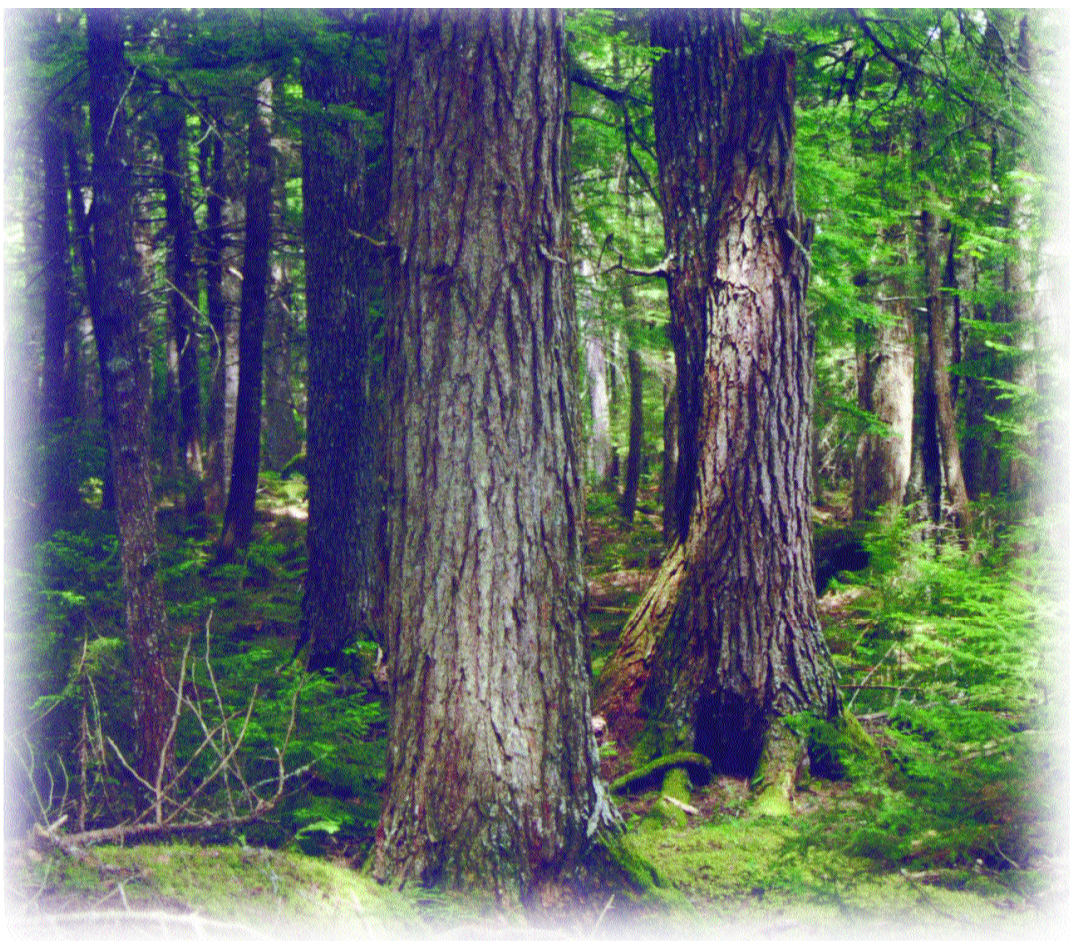
The Acadian Forest – Unique to the Maritimes and Maine

White pine have been known to reach heights of 160 feet with trunks that are five feet in diameter at chest height.

Black bears have survived the many changes we have wrought in our forests.

Photo: R. Lutes

Our Crown Forests Must Be Sustained



Eastern hemlock can live to be 400 years old.

Photo: D. Christie

Barred owls thrive in older growth forests where they nest in the cavities of large trees.

The Yellow Lady's Slipper now uncommon in New Brunswick's forests.

Rich upland hardwood forests are becoming rare in New Brunswick.

New Brunswick's
CROWN FORESTS

High Impact FORESTRY vs Low Impact FORESTRY

YOU COMPARE...

A Clearcut Forest

Of the 60,000 hectares of Crown land that is logged every year, seventy percent is clearcut. The extensive reliance on clearcutting has led to an unnatural abundance of balsam fir, poplar and white birch.

VS

A Select cut Forest

Low impact forestry leaves the forest intact while producing timber and income.

Tree Plantations

Roughly 5,000 hectares of Crown forests are replaced by tree plantations every year. Close to 200,000 hectares of Crown forests have been converted to plantations thus far.

VS

Natural Regeneration

Very few areas require tree planting after cutting as trees readily grow back in the Acadian forest. How you cut, however, determines what type of trees regrow.

Replacing the Natural Forest

Tolerant mixed wood and hardwood forests are being replaced by spruce-fir forests through clearcutting, and then thinning the natural regeneration to favour these species, or by planting spruce and herbiciding any hardwoods that regrow.

VS

Maintaining a Forest's Character

Partial cutting systems can maintain the character of those forest types that clearcutting would change.

Mechanical Harvesting- Eliminates Jobs

Mechanical harvesters have eliminated the livelihoods of forest workers throughout the province.

VS

Manual Harvesting- Creates Jobs

Low impact forestry provides work for more people.

Limited Economic Future

Replacing rich hardwood and mixed wood forests with softwood forests limits our economic future. More diverse forests allow for a variety of future uses.

VS

More Choices

A greater diversity of wood products are produced with low impact forestry, allowing wood producers to take greater advantage of high value markets.

High Impact versus Low Impact Forestry in an Upland Hardwood Forest

By leaving an intact forest, low impact forestry provides work and income from the same piece of land repeatedly over a lifetime. High impact forestry eliminates this opportunity. Below is an economic comparison of the two approaches taken in a sugar maple-yellow birch-beech forest on adjacent parcels of land in Carleton County.

Forestry Approach	High Impact	Low Impact
Harvest Method	Clearcut	Selection
Regeneration	Raspberry, Poplar, Balsam Fir, Red Maple	Sugar Maple, Yellow Birch, Beech
Next Harvest	2080-2100	2010-2015
Employment over 45 years	35 hours/acre	88 hours/acre
Initial Harvest	110 acres	83 acres
Volume Harvested	2,400 cords (22 cords/acre)	920 (11 cords/acre)
Person hours	3,840 (35 hours/acre)	1,825 (22 hours/acre)
Income from first harvest	$1,960/acre	$1,137/acre

New Brunswick's
CROWN FORESTS

Crown Forests are held in trust for all New Brunswickers

Help Keep New Brunswick's Crown Forests Intact and People Employed

Demand Low Impact Forestry

Yes! I want to conserve New Brunswick's Crown Forests.

Let Premier Bernard Lord know what kind of Crown forest you want! Tell the Premier you want only low impact forestry practiced on Crown lands.

Office of the Premier
P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1
E-mail: Premier@gov.nb.ca
Tel.: (506) 869-6776

"...we have never understood that the only appropriate human response to a diversified forest ecosystem is a diversified local forest economy."

Wendell Berry - author

For more information write to:

Conservation Council of New Brunswick
180 St. John St., Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 4A9
Tel. (506) 458-8747 Email: ccnb@nb.aibn.com

New Brunswick Federation of Woodlot Owners
180 St. John St., Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 4A9
Tel. (506) 459-2990 Email: nbfwo@nbnet.nb.ca

www.lowimpactforestry.com