

Moving to Restore a Balance in Island Forests

Prince Edward Island Forest Policy

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Minister's Message

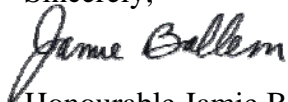
It gives me great pleasure to present a new Forest Policy to the people of Prince Edward Island. This document is based on the outstanding input we received during the public and stakeholder consultations in the winter of 2005.

Hundreds of Islanders attended these meetings to offer their ideas and suggestions for the future of our public and private forests. These people were landowners, conservationists, harvesters and processors, hunters and trappers, recreational forest users, and others who care about Island forests. Regardless of their background, all were passionate about forests and eager to share their vision and concerns for the future.

The new Forest Policy is based on this input. It states government's belief that public investments should result in public good and that forests need to be seen as more than a source of timber. The policy supports the landowner's right to make their own harvest and management decisions and acknowledges that public forest lands must always set the standard for stewardship and conservation. Government will continue to support tree planting but within a framework which supports many different ways of managing forest land. The policy also seeks to encourage the role of value-added and non-timber forest products in our economy, as well as the role of education in promoting healthy and productive forests.

I would like to recognize the pivotal role of the Public Forest Council in the development of this new Forest Policy. Assisted by facilitator Jean-Paul Arsenault, council members – Dr. Ian MacQuarrie (Chairman) of Hazelgrove, and private sector representatives, Gerald MacDonald from Monticello, Lily Baker from Beach Point, Jim Cook from Belle River and Carol Livingstone from West Point – spent countless hours meeting with the public and the forest community and developing their recommendations based on the input and ideas they received. Their report, *Woodlands Hold the Island Together*, played a central role in the development of this Forest Policy which, I believe, reflects the realities facing our forest sector today and also takes into account trends which will influence our forests in years to come.

Sincerely,



Honourable Jamie Ballem
Minister of Environment, Energy and Forestry



Vision

Our vision is one of enhanced forest quality. PEI will have healthy Acadian forests that host a diverse range of plants and animals, and contribute to the delivery of economic benefits and ecological goods and services essential to human health and well-being. Our forests will not only provide wood, non-timber and value-added products, but will stimulate job creation and wealth, encourage recreational and educational pursuits, support diverse wildlife, generate clean air and water, protect soils, create carbon sinks and reservoirs, promote nutrient cycling, and maintain aesthetic and spiritual values. Islanders will become better connected to forests, and better appreciate and understand the many values of these lands.

Mission

Our mission is to help landowners make choices that support the vision. Our private land programs will provide education and assistance to landowners and the professionals who plan and implement forest management on their behalf. Our public land programs will focus on education, research, demonstration of good forestry and wildlife management practices, and the encouragement of public access and compatible recreational uses. We will use an ecological approach, based upon the best, most current knowledge and science.

Principles

Our goals, strategies and actions will be guided by the following principles.

We will:

1. Respect that forests are complex systems about which we have much to learn.
2. Ensure that our forest management programs are socially acceptable, biologically possible and economically feasible.
3. Remember that private landowners make the forest management decisions on their own lands.
4. Favour demonstration, education and incentives over legislation.
5. Use public funds and land to provide public benefits.
6. Employ a number of techniques (not only full planting) to re-establish healthy forests.
7. Strive to develop a value-added culture within the forest sector.
8. Factor climate change into forest management decisions.
9. Select appropriate, meaningful indicators to measure and report on our progress, and identify specific timelines where possible. We will move beyond the traditional measure of number of trees planted, which is neither a measure of the success of our programs nor an indicator of progress towards our goals.

Goals

Our goals build on the significant accomplishments achieved to date and position the Island for a sustainable future.

1. Increased forest restoration, particularly on unploughed land.
2. Increased management for a diversity of forest species, ages, products and values.
3. Increased public and community awareness of, involvement in and support for public lands.
4. Increased participation by private landowners in sustainable forest management.
5. Increased capacity within the private sector to deliver a range of forest management options.
6. Increased contributions by and for the value-added sector.

Strategies and Actions

Public Forests

The Government of Prince Edward Island owns more than 51,000 hectares of land across the province, primarily in Prince and Kings counties. The majority – some 30,000 hectares – has been assigned to the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry for management. This area includes a range of forest types and ages, ploughed (previously farmed) and unploughed (never farmed) areas, coastal land and wetlands. Public lands have been described as the Island’s best-kept secret, and royal commissions, round tables and public consultations over the past three decades have consistently supported their retention and expansion.

Identification and Promotion

For Islanders to become more aware of, involved in and connected to public forests, they must first know where these areas are. Government will expand its efforts to identify and promote public forests and activities by:

Creating a public land atlas. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will create an atlas that identifies locations of public land. This atlas will be available both online and in hard copy, and the department will aim to make this information available through the PEI Visitor’s Guide, at Visitors’ Information and Access PEI sites, and through other venues such as angling and hunting summaries.

Developing consistent signage. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will build on the success of the green and gold logo developed to promote Provincial Forests. While those colours will remain unique to Provincial Forests, the symbolism will be expanded to all public lands managed by the department. Distinctive colours will identify wildlife management areas, natural areas and other categories of public forest land. At a minimum, these logos will be posted at key access points and included in brochures, angling and hunting summaries, and other promotional materials such as on-site interpretive signage. A communications strategy will help the public recognize and understand the logos.



Valuing natural capital. It is widely recognized that areas such as forests have economic values beyond those generated by harvest of timber or other products. Their natural capital provides ecological goods and services such as water quality and quantity, air quality, carbon sequestration and storage, erosion control, nutrient cycling, wildlife habitat and biodiversity, among others. Like the assets of a corporation, natural capital has a very real economic value. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will develop a model to estimate the natural capital of public forest lands based on the economic value of ecosystem services. This will not only contribute to identification and promotion of the many values of public forest land, it will aid in land use and management decisions.

Acquisition and Retention

With so little forest land in public hands, retaining what we have and acquiring properties in key areas is a priority. To this end, Government will:

Identify priorities for land acquisitions. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will build on the concept of target areas for land acquisition around existing blocks of public land. It will identify clear priorities that will help land managers consistently evaluate properties for acquisition by Government. In addition to new properties that are contiguous to existing blocks, the priorities will take into consideration unique forest ecosystems, watercourse and wetland conservation, habitats for uncommon plants and animals, watersheds that may be under stress because of low forest cover, and potential for education, research and demonstration. Establishment of these priorities will allow Government to respond consistently to landowners offering land for sale, or to non-governmental organizations wishing to contribute to securement of priority areas on PEI.

Require public review of land divestiture. In some cases, Government may decide it is willing to sell, donate or lease land – a public asset – to the private sector. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will work with the Department of Transportation and Public Works and others to develop a system of public review and comment for proposed divestitures.

Management and Conservation

Canada's National Forest Strategy and provincial forest policies across the country recognize that forests must be managed using an ecosystem-based approach that maintains or enhances forests and the full range of benefits that flow from them. Management and conservation of public forest land (including forest harvest) will be consistent with this. Government will:

Develop an ecosystem-based forest management manual for public land. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will identify the types of forest communities present on public lands and a range of acceptable management practices appropriate to the specific forest types. This information will be made more user-friendly for the public through mapping. The manual will include standards for implementing various silvicultural techniques and enhanced requirements for forest restoration and protection of riparian zones, wetlands and watercourses, as well as for retention of cover patches, nest trees, snag trees, coarse woody debris, rare plants and other features. In keeping with the current practice, pesticide use, brush burning and harvest during the critical wildlife breeding season will not be acceptable management options for public lands. Management of public lands in accordance with the manual will demonstrate options for private lands, as well as contributing to the other goals of public land management (education, research, conservation and restoration).

Identify and protect areas of ecological significance.

Forests are under-represented in Prince Edward Island's protected areas network, and there may be areas on public lands that would benefit from designation under the *Natural Areas Protection Act*. Public lands will be reviewed to identify any unique forest stands, rare species or other biologically important features. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will work with



the *Natural Areas Protection Act* Technical Advisory Committee to identify areas that may qualify for protection and have these sites designated. Protected sites remain available for public access and for compatible uses.

Require management and operational plans for public land. Before any silvicultural work takes place on public land, management plans will be prepared. These plans will include the long-term objectives for management of the site, a map with wetlands, watercourses and forest stands delineated, and detailed stand information including understory and ground vegetation and the location(s) of any notable or rare wildlife or habitats. Operational plans will be consistent with the forest management manual for public land, and all work will meet stringent standards set out by the manual. Operational plans will detail the rationale and objectives of the prescribed work, the amount, type and location(s) and timing of this work, and provisions for the protection and/or enhancement of wetlands, watercourses and wildlife. These plans will be made available to the public on line and at Division offices before work is expected to begin.

Simplify the tendering process and associated issues. Public tenders for forest products are an important safeguard to ensure fair and equitable access to a public resource. However, the current tendering process, coupled with the complexities of insurance and occupational health and safety requirements, make it virtually impossible for smaller operators to get involved with public land management. Additionally, it is difficult for the department to tender small volumes of products, seek alternative services such as horse logging or harvest of non-timber forest products, or promote value-added products. The department will develop a simplified tendering process and a rating scheme that looks not only at the bid price, but also at value-added components, employment generated and other benefits that flow from the work. The department will also explore the associated issues of insurance and occupational health and safety to identify actions Government can take to help operators meet the requirements.

Give preference to contractors who are certified and require contractors to be in good standing with the department. Certification is a tangible demonstration of a contractor's commitment to sustainable forestry, and to continual improvement. To recognize and encourage steps being taken by Island contractors, the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will prefer that contractors be certified (recognizing that this may not be practical for smaller operators or those offering alternative services). Regardless of size, all contractors operating on public land (and their employers, where applicable) must be in good standing with the department. Those who have recently paid fines or been convicted for environmental infractions, for example, may not be eligible for work on public forest land for a set period of time, and may be required to complete mandatory training to regain eligibility. Repeat offenders may lose their ability to operate on public forest land altogether.



Demonstrate land certification systems. Some systems certify the forest *worker* while others certify the forest *land*. Without showing preference to any one system, the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will aim to have representative areas of public land certified under each of the main land certification systems. This will serve as a demonstration for private landowners, and allow the department to explain first-hand the advantages and constraints of each system.

Build government-community partnerships.

The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry has a strong history of partnering with community groups. From recreational trails and special tree plantings to educational programs and research projects, there are dozens of examples involving public land from one end of the Island to the other. In 2005, the department took the partnership model to a new level by entering into an agreement with the Environmental Coalition of PEI to manage about 800 hectares of public land in the Orwell/Caledonia area. This pilot project

acknowledges that partnerships can deliver innovative funding arrangements and volunteer support, while building a sense of stewardship for these lands among the public. The department will build on community forest management models, ensuring that such partnerships are consistent with the goals, and public forest strategies and actions of this Forest Policy.



Private Forests

Approximately 86 per cent of Prince Edward Island’s forests are held by thousands of individual landowners who make the forest management decisions that are right for them and their lands. While Government can demonstrate good forest management on public lands, engaging private landowners is critical to achieving the vision of healthy forests province-wide. Private forests provide a range of public benefits. Providing educational opportunities and incentives to help landowners maintain and enhance these benefits is an investment in the public good.

To ensure public funds lead to public benefits, Government will:

Combine the Forest Renewal and Forest Enhancement programs, and adjust the funding emphasis.

Through this Forest Policy, the Government of Prince Edward Island has stated its vision for the Island’s forests. Having multiple programs working toward the same end may cause confusion among landowners and lead to inequalities and inconsistencies. Combining them under one umbrella will streamline service into “one-stop shopping” and bring all pieces of the forest management puzzle together. The funding emphasis will be shifted from the current ratio of 90:10 in favour of creation and maintenance of plantations (greater than 1,600 seedlings per hectare) to a more balanced 50:50 ratio between plantations and alternative, enhancement-style treatments (e.g., partial planting, enrichment planting, patch cuts, strip cuts, thinning, etc.).



Increase private-sector contributions to private land forest management. It is important to acknowledge that the Forest Renewal and Forest Enhancement Programs are 70:30 partnerships between Government and the private sector. Industry and landowners together contribute the 30 per cent under the Forest Renewal Program while landowners are solely responsible for the private sector contributions in the Forest Enhancement Program. Under the new

program, private sector contributions will increase from the current one-third model, and all treatments will be eligible for funds contributed by industry through the check-off fee. The credit system currently available under the Forest Enhancement Program will continue in the new program, and be available to those landowners who wish to implement treatments with the greatest public benefits. Under this system, money a landowner spends on approved forest management work earns a credit that may be redeemed toward selected future treatments.

Increase private-sector involvement in private land forest management. The Forest Renewal Program is heavily reliant on the expertise of department forest technicians to identify areas that could benefit from planting or post-planting maintenance, and arrange for the work to be done. The new program will be modeled on the Forest Enhancement Program in which the department and its staff set standards, monitor work quality and provide program information and incentives. For example, under the new program private contractors could be responsible for assessing older plantations to determine what maintenance is necessary, developing a management plan, securing the landowners' consent for this work, and completing the work to set standards. The department's forest technicians would receive and approve the management plans, monitor the quality of the work and provide the program incentives.

Make forest management plans a prerequisite for access to public funds. Forest management plans help landowners identify the resources and opportunities available on their lands, as well as their own long-term goals for the forest. Good planning can deliver an economic return to the landowner while ensuring that the harvest is sustainable, appropriate for the type of forest, in compliance with existing regulations and designed to meet the landowner's goals. Pre-harvest management plans benefit both the forest and the landowner. Because of their importance, the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will set minimum standards for forest management plans and make them a prerequisite for access to forest management funds.

Establish a list of qualified consultants and contractors who may deliver the program.

Landowners want some assurance that the professionals they hire to assist them with forest management have a solid track record of delivering quality work. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will establish a list of qualified consultants and contractors and develop a mechanism for performance-based assessment. Basic training on the program, its requirements and standards will be provided by the department, and will be a prerequisite for consultants and contractors who wish to participate. Those receiving financial incentives must be shown to have delivered quality work before being eligible for future support. Consistent with requirements for contractors operating on public land, those who have recently paid fines or been convicted for environmental infractions, for example, may not be eligible to deliver the private land program for a set period of time and may be required to complete mandatory training to regain eligibility. Repeat offenders may lose their ability to work within the program altogether.



Value Added

Commodity production relies on large volumes of reasonably cheap raw materials to be successful. With its limited land base and thousands of small, privately owned woodlots, Prince Edward Island is not well-suited to compete in this arena. However, PEI is well-suited to produce high-quality forests with a mixture of species that can be transformed into high-value products. We have a thriving value-added sector that processes pine, larch, spruce, hemlock, maple, oak, ash, birch and other species into top-quality products such as moldings, flooring, stair



Wood Products PEI

components, furniture, cabinets and giftware. That said, comparatively little effort has been expended on forest management or other programs designed to support the value-added sector.



To help foster a value-added culture within the forest community, Government will:

Develop a more balanced approach in forest management programs and incentives.

The obvious key ingredient for a successful value-added sector is quality wood. In recent years, 90 per cent of the incentives available for private land management have been earmarked for the creation and maintenance of plantations, with the wood destined for commodity production. A new program will create a more balanced ratio between softwood plantations and alternative enhancement-style treatments. This will encourage forest management for a range of species used by the value-added sector and contribute to greater landowner awareness and appreciation of the many values within their forests. This will be supported by education, research, demonstration, conservation and restoration work on public lands.

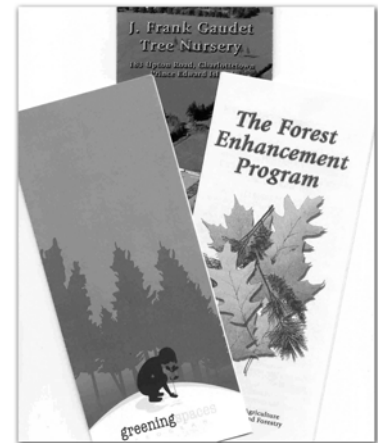
Identify and address barriers to using PEI wood. Island hardwood is going for firewood and being exported for pulp while local manufacturers are importing wood from as far away as Quebec and the United States. This points to a breakdown in the supply chain from woodlot owner to end user. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will work to identify specific links in the chain that it may be able to address. For example, there are many landowners who have management plans in place but have not yet implemented them. Other owners don't harvest their small volumes of high-quality wood because they can't connect with a market, or the wood is harvested but not separated from lower-grade firewood. The decision of when and how to harvest will always remain with the landowner, but Government does have a role to play in identifying and removing barriers to getting and using local wood.



Maintain a value-added specialist position. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry has a full-time person dedicated to assisting the value-added sector. This position assists clients with their range of needs, from market information to promotional opportunities, trade

shows, networking, supporting industry associations and product development, among other areas. This position will explore new opportunities such as adapting value-added models from other parts of the world and working with woodlot owner groups and government-community forest management partnerships.

Expand education, training and outreach. Both the public and private sectors can benefit from learning more about the advantages of fostering a value-added culture, as well as about forest management techniques, market opportunities, current and emerging products, and manufacturing technologies. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will identify or offer educational opportunities for areas that are of interest and within its mandate, and encourage other departments and agencies to do the same. Additionally, the department will help the value-added sector raise its public profile, and help forest owners realize how this sector can benefit them and their forests.



Climate Change

Climate change refers to trends in temperature, precipitation and the frequency of extreme weather events averaged over periods of decades or more. Scientists use a number of different models to try and predict our future climate. Although different models sometimes produce different results, they do agree on a number of points: higher maximum and minimum temperatures, fewer frost days and more extreme weather events, among others. Results of forest management decisions we make today will be measured decades into the future. It is thus important to factor climate change into these decisions.

Both climate and forests are complex systems. It is not yet possible to predict with certainty the future climate at specific locations, nor how different species will respond. That said, this lack of certainty is not a reason to ignore the issue, and Government will:

Continue to research the potential effects of climate change on the Acadian forest and associated wildlife. In 2005, a core group of staff within the Forests, Fish and Wildlife Division began to look at the projected mean winter and summer temperatures for the year 2080, and whether these were within the documented ranges for various PEI tree species. This was an excellent start at considering climate change issues. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will build on this by testing seed sources from farther south and working with other jurisdictions to test PEI seed in warmer climates. Literature research will identify projects that have looked beyond temperature to issues such as changes in precipitation and atmospheric carbon dioxide, and to factors such as species interaction, competition and potential effects on wildlife. Efforts will be made to partner with other agencies such as the Canadian Forest Service, Canadian Wildlife Service and Agriculture Canada to improve our knowledge about the sensitivity of species and ecosystems to climate change.

Seek ways to increase the resiliency of forests and wildlife to climate change.

Natural processes within the Acadian forest typically result in small gaps in the canopy left from fallen trees. Land use in our region has resulted in larger forest openings typical of the more northern Boreal forest, and an increase in the proportion of Boreal species. This type of forest and its associated species are predicted to be more vulnerable to climate change. It has been suggested that management more closely approximating Acadian forest gaps may contribute not only to

climate change resilience, but also to a diversity of species and future products from that forest. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will look for ways to help forests adapt to climate change. This will include promoting the health and growth of existing stands, testing harvest regimes designed to increase resiliency, and increasing the numbers of species projected to be climate change resistant (such as Red Oak and White Pine) on the landscape. The department will also look into what actions, if any, can be taken to mitigate potential effects of climate change on wildlife. Any management actions taken will be flexible enough so that the health of our forests and wildlife is not compromised should the climate change in ways other than as predicted.



Participate in the identification of additional problems and possible responses.

In addition to possible impacts on individual species, there are a host of other anticipated issues related to climate change. For example, warmer and drier conditions may increase the number and severity of forest fires. Climate change may make Acadian forests more vulnerable to existing insects and disease, as well as making this region hospitable for new infestations from elsewhere. Changes in species composition may have implications for native biodiversity, as well as for our parks and protected areas. Many complex issues may be on the horizon. These extend well beyond PEI and surpass the province's capacity to address on its own. However, the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will acknowledge that such issues are probable in light of the expected climate change, and will participate in developing responses with other jurisdictions, primarily through coordinating bodies such as the Canadian Council of Forest Ministers.



Seedling Production

The J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery supplies high quality plant material to support all the division's programs. As such, it responds to the needs of these programs rather than dictating the numbers, species and sizes of plant material produced. The strategies and actions listed for public lands, private lands and climate change are expected to result in a decreasing emphasis on the production of white and black spruce, and increasing emphasis on the production of hardwood species, as well as species suited to the predicted warmer, drier climate. The Department of Environment,



Energy and Forestry will continue to operate the J. Frank Gaudet Tree Nursery, and it is expected that – as the aforementioned strategies and actions are implemented – the proportion of hardwoods, late successional species and presumed climate-change resistant species produced will increase.

Education and Training

Education and training are important in helping landowners make informed forest management decisions, and enabling forestry and wildlife professionals to provide good management advice and implement the prescribed treatments. Traditionally, the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry has produced a wealth of educational material, primarily directed at private woodlot owners. This includes pamphlets and brochures, a Woodland Notes series, guides about forest and wildlife enhancement, web-based information and media articles. Division staff are on the front lines of education delivery with landowners, schools, communities and the general public, and are a highly respected source of good information.



As the department's forestry programs become more balanced and as forest-related issues evolve, there will also be opportunities to offer training to forest consultants and contractors. Additionally, ongoing training is an important tool to maintain a high level of knowledge among staff about current and emerging forest issues. Government will design education and training opportunities for these three key target groups:

Landowners. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will identify or offer educational opportunities that may be of interest to landowners, and seek feedback from landowners regarding the types of programs they would like to see, and what they feel are the benefits of and barriers to participating in educational opportunities. In 2000, a survey of PEI woodlot owners identified brochures and pamphlets as products they find useful, and the department will continue to produce this information. The department will also assess landowner interest in complementary opportunities such as field days, workshops, home study courses and interactive computer-based courses. Finally, the department will explore the potential for partnering with universities, colleges, and other groups in development and delivery of educational programs.

Private-sector forest professionals. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will develop a program to train these professionals in all aspects of the new, more balanced private land program, its requirements and standards. Completion of this program will be a prerequisite for access to program incentives. Additionally, the department will identify areas of interest where there may be gaps, and endeavour to identify or offer programs to fill these gaps. For example, if a forest treatment being promoted by the department were not being implemented in the private-sector because of training needs, the department could endeavour to make such training available or identify existing programs where it is available. An apprentice program for silvicultural workers could be one option to address this.

Department staff. Staff of the Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry are trained professionals who are keenly interested in keeping up-to-date with emerging forest and wildlife issues. Pressures of ordinary workloads and deadlines, coupled with the need to respond to urgent issues as they appear, can mean that ongoing learning gets lower priority than it should. The department will put an increased emphasis on training and aim to have at least two sessions per year offered on topics that staff have identified as being important. Such sessions will not be limited to in-house instruction, but will call on experts from other agencies and jurisdictions when possible. The department will also work to identify and address any barriers to staff participation in such sessions.

Incentives/Disincentives

Incentives can be powerful tools to encourage good forest management or discourage poor management. Although we often think of incentives in terms of a financial benefit for doing a specific action, they also take other forms. Recognition, social approval, market access and leaving a legacy can all serve as incentives. Disincentives discourage good forest management, although this result can often be unintentional. The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry will identify incentives and other tools to encourage good forest management, ensure its programs do not serve as disincentives, and work with other departments to identify and address disincentives (if any) that they may have.

Funding

An obvious question is: how will these strategies and actions be funded? The Department of Environment, Energy and Forestry believes it is able to implement this forest policy with existing resources. This will require an adjustment to the current “70 per cent public / 30 per cent private” cost-sharing model, resulting in a modest increase in private-sector contributions. This will allow tree planting on private land to be maintained at 2006 levels (1.5 million seedlings annually).

In addition to existing public funding and increased private-sector contributions, the department will explore opportunities for third-party contributions to forest management. For example, depending on the direction national and international climate change programs take, corporations and other jurisdictions may wish to invest in forest management in exchange for carbon credits. There may be additional incentives for corporate investment in forest management in the future.

Evaluation

Public consultations leading to this new forest policy heard loud and clear that Islanders want to move away from the high-volume commodity model of forest management. They want more emphasis on forest restoration, value-added and non-timber products, and the full range of ecological, social and economic benefits. Program evaluation will focus on the outcome of enhanced forest quality. This policy has clearly identified a vision and specific goals against which it will be measured. Evaluation will help us continually learn from the outcomes of policies and programs. If the strategies and actions of this policy are not achieving the stated vision, mission and goals, we will be flexible enough to improve them as needed.

Timeline for Implementation

The strategies and actions in this policy are of two types: those with discrete start and end dates, and those that – once introduced – will be ongoing. In this table, *completion dates* are given for those of the first type while those of the second type are listed as *continued*.

Strategy/Action	Start	Completion
Public Lands:		
Create a public land atlas	2006/07	2006/07
Post consistent signage on Departmental lands	2007/08	Continued
Identify priorities for land acquisition	2007/08	Continued
Require public review of land divestiture	2007/08	Continued
Develop an ecosystem-based forest management manual	2007/08	2008/09
Identify and protect areas of ecological significance	2007/08	Continued
Require management and operational plans	2007/08	Continued
Simplify the tendering process and associated issues	2007/08	2008/09
Give preference to certified contractors	2007/08	Continued
Estimate natural capital values	2007/08	2008/09
Build government-community partnerships	2008/09	Continued
Demonstrate land certification systems	2008/09	Continued
Private Lands:		
Combine the Forest Renewal and Forest Enhancement programs	2007/08	2007/08
Increase private-sector contributions	2007/08	2009/10
Increase private-sector involvement	2007/08	Continued
Adjust program funding emphasis to 50% renewal, 50% enhancement	2007/08	Continued ¹
Require pre-harvest management plans	2008/09 ²	Continued
Establish a list of qualified consultants and contractors	2008/09	Continued
Value-added:		
Maintain a value-added specialist	2006/07	Continued
Expand education, training, and outreach	2006/07	Continued
Identify and address barriers to using PEI wood	2006/07	Continued
Balanced approach in programs and incentives	2007/08	Continued
Climate Change:		
Research potential climate change effects on forests and wildlife	2006/07	Continued
Seek ways to increase the resiliency of forests and wildlife	2007/08	Continued
Participate in the identification of additional problems and responses	2007/08	Continued
Education and Training:		
Create opportunities for landowners, private-sector professionals and staff	2006/07	Continued
Seek feedback regarding education and training	2006/07	Continued
Incentives and Disincentives:		
Identify a range of incentives for good forest management	2007/08	2007/08
Ensure programs do not serve as disincentives	2007/08	2007/08
Funding:		
Explore options for third-party contributions to forest management	2006/07	Continued
Increase private-sector contributions	2007/08	2009/10

Note 1: A gradual shift from the current 90/10 to the desired 50/50 will be needed to allow landowner demand and industry time to adapt. The timeline will be developed in consultation with those who will be delivering the program.

Note 2: The current requirement for management plans for Forest Enhancement treatments will be retained, with expansion to all funded treatments by the date indicated.