



Room to *GROW*

Final Report of the
Ontario Forest Accord
Advisory Board on
Implementation
of the Accord

To Honourable John Snobelen
Minister, Natural Resources
March, 2002

Room to *Grow*

Final Report of the
Ontario Forest Accord
Advisory Board on
Implementation
of the Accord

To The Honourable John Snobelen
Minister, Natural Resources
March, 2002



March 18, 2002

Dear Minister:

Three years ago, when the Ontario Forest Accord was signed, it was aptly called “a foundation for progress.” The Accord was the basis on which the conservation community, the forest industry and the Ontario government would build a new, more constructive relationship for the future. It was an historic agreement that replaced confrontation with cooperation. It linked the interests of the conservation movement, the forest industry, the government, and the people of Ontario to progress through shared solutions.

The Ontario Forest Accord Advisory Board (OFAAB) was given the task of guiding implementation of the Accord – developing new tools and processes and principles to turn the Accord’s 31 commitments into actions.

Since we reported to you in 2001 on *The State of the Forest Accord*, we have made substantial progress. Many of the Accord’s commitments have become part of the new “way in the woods”.

The markers on some longer-term challenges have been advanced. The most significant breakthrough is that we have reached agreement on a “Room to Grow” policy framework for your consideration. This framework is designed to yield both conservation and economic benefits for Ontario.

In this report, OFAAB:

- proposes a “Room to Grow” policy framework that sets out how permanent increases in wood supplies will be shared between new parks and protected areas to complete ecological representation, and more wood for the forest industry to support jobs and growth;
- confirms that mitigation measures introduced since the Accord was signed have offset overall, province-wide reductions in wood supply for industry caused by withdrawals from logging to create new parks and protected areas through Ontario’s Living Legacy in March, 1999;
- provides an update on continuing progress on regulation of the Living Legacy parks and conservation reserves – 129 of 378 sites will be regulated by the end of March, with another 37 scheduled for regulation early in the new fiscal year, for a total of 166;
- proposes a methodology for identifying and assessing new candidate sites for parks and conservation reserves to complete ecological representation in the Living Legacy planning area;
- supports public review of a discussion paper on *Enhanced Forest Productivity*, developed for the Provincial Forest Policy Committee, which includes proposals for implementation of intensive forest management (IFM) activities and use of pilot projects to test and refine IFM practices;
- recognizes the ongoing effort on several other Articles of the Accord, including consolidation and streamlining of the forest management guidelines by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Northern Boreal Initiative in the far north (roughly above the 51st parallel);
- recommends public consultations on this report, with particular emphasis on the proposed Room to Grow policy framework, the process for identifying new candidate sites, and enhanced forest productivity measures; and
- proposes an *Action Plan for Operationalizing Commitments of the Ontario Forest Accord*, including identification of work to be completed, who has lead responsibility, and how the Accord will continue to be implemented in day-to-day business.



We believe the time has come for the Board to bring this phase to a close. The Board has worked intensively for almost three years, meeting about every six weeks since mid-1999. Individual members have also attended a multitude of committee meetings, have kept stakeholder groups informed, and participated in public dialogues. It is time to become less hands-on. Board members would like to stay connected, however. Our suggestion would be to meet twice a year to continue monitoring implementation of the Accord, and more often, if required, to offer recommendations on forest-related issues that may be referred to us by the Minister.

Modelling a new culture of cooperation in a climate of mutual respect and understanding has been an important role for OFAAB. The members – from the Partnership for Public Lands (a joint effort of the World Wildlife Fund Canada, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and the Wildlands League), the forest industry, and MNR – have taken this role very seriously. We have worked hard to understand each other, find where our interests meet, and reach agreement. That, in our view, is the spirit of the Accord.

What must happen now is the embedding of that spirit in everyday business across the province. If this report meets with your approval, part of the operationalizing of the Accord will occur administratively as government guidelines, policies, procedures and regulations reflect the new reality.

There must also be a broader culture change, which will take time. It has started with people from MNR, the Partnership, and industry organizations who, under the direction of this Board, have devoted an enormous amount of time and effort working together on committees and task teams, developing ideas, writing drafts, crunching numbers, and testing new applications. Without their hard work and support, in the spirit of the Accord, OFAAB could not have reached the point where we feel that collaborative implementation has a momentum of its own. We want to thank them all.

We especially want to thank you, Minister, for your support. You have always conveyed confidence that no matter how difficult the issue, there could be a positive outcome – a win-win for the people of Ontario, for northern communities and jobs, for the forest industry, for the conservation movement, and for Ontario's natural heritage.

We appreciate and share your confidence.

Ontario Forest Accord Advisory Board



Tim Gray
Wildlands League
A chapter of the Canadian Parks and
Wilderness Society



Gail Beggs
Ministry of Natural Resources



Craig McManus
Domtar Inc.



L.R.L. (Ric) Symmes
Federation of Ontario Naturalists



M. L. Willick
Ministry of Natural Resources



Don Hopkins
Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada



Jim Lopez
Tembec Inc.



John Riley
Nature Conservancy of Canada



Peter Wallace
Ministry of Natural Resources

Table of Contents

Major Progress on Implementation	4
Background	5
Success of Mitigation	7
Enhanced Forest Productivity	8
“Room To Grow” Policy Framework	12
New Parks and Conservation Reserves	16
Identifying and Assessing Candidate Sites	17
Looking To the Future	20
Appendix A	
Action Plan for Operationalizing Commitments of the Ontario Forest Accord	22



The Ontario Forest Accord is a landmark in forest policy. Implementation of this agreement, signed in March 1999, involves breaking new ground – turning the Accord’s 31 commitments into the “new way in the woods”.

The task of guiding the collaborative implementation of the Accord was given to a tripartite body called the Ontario Forest Accord Advisory Board (OFAAB). The Minister of Natural Resources asked the signatories to the Accord to act as members of the Board. The Accord was signed by leaders from the conservation community, represented by the Partnership for Public Lands (a joint effort of the World Wildlife Fund Canada, the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, and the Wildlands League, a chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society), the forest industry, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).

OFAAB reports to the Minister. In March 2001, the Board provided an Interim Report on *The State of the Forest Accord* to the Minister. *Room to Grow* is the Board’s final report on implementation of the Accord. The Board is satisfied with progress on implementation. Much of it is complete or well underway. We have passed certain key implementation milestones, and moved the yardsticks on other longer-term issues. OFAAB can now report:

- agreement on a proposed “Room to Grow” policy framework that sets out how permanent increases in wood supplies will be shared between new parks and protected areas to complete ecological representation, and more wood for the forest industry to support jobs and growth;
- confirmation that mitigation measures introduced since the Accord was signed have offset overall, province-wide reductions in wood supply for industry caused by withdrawals from logging to create new parks and protected areas through Ontario’s Living Legacy in March, 1999;
- continuing progress on regulation of the Living Legacy parks and conservation reserves; 129 will be regulated by the end of March, with another 37 scheduled for regulation early in the new fiscal year, for a total of 166;

- agreement on a proposed methodology for identifying and assessing new candidate sites for completing the system of ecological representation in the Living Legacy planning area;
- supports public review of a discussion paper on *Enhanced Forest Productivity*, developed for the Provincial Forest Policy Committee, which includes proposals for implementation of intensive forest management (IFM) activities and use of pilot projects to test and refine IFM practices; and,
- ongoing effort on several other Articles of the Accord, including consolidation and streamlining of the forest management guidelines by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) and the Northern Boreal Initiative in the far north (roughly above the 51st parallel).

OFAAB recommends public consultations on this report, with particular emphasis on the proposed Room to Grow policy framework, process for identifying new candidate sites, and enhanced forest productivity measures.

To ensure that outstanding items of the Accord are addressed, this report proposes an *Action Plan for Operationalizing Commitments of the Ontario Forest Accord*, including identification of work to be completed, who has lead responsibility, and how the Accord will continue to be implemented in day-to-day business. The Action Plan is attached as Appendix A. To provide a short update, the relevant Articles of the Accord are referenced in each section of this report, and key next steps are indicated.

“Having participated in pitched battles for over 30 years, I never thought the forest industry, government and the conservation community would actually collaborate to solve problems. But we have begun to do this through the Ontario Forest Accord Advisory Board.”

Monte Hummel
President, World Wildlife Fund Canada

The Ontario Forest Accord is the cornerstone of Ontario's Living Legacy, which is the provincial land use strategy for the public lands and waters in the central and northern areas of the province, roughly below the 51st parallel. Ontario's Living Legacy provides strategic direction for the long-term health of the natural resources in this huge area, which extends over 39 million hectares (96 million acres) and covers 45 per cent of the province.

The planning area was the subject of a major public consultation process, called Lands for Life, launched in 1997 by the Ministry of Natural Resources and aimed at:

- completing Ontario's system of parks and protected areas;
- recognizing the land use needs of the resource-based tourism industry;
- providing forest, mining and other resource industries with greater land and resource use certainty; and,
- enhancing angling, hunting and other Crown land recreation opportunities.

The negotiations that led to the Forest Accord were launched to build on the work done through the Lands for Life process. The Premier of Ontario challenged the parties to reach a goal of protecting 12 per cent of Crown land in the Lands for Life area.

The Accord includes commitments to:

- expand the system of parks and protected areas to encompass 12 per cent of the planning area – an addition of 378 new parks and conservation reserves totalling 2.4 million hectares;
- protect the economic viability of the forest industry by ensuring that expansion of the parks system does not reduce the long-term supply of wood fibre necessary for processing or the net cost of delivery to the mills;
- develop a process for sharing permanent increases in wood supply between additional protected areas to fill significant gaps in representation of ecological diversity and increased supply for industry.

Through the Accord, the parties recognize the need for balance among competing interests. The Accord provides a cooperative framework within which the forest industry, the conservation community, and the government can work together.

Before the Accord was reached, most people doubted it was possible to set aside 2.4 million hectares for parks and conservation reserves in central and northern Ontario without damaging the forest industry. The Accord showed not only that it could be done, but how it could be done – by creating common ground for the forest industry, the conservation community and the government to work out their differences.

The Accord linked the expansion of parks and protected areas to the protection of wood supply for industry. That meant that groups that had traditionally faced off against each other in the so-called “war in the woods” would now aim for a shared goal – room to grow for parks to protect Ontario's ecological integrity, and room to grow for industry to protect jobs and forestry's contribution to the provincial economy.

One of the Accord's commitments was creation of the Ontario Forest Accord Advisory Board. The Board was given the following tasks in the Accord:

- help implement the recommendations and joint commitments made in the Accord, and develop and recommend further mitigation and transition strategies if required;
- monitor the achievement of ecological representation and parks targets, and develop procedures for achieving industry/conservation group/ government resolution of shortfalls;
- help resolve disputes that arise related to the matters listed above, and other related matters referred to the Board by the Minister; and,
- develop methods to update and amend this Accord to ensure that it remains current and can be responsive to future needs and emerging issues.

The Accord also made OFAAB responsible for developing a strategy for additions to the parks and protected areas system through a jointly acceptable process.

There is equal representation (three members each) on the Board from the three parties that signed the Accord: the forest industry, the Partnership for Public Lands, and the Ministry. The chair rotates between conservation and forest industry members. MNR provides a secretariat function to coordinate and support the work of the Board.

OFAAB has cooperated with two other advisory bodies to the Minister – the Provincial Forest Policy Committee and the Provincial Forest Technical Committee – which were already at work on major issues of concern to the forestry community when the Accord was signed. These Committees were established in response to the Timber Class Environmental Assessment approval in 1994.

“Every once in a while there is a major breakthrough in natural resources management in Canada. Ontario, after a long process of consultation, has achieved such a breakthrough with the Ontario Forest Accord. It sets the bar a little higher for every one of us who is committed to sustainable forest management in this country.”

*Dr. Yvan Hardy
Assistant Deputy Minister,
Natural Resources Canada*

One of the key steps in development of the new policy framework has been evaluation of the wood supply to industry, including determination of the benefit derived from mitigation measures to offset loss of supply from the major expansion of parks and protected areas through Ontario's Living Legacy in March, 1999.

In 2001, we said that mitigation measures were “beginning to work” to offset lost industrial supply. Today, we can confirm that mitigation measures introduced since the Accord was signed have offset overall, province-wide reductions in wood supply for industry caused by creation of the Living Legacy parks and protected areas.

Mitigation measures specifically identified in the Accord have contributed to success in offsetting the reductions in industrial wood supply. One such measure involved more effective harvesting of small-diameter wood or “tops”. Other measures have included improved growth and yield information and improved utilization, including:

- salvage cuts in low volume and low quality stands and improvement cuts in degraded hardwood stands that are not being harvested;
- pre-commercial and commercial thinning;
- salvage of timber damaged or killed by fire, insects, disease or blowdown.

We are satisfied that mitigation to offset lost industrial supply caused by the 1999 Living Legacy parks and protected areas is complete, but that does not mean that we should stop trying to grow the wood supply through such measures as improved utilization. Our experience with these measures leads us to think that there is more that can be done to increase the wood supply. Now our collective efforts can be directed to sound and sustainable measures to achieve this end.

Mitigation - Articles 8, 11, 12 and 26 concerning support for mitigation measures, increased utilization, wood measurement system (tops) and species substitution

Next Steps: annual MNR forest ledger report to assist in tracking wood supply

Lead Role: MNR, forest industry

“The premise of industry engagement in the Ontario Forest Accord is simple: that there be no net increase in delivered wood costs and no long-term reduction in wood supply as a result of new parks and protected areas. That the industry, the environmental community and the provincial government have demonstrated progress on implementation of many of the Accord items is a testament to the willingness of the three to work together for mutual benefit. To protect the legacy of the Accord, OFAAB or some like body should continue to focus on shared solutions.”

David G. Milton

Ontario Lumber Manufacturers' Association

The Provincial Forest Policy Committee was working on issues related to security of wood supply for industry when OFAAB was established. The Accord included several Articles related to long-term continuity and security of supply and supported the use of intensive forest management (IFM) to increase forest productivity in certain locations and under appropriate conditions.

The discussion paper entitled *Enhanced Forest Productivity*, from the Enhanced Forest Productivity Sub-Committee, has been reviewed by the Provincial Forest Policy Committee and by OFAAB. Both have agreed to posting the Sub-Committee's paper on the Environmental Bill of Rights Registry for public review and input.

The Minister of Natural Resources has endorsed the principles and recommendations in the discussion paper in principle and has agreed to the public posting.

The paper raises a number of relevant issues and suggests some solutions. It is mainly concerned with how to enhance forest productivity through applications of intensive forest management (IFM). The report defines IFM as “the systematic application of current practices that integrates the use of advanced planning, intensive silviculture, enhanced protection, and effects and effectiveness monitoring to increase the quantity, quality, and/or diversity of forest products.”

The discussion paper recommends intensive forest management be permitted on specific geographic areas within Sustainable Forest Licences (SFLs) on up to 12 per cent of the commercial forested land base. These areas would be designated as Enhanced Wood Supply Agreement (EWSA) areas.

A number of principles are proposed to govern how intensive forest management would be carried out, including that activities must be sustainable at the landscape, forest and site levels, and that incentives, rather than regulation, are to be used to encourage intensive forest management within designated areas.

EWSAs would use only those silviculture activities approved within the forest operations and silviculture manual in accordance with *the Crown Forest Sustainability Act*. Any new forestry practices not currently approved for use in Ontario would be subject to environmental review if they are contemplated for

use in EWSA areas. The report also calls for improved data on growth and yield, and a more rigorous system of monitoring.

Two pilot projects, one in the northeast and one in the northwest of the province, are proposed to develop, test, and refine EWSAs for evaluation by all forest stakeholders,

Supply and demand for industrial fibre in Ontario are now in approximate equilibrium. Ten years ago supply exceeded demand. Now the trend is going the other way, with a temporary reduction in future supply relative to existing demand projected for about a decade from now. Supply and demand depend on many factors and while age class structure presents some short-term challenges, the longer-term outlook for Ontario appears positive.

The discussion paper identifies intensive forest management – “properly planned, carefully implemented and rigorously monitored” – as potentially an important element in achieving the complementary objectives of growing more wood for industry and expanding the protected areas system.

The Executive Summary of the *Enhanced Forest Productivity* discussion paper is included next. The full text of the report will be available on-line or on request. See For More Information at the back of this report.

Enhanced Forest Productivity - Articles 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 22 concerning support for long-term security of wood fibre supply and investments, designated IFM areas, legislative changes, IFM incentives, recognition of IFM costs, benefits and impacts, and higher priority protection for IFM areas

Next Steps: Public review of report on Enhanced Forest Productivity, pilot projects on IFM, work on IFM incentives, protection of long-term wood supply in MNR policy directions

Lead Role: Provincial Forest Policy Committee

Executive Summary

Ontario's Living Legacy provides a blueprint for the establishment of a complete network of protected areas across the province, along with provisions for maintaining a productive forest and a vibrant forest industry. The Ontario Forest Accord, a product of Ontario's Living Legacy, commits the forest industry, the provincial government and the environmental community to working together to implement that blueprint.

The Ontario Forest Accord Advisory Board and the Provincial Forest Policy Committee established the Enhanced Forest Productivity Subcommittee to examine in detail the issues surrounding security of wood supply to the forest industry and the use of intensive forest management (IFM) to grow more wood. This report summarizes the work of the Subcommittee, and will serve as background information to the Provincial Forest Policy Committee in developing its final recommendations to the Minister of Natural Resources.

The objectives of this Subcommittee are:

- to examine the opportunities and evaluate the risks of IFM, both real and perceived;
- to identify incentives to enable the systematic implementation of IFM in a responsible, voluntary and informed manner using currently approved practices; and,
- to use data and information to accurately assess the effectiveness and impact of IFM.

The Subcommittee developed a number of recommendations to fulfill these objectives, as follows:

Recommendation 1: Amendments to legislated regulatory processes should be considered in order to clarify processes to be followed when land use changes are contemplated or proposed. Such proposed amendments, all of which will be subject to public consultation before implementation, are intended to entrench the spirit and intent of the Ontario Forest Accord into the regulatory framework.

Recommendation 2: Specific geographic areas within Sustainable Forest Licences encompassing up to 12 per cent of the provincial commercial forest land base should be available to be designated as Enhanced Wood Supply Agreement (EWSA) areas for the purposes of

enhancing forest productivity through IFM. Individual EWSAs, while based on a provincial template, must be flexible enough to reflect the strategic wood supply requirements of the specific forest management unit for which they are negotiated.

Recommendation 3: Forest Resource Licence holders and beneficiaries of Ministerial Directives must have the right to be members of Forest Management Planning Teams for the development of forest management plans across the province. Forest Resource Licence holders and beneficiaries of Ministerial directives must, in collaboration with the Sustainable Forest Licence holder, have the opportunity to develop and implement EWSAs on those forest management units on which they depend for their wood supply.

Recommendation 4: EWSAs, through their spatially explicit appendices, must respond to the strategic wood supply requirements of all participating proponents represented on the Forest Management Planning Team. The forest management plan process, through the Forest Management Planning Team, must identify win-win opportunities that will promote voluntary participation in EWSA development and implementation.

Recommendation 5: All the terms and conditions of an EWSA, including incentives, must conform to the requirements and obligations of the North America Free Trade Agreement.

Recommendation 6: The quality of growth and yield data needs to be improved to more accurately evaluate the effects of silvicultural treatments.

- i. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the forest industry should use EWSAs as tools to validate the accuracy and reliability of growth estimates for IFM on the larger management unit.
- ii. The Ministry of Natural Resources and the forest industry should expand current efforts to establish a rigorous system of growth and yield monitoring.

Recommendation 7: The implementation of IFM activities through EWSAs should be governed by the following set of principles, that will be presented to the Minister of Natural Resources for further consideration:

- IFM activities must be sustainable at the landscape, forest and site levels.

Enhanced Forest Productivity cont.

- IFM must be distributed across the landscape in a pattern that minimizes landscape biodiversity impacts when measured at the management unit level.
- Incentives, and not regulation, should cause IFM to be focused within EWSA areas.
- Monitoring of IFM activities on EWSA areas must be thorough and appropriately sensitive to allow meaningful inferences about effectiveness and ecological effects.
- EWSA areas are intended to increase volume and growth of high-quality wood and wood products and to facilitate the more intensive use of knowledge and silvicultural activities to improve, restore, and diversify the forest.
- EWSA areas are intended to be managed intensively. This requires intensive collection of data, the application of intensive silvicultural techniques, intensive protection measures (legal, biological, economic), and intensive monitoring over time.
- EWSA areas must be geographically explicit and should be selected on the basis of accepted criteria (e.g. productivity, site appropriateness for specified activities, proximity to mills, access, consideration of values, minimized user conflict, etc.).
- The beneficiaries of IFM on EWSA areas should share the costs and benefits of its implementation. Benefits can encompass an array of values beyond strictly wood production.
- The objectives and desired outcomes of IFM activities must be developed at the management unit level, and must reflect the requirements of all licensees on that unit.
- Specific objectives and outcomes developed at the management unit level must be consistent with provincially approved practices.

Recommendation 8: Existing forestry practices currently approved for use in Ontario should continue to be the tools of choice for IFM on EWSA areas, and should be carefully controlled and monitored to ensure proper and effective application. Any new practices contemplated for use on EWSA areas must first be subject to environmental and public review and approved within the Forest Operations and Silviculture

Manual in accordance with the Crown Forest Sustainability Act.

Recommendation 9: Two 2-year pilot projects, one in Northwestern Ontario and the second in Northeastern Ontario, should be implemented to develop, test, refine, and debug EWSAs on selected management units. These pilot projects will serve as transparent testing grounds to allow for scrutiny and evaluation by all forest stakeholders. The Enhanced Forest Productivity Subcommittee should serve as the steering committee for these pilots.

Recommendation 10: Incentives to encourage and accelerate the implementation of IFM on EWSA areas should be developed and evaluated. Once refined and accepted, these incentives should become part of the provincial framework within which local EWSAs are negotiated. The proposed incentives are:

- access for the proponents to any incremental increases in Available Harvest Area attributable to IFM activities on EWSAs. These increases will be shared between protected areas and industrial consumption;
- sharing of costs of EWSA implementation between the government and the proponent;
- enhanced protection of the investments made in IFM against fire, insects and disease; and,
- compensation for investments made by one proponent of an EWSA in the event of non-performance by another

Supply and demand for industrial fibre in the province of Ontario are currently – and temporarily – in approximate equilibrium. This current situation is different from what it was a decade ago, when supply exceeded demand, and is different from what is projected a decade from now, when demand will exceed supply.

The forest regulatory system must adapt to these changing circumstances if it is to provide an effective framework on which to evaluate and balance the needs of a growing array of forest uses. As demand for recreational, industrial and protected forests grows, the regulatory system must promote forest practices that seek to maximize the potential returns from the forest without compromising its natural function and diversity.

These diverse objectives – grow more wood, improve forest conditions, create more jobs, expand the protected areas system and preserve ecological integrity – are not incompatible, and are not mutually exclusive. The Ontario Forest Accord is an agreement that commits the forest industry, the environmental community, and the provincial government to finding ways to meet all these objectives.

An increase in the scale and intensity of IFM in the province is an important element in achieving these complementary objectives. Properly planned, carefully implemented, and rigorously monitored, IFM can become a significant and integral component of long term forest management strategies, without requiring any compromises to sustainability.

The signatories to the Ontario Forest Accord committed to working together to find ways to complete a representative system of parks and protected areas in Ontario, without reducing industrial wood supply. IFM and EWSAs provide some of the tools to fulfill that commitment.

"The Ontario Forest Accord has represented a new and unprecedented level of cooperation between industry, government, and the conservation community. All three parties cooperated on its development and continued to work together throughout 2001 to resolve the issues that surround its implementation. The Accord has concomitantly provided security to the forest industry while ensuring the protection of the province's natural heritage, and in doing so, has provided a solid future for the people of Ontario, particularly the over 200,000 people in more than 40 northern Ontario communities that rely on the forest industry for their livelihood."

Tim Millard
President and CEO
Ontario Forest Industries Association



“Room To Grow” Policy Framework

The Ontario Forest Accord committed the parties to developing a process for sharing permanent increases in wood supply between additional protected areas and increased forest supply. This has been one of the most difficult issues to work out.

In our Interim Report on *The State of the Forest Accord*, OFAAB reported agreement on a proposed sharing principle – the basis of a mechanism for sharing the forest resource into the future. At that time, OFAAB said: “We are confident there is going to be room for growth in new parkland, room for growth in wood supply for industry, room for growth in jobs for Ontarians.”

That confidence has not wavered. Over the past year, since the Interim Report, the Board has moved from principle to policy and strategies for implementation.

The proposed policy framework is intended to provide clarity to the public and the forest industry as to how the sharing of increased wood supplies will occur. The three objectives of the “Room to Grow” policy are:

- to define the gaps in the parks and protected areas system;
- to benchmark and secure the long-term supply of wood necessary for industrial processing; and,
- to share permanent increases in wood supplies between gaps in parks and protected areas (ecological representation) and current and future needs of the forest industry.

For each objective, there are proposed implementation strategies.

The document entitled *Proposed Room to Grow Policy Framework and Implementation Strategies* is included in full in the box that follows.

The “trigger” for the process of sharing increases in wood supply between mills and protected areas occurs when the long-term sustainable wood supply reaches the agreed-upon benchmark plus 10 per cent. The benchmark is the highest utilization of wood by industry in the five-year year period before March 31, 1999 for each of the major tree species groups. The 10 per cent is a safety margin to allow for the possibility of errors. The estimates of wood supply we are talking about cover millions and millions of hectares. The 10 per cent is there as a buffer against cutting more trees or withdrawing more land for protected areas before there is clearly a surplus.

The principles for sharing permanent increases in wood supply refer to assigning “more or less area” to fill gaps in ecological representation proportional to the extent to which representation is incomplete. This flexible formula was adopted because the need for new parks and protected areas varies considerably across the different regions of Ontario. The sharing will be done at the level of the forest management unit and woodshed (a woodshed being a Sustainable Forest Licence or group of neighbouring SFLs issued to a corporation).

Ontario made great strides in protecting an unprecedented proportion of the Ontario Living Legacy planning area in 1999. There are areas in the province where the protected areas system is almost complete. In an area like that, if there is increased wood supply, there might only be the need for a small piece added to an existing park to complete representation, for example.

On the other hand, there are areas in the province where the representation gaps are major, and where the conservation community will be looking for opportunities to fill those major gaps. At the same time, the impacts on industrial wood supply will be taken into account. It is important to remember that we are talking about conditions where there is a new supply of wood, not where long-term sustainable supply is below demand from existing mills.

Finally, the proposed policy framework makes clear that the intent is to find mutually beneficial solutions – in keeping with the spirit of the Accord.

If the Minister approves this policy framework, after public consultation, there should be a way to ensure it has permanence. The first step we anticipate is incorporation into MNR forest policy directions. In addition, other options may be feasible, such as including the framework in the Timber Class Environmental Assessment, the Forest Resources Assessment Policy, or a new MNR policy on Crown land allocation.

Room to Grow - Articles 3, 6, 7, 19, 25 concerning strategy for sharing increased productivity in wood supply between new protected areas and industrial use, compensation process for permanent infrastructure and processing assets, re-distribution of wood flows

Next Steps: Public review of proposed policy framework, eventual sharing mechanism to become part of MNR policy direction, consideration of other options to give the formula permanence

Lead Role: MNR

Proposed Framework for a Room To Grow Policy and Strategies for Implementation

The Ontario Forest Accord (OFA) marks an historic milestone by which representatives of the forest industry, the Partnership for Public Lands (Federation of Ontario Naturalists, CPAWS – Wildlands League and World Wildlife Fund), and the provincial government agreed to a series of commitments. The commitments included the creation of new parkland and the protection of wood supply necessary for industrial processing in a large area of Central and Northern Ontario. Analysis has confirmed that mitigation measures subsequently introduced by the Ontario government have offset overall wood supply reductions due to the creation of new parks and protected areas. Now our collective energies can be directed to maintaining and permanently increasing wood supply. This direction will support completing the gaps in the parks and protected areas system in a manner that provides clarity to the public and forest industry for sharing increased woods supplies between industrial use and protected areas establishment.

The **Room to Grow Policy** contains three objectives:

- to define the gaps in the parks and protected areas system;
- to benchmark and secure the long-term supply of wood necessary for industrial processing; and,
- to share permanent increases in wood supplies between gaps in parks and protected areas (ecological representation) and current and future needs of the forest industry.

Strategies associated with each of the policy objectives have been developed to provide direction and commitment to future progress.

All objectives and strategies outlined in this POLICY will be achieved without compromising ecological, social and economic principles as required by the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*.

POLICY OBJECTIVE #1:

To define the gaps in the parks and protected areas system.

Strategies:

1. Parks and protected areas identified and approved in the Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy will be regulated.
2. The remaining gaps have been identified and a process for filling these gaps has been developed.

POLICY OBJECTIVE #2:

To benchmark and secure the long term supply of wood necessary for industrial processing

Strategies:

1. The baseline for permanent long-term wood supply available to the forest industry will be defined as the maximum utilization from the five-year period preceding March 31, 1999 for each of the major species groups, by region (Table 1). Management unit contributions to regional utilization numbers will be determined. The benchmark wood supply information will reside in Regional Wood Supply Strategies.

MNR Administrative Region (000's m³/yr)

Species Group	NWR	NER	SCR
Spruce/Pine/Fir	8,600	8,207	111
White/Red Pine	78	355	349
Other Conifer	24	27	19
Poplar*	3,037	2,496	316
White Birch**	95	229	95
Tolerant Hardwoods	0	241	383
Total	11,834	11,555	1,273

Note: Numbers presented represent the maximum utilization by region and species group between the period 1994 and 1999. (source of data TREES)

* NWR poplar benchmark includes 775,000m³ of Crown commitments issued prior to March 1999.

** NWR birch benchmark also includes 50,000m³ of Crown commitments issued prior to March 1999.

2. The long-term wood supply necessary for processing to the forest industry will be protected from impacts resulting from any future protected area establishment.

- Any unilateral land withdrawal (related to parks and protected areas) that reduces supply (not including incremental gains from industry-funded Enhanced Forest Productivity (EFP) below baseline requires mitigation (i.e. restoration of the baseline) by the MNR.

Proposed Framework for a Room To Grow Policy and Strategies for Implementation cont.

- Under scenarios where supply is less than baseline at the time of the unilateral land withdrawals, the MNR will mitigate the supply line back to initial (i.e. pre-withdrawal) levels.
 - Consistent with one of the fundamental premises of the Accord, acceptable mitigation strategies will not compromise mill competitiveness.
 - In the event that a unilateral withdrawal does occur, MNR will implement a mitigation/compensation process consistent with Article 19 of the Accord.
 - Where unilateral land withdrawals, anywhere in a woodshed, make unavailable the benefits resulting from industrial investment in EFP, the MNR will implement a mitigation/compensation process consistent with Article 19 of the Accord.
3. Regional Wood Supply Strategies will document utilization information and specify any changes to wood supply estimates. Changes in wood supply may be due to:
- i) intensive Forest Management (IFM) that leads to permanent increases in wood supply. IFM is known as a suite of forest management practices which includes the use of advanced planning, intensive silviculture, enhanced protection and effects and effectiveness monitoring to increase the quantity, quality and/or diversity of forest products;
 - ii) improved growth and yield information or forest resources inventory;
 - iii) continued improved utilization (Accord #11), species substitution (Accord #26), redistribution (Accord #25), application of Accord Item #12 (TOPS) and the development of other measures not yet determined that may also contribute to increased supplies; and,
 - iv) changes in industry – In the event of a mill closure where wood supply reverts to the Crown, any new assignment of that wood supply will be directed through a business planning process that gives consideration to representation gaps in protected areas.

4. Changes in wood supply will be reported by region and major species group.

POLICY OBJECTIVE #3:

To share permanent increases in wood supplies between gaps in parks and protected areas (ecological representation) and current and future needs of the forest industry.

Strategies:

1. Wood volumes are to be shared between new industrial use and new protected areas when permanent increases in wood supply are greater than 10 per cent above the benchmark and a gap in protected areas representation exists.
2. Decisions about sharing increases in wood supply will be made at the forest management unit and/or woodshed level* and must reflect the requirements of all licencees and companies having ministerial directives on that unit. Room to grow opportunities that may not be readily achieved at the management unit level may be achievable by examining the larger woodshed level.
3. Any additional industrial expansion (e.g. additional saw lines, greenfield mill proposals etc.) that would result in additional harvesting will invoke the sharing mechanism for the purposes of "Room to Grow". However, wood supplies surplus to maintaining the long-term benchmark plus 10 per cent can be allocated to protected areas even if no industrial expansion occurs.
 - Rationalization of right wood to right mill (Accord Article #25) shall not be considered industrial expansion and where rationalization results in mill closures, subsequent capital investment in infrastructure designed to utilize the related fibre volumes shall not be considered industry expansion.
4. Progress towards the completion of gaps in parks and protected areas may be possible prior to permanent increases in wood supply, on a voluntary case-by-case basis, following analysis of requirements to fill the gaps and maintaining industrial needs.

* A woodshed is defined as a SFL or group of neighbouring SFLs issued to a corporation

Proposed Framework for a Room To Grow Policy and Strategies for Implementation cont.

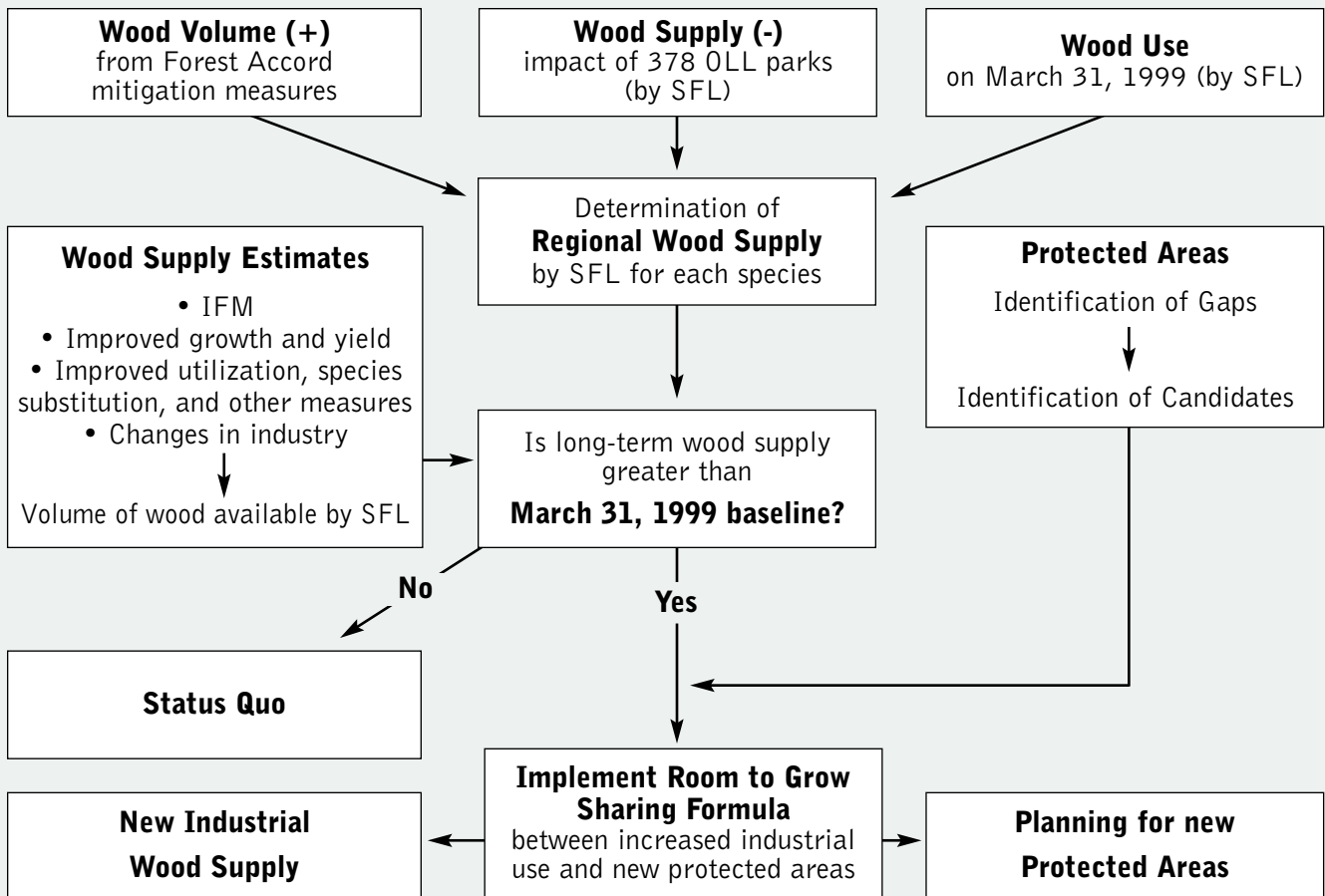
APPLYING THE SHARING PRINCIPLE

1. Sharing involves a process where more or less area will be assigned to fill a gap proportional to the extent to which representation is incomplete.
2. It will require:
 - i) the identification of candidate areas for representation and alternatives where possible, and
 - ii) an analysis of wood supply impacts to assess the degree to which increases in the permanent supply of wood support a sharing opportunity.
3. The sharing process will be open and transparent to address the needs and interests of other members of the public.

4. The trigger for the process of protected areas completion to begin is wood supply in surplus to the long-term benchmark plus 10 per cent.
5. The process will be undertaken at the management unit and woodshed level and be designed to seek mutually beneficial solutions within the spirit and intent of the Accord.

The diagram describes in a general way the approach to Room to Grow Analysis.

Generalized Room to Grow Analysis



OFAAB has been monitoring the regulation of the 378 new parks and protected areas that were announced as part of Ontario's Living Legacy. This was the largest single designation of parkland and conservation reserves in the province's history.

The sites all received interim protection, pending regulation, in 1999. The Accord excludes logging, mining and hydro-electric development from the new parks and protected areas, and calls for a regulatory context that provides permanence.

Regulating a park involves a lengthy process of confirming boundaries, checking land titles, consulting with Aboriginal communities and treaty organizations, consulting with the public, giving notice to industry, preparing Orders-in-Council to amend the regulations of several provincial Acts, and obtaining formal approval from the Ontario Cabinet.

As of early March, 2002, 97 new parks and conservation reserves had been regulated in the Living Legacy planning area. (In addition, six conservation reserves were regulated in the Temagami area, which is treated separately from Living Legacy but has significance for preservation of ecological representation.)

Another 32 parks and conservation reserves are scheduled to be regulated by the end of March this year, bringing the total to 129. A further 37 sites are expected to finish the process early in the new fiscal year, raising the number to 166 regulated parks and conservation reserves.

The expansion of protected areas that came out of the Ontario Forest Accord negotiations in 1999 was unprecedented. There is literally a lot of ground to cover to finalize the regulation of all 378 sites and there are many local issues to explore and resolve. It is going to take more time to complete regulation.

LINEAR PARKS

The Accord made specific reference to allowing a limited number of crossings over linear-shaped parks and protected areas created in the 1999 Living Legacy announcement to provide access to timber harvest areas that would otherwise be made unavailable. The Accord item was aimed at situations where the creation of a new protected area would landlock forest areas which would otherwise be economical to harvest.

Holders of Sustainable Forest Licences were asked to submit requests to MNR, with their rationale for why a crossing was needed. Requests for crossings were subject to a "challenge" process by the Partnership for Public Lands. Potential impacts on the natural values and features being protected by the park or conservation reserve were reviewed. Consideration was also given to what other access to the harvest area might be available nearby.

OFAAB recommends to the Minister that 23 protected areas have crossing proposals that meet the intent of Accord Article 20. Each proposal will be subject to further planning through the regular forest management planning process, and designed in accordance with the terms of the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

Protected Areas Program - Articles 1, 2, 4, 20, 21 concerning exclusion of logging, mining, hydro development from protected areas, interim protection pending regulation, public consultation on significant changes, linear parks, reinstating deferred areas

Next Steps: Ongoing regulation process, resolution of mining and First Nations issues

Lead Role: MNR

"I am impressed with the time, effort, and goodwill that the members of the Ontario Forest Accord Advisory Board have invested in the process of implementing the Accord. The board epitomizes the new, cooperative relationship in the forest. An enormous amount has been accomplished in working through details of some rather abstract Accord commitments, even though a few provisions have been very difficult to operationalize."

*Bob Carman
Member of the Provincial Forest Policy Committee*

The Accord recognized that even though protecting 12 per cent of the Living Legacy planning area was an enormous achievement, there were still gaps in ecological representation remaining. The Accord made OFAAB responsible for developing a strategy for identifying additions to the parks and protected areas system beyond the 12 per cent. This will ensure that Ontario's protected areas contain a complete representative sample of the full spectrum of its ecosystems and natural features for future generations.

A committee of OFAAB was formed, which in turn struck a Gap Analysis Working Group and a "Room to Grow" Task Group to carry out the detailed technical analysis and test applications required to develop a strategy.

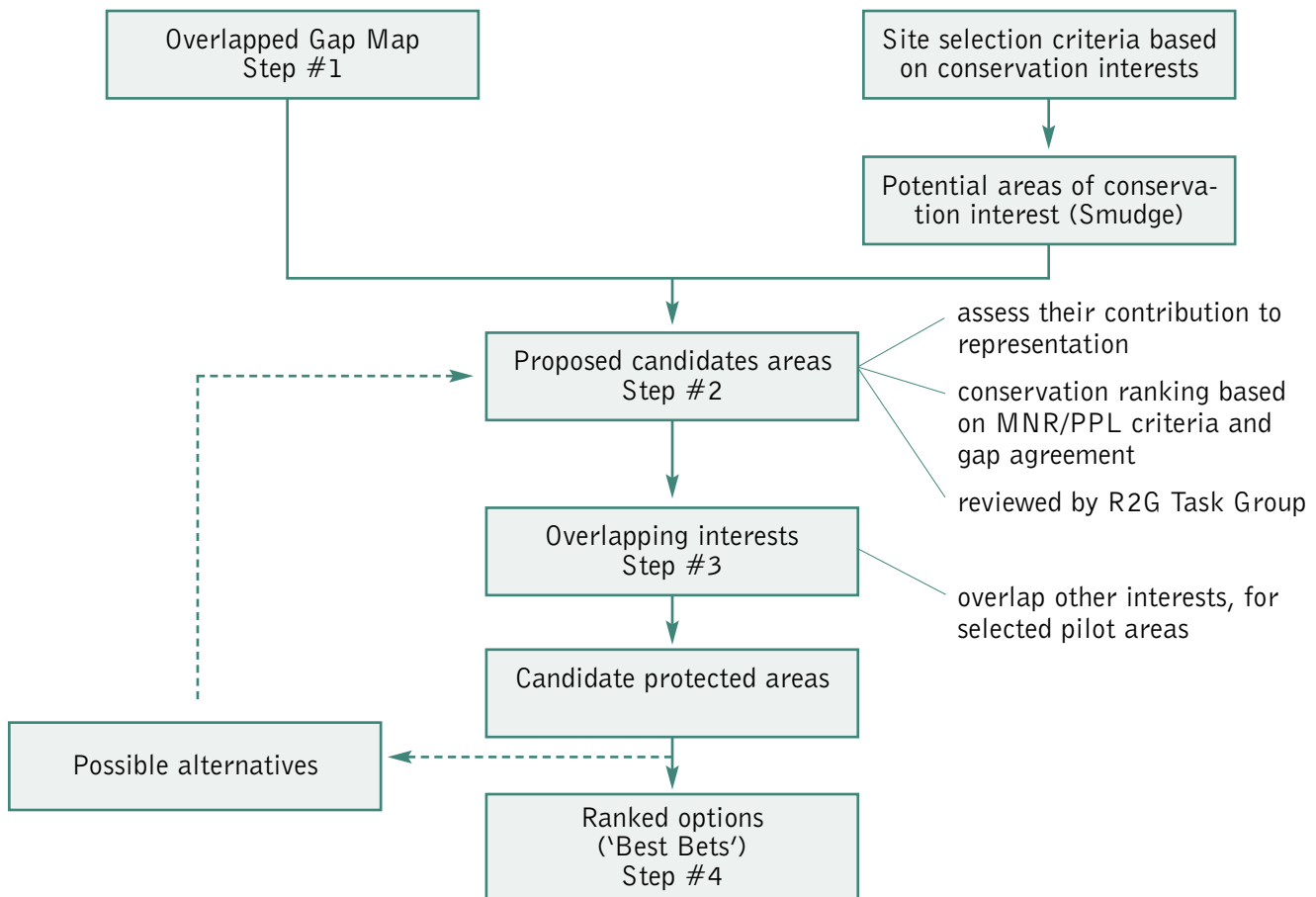
A methodology has been developed for identifying and assessing candidate sites. It has been accepted by OFAAB and is proposed for approval by the Minister. This process fits within the policy framework for "Room to Grow", which sets out the triggering

mechanism for sharing increases in wood supply with industrial uses. When there is "room to grow", this methodology is to be used to identify recommended priority sites for new parks and protected areas.

The methodology is designed to answer the following questions:

- Where are the gaps in representation and what ecological features need to be captured?
- What candidate sites and alternative sites are available to complete the gaps in ecological representation, where are they located, and how well do they do the job in completing representation?
- What are the implications of each of the candidates and alternatives to the forest industry, mineral industry and water power industry? In addition, what is the government's ability to regulate the site, given the existing commitments and land tenure?

The methodology involves a series of progressive steps which are shown in the diagram. A pilot study has been initiated to test the methodology.



Step 1: Identifying the gaps in ecological representation (Overlapped Gap Map)

The Ministry of Natural Resources has its own gap analysis approach, and so does the Partnership for Public Lands, which uses that of the World Wildlife Fund Canada. MNR's gap analysis identifies specific locations and the minimum area needed to achieve representation. This analysis produces building blocks of potential candidate sites. The Partnership's gap analysis uses enduring features as the geographic unit within which representation is assessed. Using this analysis, potential candidate sites can be selected from within these natural features.

MNR and the Partnership have worked together to reconcile the two approaches. Although the data and scale they use are different, both have similar criteria to design, develop and select candidates to achieve representation. Overlaying the results of the two types of gap analysis on maps of the Living Legacy planning area, they found substantial agreement in the geographical distribution of significant gaps in representation.

Step 2: Developing and assessing draft potential candidate sites (Proposed Candidate Areas)

MNR and the Partnership will apply their criteria within the gap locations to generate a number of draft potential sites with options. The goal is to produce a consolidated set of draft potential candidate sites that satisfy the interests of both parties. Each candidate site is to be documented and given a preliminary score according to its relative attractiveness for conservation purposes and the level of agreement between MNR and the Partnership.

The representation status of an area will be identified i.e. from few gaps to major gaps. A Conservation Values Analysis will be conducted, based primarily on important habitats and special features data. A conservation interest map will identify areas of greatest overlap or concentrations of features. At this stage, the candidate boundaries can be designed using the results from the gap map, the conservation interest map, and conservation principles.

Each site will get a comprehensive score. The candidates will be assessed based on the gap analysis of MNR and the Partnership for Public Lands to ensure that these draft sites do indeed contribute to completing representation. The draft potential candidates will be subjected to a field verification process to confirm the presence of the values sought for representation.

Step 3: Assessing the Implications of Potential Candidate Sites (Overlapping Interests)

This portion of the process is to be tested on a pilot site. The potential candidates sites will be assessed to understand implications for:

- the forest industry and long-term wood supply – in keeping with the principles of the Accord, and including such factors as effect on allowable cut, short-term wood supply impact, wood cost effect and relative attractiveness for Intensive Forest Management;
- mineral exploration and development – the proposal is to use the Provincially Significant Mineral Potential evaluation method called for in Ontario's Living Legacy;
- water power development – generation facilities, transmission corridors, headponds and reservoirs; MNR is currently completing an assessment methodology for the review of potential sites, to be completed in spring, 2002, and the waterpower industry has been asked for its assessment of most probable sites for development within the next ten years; and,
- factors affecting government's ability to regulate the site as a protected area – given the nature of existing commitments, such as licences and leases.

The process recognizes Aboriginal and Treaty rights.

For certain candidates, where there are obvious insurmountable overlapping interests and there are feasible alternatives, boundaries may be modified.

Step 4: Determining the Best Bets (Ranked Options)

This step involves combining the results of Steps 2 and 3.

Further details are contained in a report called *Methodology for Identifying and Assessing Candidate Sites for Completing the System of Representation in the Ontario Living Legacy Planning Area*. December, 2001. This report will be available on-line or on request. See For More Information at the back of this report.

Identifying Candidate Sites - Article 3 concerning expanding protected areas system beyond 12 per cent through jointly acceptable processes

Next Steps: Public review, pilot testing, application of process

Lead Role: MNR,

“I think what the Ontario Forest Accord Advisory Board has been able to accomplish on implementation of the Accord is absolutely outstanding. It’s a real tribute to the ability of the Board members and the organizations they represent to work together in common cause.”

*Ron Vrancart
Retired Deputy Minister,
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources*



There are a number of longer-term Accord issues. The Board's concern is to ensure that they are monitored and that there is a forum in which to deal with any problems that may emerge, in the collaborative spirit of the Accord.

These are issues like the consolidation and streamlining of MNR's forest management guidelines. The Provincial Forest Technical Committee is leading this process. As we explained in our Interim Report, a report from independent consultants has been accepted, and 34 separate guidelines are being consolidated into six, with an introductory guidebook to explain how the series is organized. The new guides will be phased in through 2003. A preliminary edition of the introductory book will be available in the spring of 2002.

The Provincial Forest Policy Committee has the lead on enhancing forest productivity. If the pilot projects in IFM go ahead, as proposed, the Committee will serve as the steering committee.

In addition, the Accord must be embedded in a host of government guidelines, policies, procedures and regulations. If this report is accepted by the Minister, the "Room to Grow" policy framework and candidate site identification and assessment process will become part of regular practice in the woods.

To identify where follow-up is required on certain Articles of the Accord, an *Action Plan for Operationalizing Commitments of the Ontario Forest Accord* has been prepared and is attached to this report. It identifies actions required or mechanisms to be used, such as incorporating a new principle into a policy document or monitoring a pilot project or tracking mitigation measures. The Timetable indicates who has lead responsibility so that stakeholders know where to turn if they have questions or concerns. It documents progress to date and timelines to completion.

No one expects to be able to freeze the forest agenda. Change is the norm, as in most aspects of life. But the implementation of the Accord, we believe, has created greater clarity around a number of key processes, particularly on "Room to Grow". That greater clarity, in turn, should reduce uncertainty for industry and conservation groups and raise the level of mutual trust. The spirit and intent of the Accord must be internalized in the way that government, industry and conservation

groups relate to each other on the ground, all across this province.

This Board is confident that sufficient progress has been made on the collaborative implementation of the Accord that it is no longer necessary to continue in the hands-on mode in which we have worked to date. The Board has been meeting about every six weeks since it was established in mid-1999. However, we want to ensure that there is some place where the industry and government and the conservation community can come together to work on problems cooperatively. The Board is proposing to the Minister of Natural Resources that the members of OFAAB continue to meet on a less formal basis, perhaps twice a year, to monitor the Accord. Members could also meet more frequently to consider other forest-related issues at the request of the Minister.

We see challenges ahead that should be addressed through a constructive and collaborative approach. One is the interest from First Nations in commercial forestry potential north of the 51st parallel, beyond the Living Legacy planning area. MNR is currently working with several First Nations under what is called the Northern Boreal Initiative. The preparation of land use direction and new environmental assessment coverage for forestry in the north will be significant tasks. A new approach called community-based Land Use Planning is currently being developed. The First Nation communities will lead planning, with MNR's support and assistance. The Partnership for Public Lands is involved in early discussions of protected area needs. Industry, conservation groups and the broader public will be invited to participate.

Among several of the remaining parks and protected areas created in March, 1999, there are issues involving Aboriginal land claims and withdrawals under the *Mining Act*. The Timber Class Environmental Assessment has to be renewed. There are international trade disputes affecting the forest industry that are still unresolved.

One of the positive outcomes of the Accord is the increased emphasis on scientific partnerships. We expect to learn from these scientific investigations and pilot projects about preserving the ecological integrity of Ontario's forests, while increasing wood supply. It is hoped that what we learn will change forest management for the better.

It is crucial in this dynamic environment that the new, positive relationship among the parties – the relationship that made the Accord possible and made OFAAB work – continues. Maintaining a forum for cooperative dialogue at the provincial level should send a signal that the Accord was not a temporary diversion from normal antagonistic relations among the parties. Rather, it represented a real change in direction, a commitment to finding shared solutions that will endure.

Other Accord Items - Articles 5, 18, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, concerning forest science, future planning, guidelines review, forestry in the far north and other matters

Next Steps: continue monitoring implementation, build new science partnerships, complete new guidelines, proceed with Northern Boreal Initiative

Lead Role: MNR, Provincial Forest Technical Committee, Living Legacy Trust

“For the first time, the forest industry, government and non-government organizations have put aside their differences and worked together for the common interest. The benefits to the forest industry and the public have been extraordinary, so much so that Ontario serves as a model for other jurisdictions on how to deal with resource issues.”

*Marvi Ricker
Board Member, Living Legacy Trust
Former Executive Director,
Richard Ivey Foundation*

For More Information

This report compresses and simplifies a great deal of important technical detail for a general readership. For stakeholders and others who are interested in more depth and detail, please visit our website at www.mnr.gov.on.ca/mnr/oll/ofaab

This report also refers to documents to be released for public review, including:

Methodology for Identifying and Assessing Candidate Sites for Completing the System of Representation in the Ontario Living Legacy Planning Area, December, 2001

Enhanced Forest Productivity, a discussion paper prepared for the Ministry of Natural Resources Provincial Forest Policy Committee, February, 2002

Information on parks regulation and other environmental matters is posted on the Environmental Registry on the Environmental Bill of Rights website at www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/ebr.

There is information on the Ontario Living Legacy website at www.ontarioslivinglegacy.com. It includes background on the Living Legacy, and on the government funding announced to expand this land use strategy into the most comprehensive natural heritage program in provincial history.

For those who are not on-line and who wish more information, please contact:

Land Use Coordination Section
Policy and Planning Coordination Branch
Ministry of Natural Resources
300 Water Street
Peterborough, Ontario
Canada K9J 8M5

Telephone: (705) 755-2560
Fax: (705) 755-1971

Appendix A

Action Plan for Operationalizing Commitments of the Ontario Forest Accord

This Action Plan has been organized according to major directions set by the Accord. Individual Accord Articles are referenced in each section.

Accord Commitments	Progress to Date	Required Action/Mechanism	Lead Role and Timelines
Room to Grow			MNR
#3 support increase to the protected areas system through jointly acceptable processes (See also New Candidate Site Selection) #6 strategy for additions to the protected areas system and sharing benefits of increased productivity	<i>Proposed Framework for Room to Grow Policy and Strategies for Implementation</i> has been completed. A baseline report summarizing supply and utilization is also completed. Substantial progress has been made on regional wood supply strategies.	Operationalize the Room to Grow policy, when approved, through new MNR forest policy direction. Other mechanisms to be considered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class EA for Crown Forests • Revised Forest Resource Assessment Policy, New general MNR policy on Crown land allocation	Incorporation in MNR policy directions - Fall, 2002
#7 process for sharing permanent increases in wood supply	as above		
#19 compensation process for permanent infrastructure and processing assets		Wood supply will be documented in Regional Wood Supply Strategies. Guidelines for analyzing wood supply will be maintained by MNR's Forest Division.	
Enhanced Forest Productivity			MNR, Provincial Forest Policy Committee
#9 support concept of long-term continuity and security of wood fibre supply and investments	Sub-committee report on Enhanced Forest Productivity prepared for the Provincial Forest Policy Committee has been completed for public review.	Pilot projects to be conducted in the Northwest and Northeast on intensive forest management.	Public review of report - 2002

#10 no negative effect to long-term delivered wood costs and volumes	as above		
#13 establish incentives for intensive forest management (IFM)		MNR to continue work on identifying potential incentives for report to the Minister	Pilot projects to begin in 2002
#14 designated IFM areas (EWSAs)	as above		
#15 make best efforts to modify Timber EA and CFSA to allow for IFM	as above		
#16 provide for IFM within diversity text in CFSA	as above		
#17 higher priority to forest protection measures for IFM areas	MNR has developed a Business Case Model Framework for IFM to assess costs, benefits and impacts		Model to be field tested
#22 recognize IFM costs, benefits, impacts			Transfer strategy to be developed to enable implementation 2003
Mitigation			MNR, Forest Industry
#8 support mitigation measures	OFAAB reports mitigation measures have offset overall wood supply reductions from new Living Legacy parks and protected areas in March, 1999.		MNR will develop and maintain a ledger to assist in monitoring and reporting quantifiable measures.
#11 implement measures directed at improving utilization of Crown timber	Utilization report is complete. Three best bets were acted upon. MNR developed procedures to facilitate implementation of salvage, thinning, and low volumes.	Refining procedures on accessing low volume stands. Three additional items from utilization report to be considered further.	March 2003
#12 wood measurement system - tops	Scaling manual has been changed. MNR is monitoring tops and reporting on percentages.		
#26 species substitution	Species substitution can be done through existing MNR mechanisms		

Action Plan for Operationalizing Commitments of the Ontario Forest Accord cont.

Protected Areas Program			MNR, Partnership for Public Lands
#1 exclude logging, mining, hydro from parks and protected areas, with a regulatory context that provides permanence	Policy direction excludes industrial activities. Ongoing regulation process for parks and protected areas designated in 1999 - 97 to date, with an additional 68 sites anticipated in spring of 2002	Address challenges associated with mining interests and expedite First Nations consultation concerns.	Completion of regulation: 2004
#2 provide interim protecting pending regulation	Interim protection to all 378 sites has been applied		
#4 public consultation on significant changes	Ministry policy direction		
#20 linear parks	OFAAB has identified a limited number of crossings in 23 protected areas that meet the intent of #20	Minister to consider Board's advice. Approved crossings will be subject to additional planning and environmental review	
#21 reinstating deferred areas	Regional direction to proceed with reinstatement has been given		
New Candidate Site Selection			MNR, Partnership for Public Lands
#3 support increase to the protected area system through jointly acceptable processes	This is also part of Room to Grow implementation. A report has been completed on Methodology for Identifying and Assessing Candidate Sites for Completing the System of Representation in the Ontario Living Legacy Planning Area, Dec. 2001	The report will be reviewed and the methodology will be pilot tested.	Pilot projects – 2002

Other Items			MNR, Forest Industry, PPL, Provincial Forest Technical Committee
#5 Forest Science partnerships	Science & Information Council has been formed. Forest Research Partnership (Forest Industry, MNR, Natural Resources Canada) is established and testing a range of IFM practices.	Continue to develop and foster relationships	ongoing
#18 Forest unavailable for harvest	Ontario's Living Legacy pamphlet/poster produced and distributed		
#23 support certification	ongoing discussions with certification groups	continue dialogue	ongoing
#24 orderly development in the far north	Northern Boreal Initiative is underway. Public consultation on approach to land use planning; developing partnerships with First Nations EBR postings - July, 2000, July 2001 A Land Use Planning Approach, Concept Document, July 2001	First Nations-led community planning process Industry, conservation groups and the public to participate in the planning process	2-3 years for land use direction, including protected areas Future forestry operations to be determined
#27 review of the forest management guidelines	Consultant report completed May 2000 MNR implementation strategy is underway	Complete streamlining and consolidation	Preliminary edition of introductory book: spring 2002 Consolidate six books by fall, 2004
#28 review land classified as not sufficiently regenerated (NSR)	Survey of NSR lands in each District	Forest managers to assess NSR lands and incorporate results into Forest Management Plans on an ongoing basis	ongoing
#29 resource stewardship agreements - compensation for lost volume and increased cost	Issues addressed as they arise	Continue to promote these agreements as a means of resolving business concerns	ongoing
#30 involve industry in future planning	Involvement through Forest Solutions Forum	Continue working with industry	ongoing
#31 meet with Ministers in other ministries	MNR engages other ministries on forest industry and resource management	Continue working with other ministries	ongoing