

**Ontario Forest Industries Association
Guiding Principles and Code of Forest Practices**

VISION

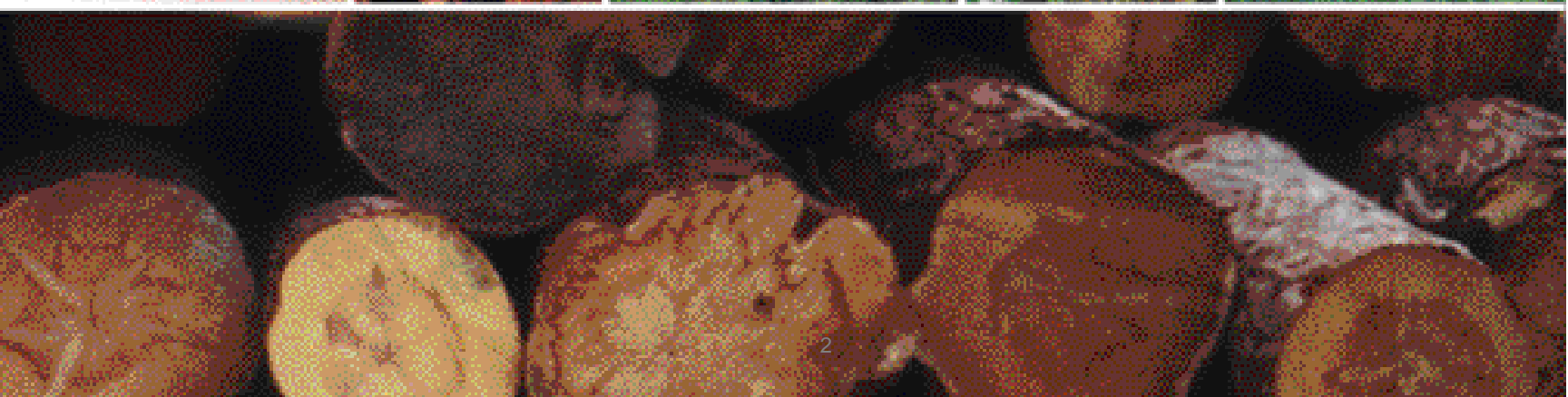
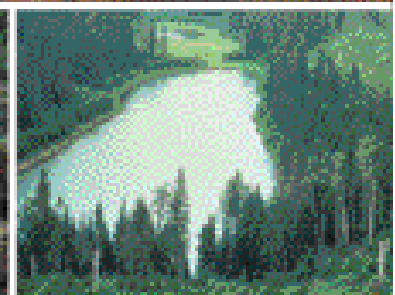
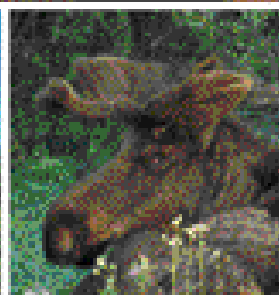
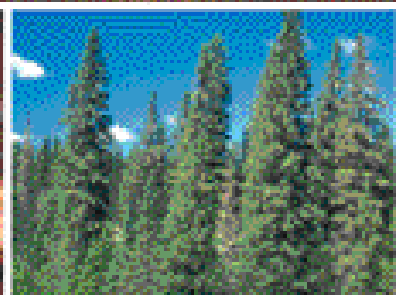
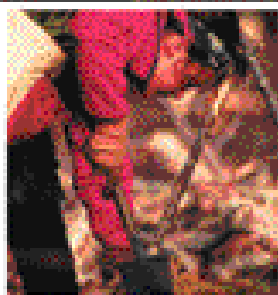
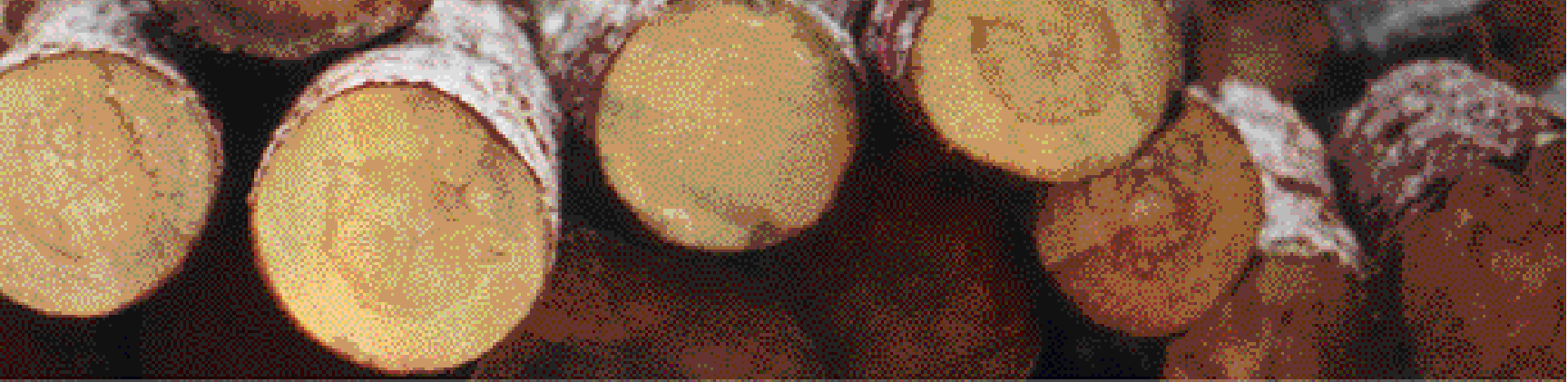
Our Future Forests: A Vision

Members of the Ontario Forest Industries Association envision a future in which recognition of the inherent value of a healthy forest environment is foremost and in that context, a variety of human needs are met.



CONTENTS

Page 3	President's Message
Page 4	The OFIA
Page 4	The Forest Industry
Page 5	An Overview
Page 6	Statement of Purpose
Page 7	History
Page 8	Forest Regions of Ontario
Page 10	Guiding Principles
Page 12	Code of Forest Practices
Page 18	Chart: Principle / Code Links
Page 19	Acknowledgements
Page 20	Glossary of Terms



President's Message

Over the past decade, the OFIA Code of Forest Practices has been a driving force behind progressive forest management, and widely recognized as a leading edge document. By adopting the Code and its components, members of the OFIA have set new standards in the field of forestry.

In 2001, the Association initiated its second review of the Code to reflect recent advancements in science and to ensure that it captures the evolving suite of forest values. As with the initial development of the Code in 1992, this review involved the participation of individuals with a broad range of interests, experience and expertise — including industry representatives and other professional foresters, members of the academic, environmental, labour and First Nations communities, and representatives from municipal and provincial governments. This review represents the commitment of member companies to the sustainable management of Ontario's forests — and I would like to thank everyone who participated.

While the Code of Forest Practices remains an effective way to “raise the bar” with regard to forest management, it does not replace independent evaluation through legally required third party audits. It serves instead as a complement. Indeed, our industry welcomes the public review of our practices as an opportunity to demonstrate our high level of performance.

On behalf of the members of the OFIA, I am pleased to present you with the third and most recent version of our Code of Forest Practices. I hope you find it useful, insightful and informative.



Tim Millard
President
Ontario Forest Industries Association

December 17, 2002

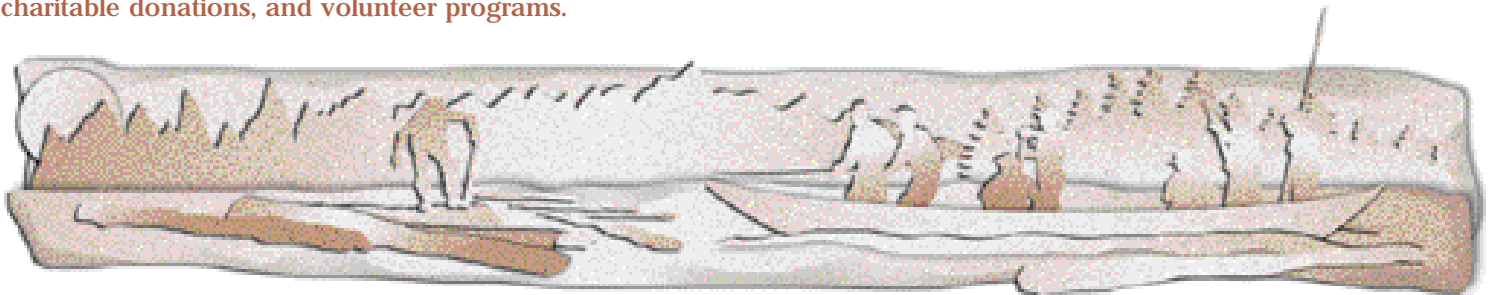
The Ontario Forest Industries Association

The Ontario Forest Industries Association (OFIA) is a provincial trade association representing companies engaged in forest management in Ontario, as well as those that manufacture pulp, paper, paperboard, lumber, panelboard, plywood, veneer and utility poles.

OFIA is the unified voice of its members, working to ensure that industry positions are recognized and considered by government; to build awareness and understanding of the forest industry and its positions with the public; and to demonstrate the responsiveness of its members to environmental, social and economic concerns.

The Forest Industry – Part of Ontario's Heritage

For almost two centuries, the forest industry has played an integral role in the economic development and social well-being of Ontario. Today, with more than 88,000 direct employees, 176,000 indirect employees, and a balance of trade second only to the automotive industry, the forest industry remains a significant economic force. It is also proud of its social contributions to the many communities in which it resides, through education and training, corporate scholarships, charitable donations, and volunteer programs.



Guiding Principles and Code of Forest Practices – An Overview

Ontario's forests encompass a diverse range of cultural, ecological, economic and social values. In recognition of these values, and in order to ensure their long-term sustainability, this Code of Forest Practices has been created to assist members of the OFIA in all aspects of forest management. It was designed to be consistent with and complementary to the existing forestry laws, policies and regulations set out by the government of Ontario.

Through the application of this Code, members hope to demonstrate leadership through their forest management practices, and provide an incentive for other segments of the forest community to work in partnership to maintain the many values of Ontario's forest environment.

As a condition of membership in the OFIA, member companies have committed to comply with this Code by applying its elements across their forest operations.



Guiding Principles and Code of Forest Practices – Statement of Purpose

Members of the OFIA are committed to the rigorous application of the following Guiding Principles and Code of Forest Practices, which serve to foster and sustain a healthy forest environment in the province of Ontario.

The Principles and Code have been developed to:

- instill employee pride and public confidence in the ability of member companies to conduct their forestry activities within prevailing economic, social and environmental conditions;
- foster the communications and partnerships necessary to increase awareness and understanding of the forest industry and forest management activities;
- ensure that responsible decisions are made now and in the future — based on the very best knowledge and experience and the application of sound science — which result in a healthy and sustainable forest environment;
- assist member companies in their efforts to ensure that their forest management practices are consistent with accepted sustainable forest management standards; and
- utilize knowledge gained through experience to continually improve forest management performance and the condition of the forest.

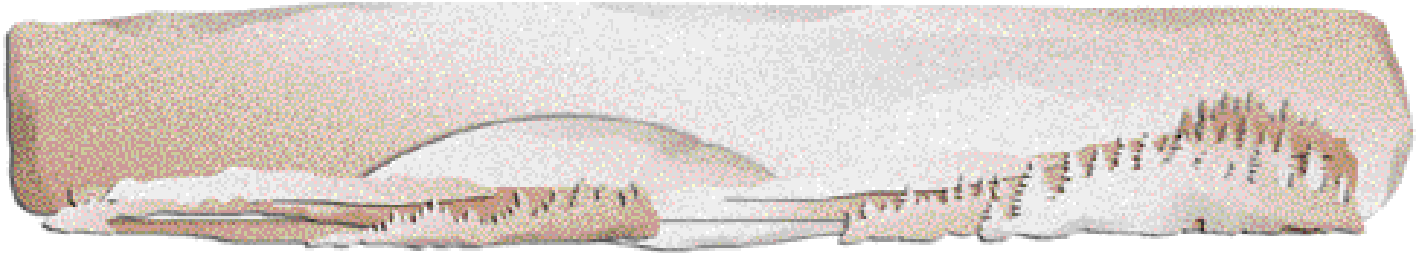


Guiding Principles and Code of Forest Practices – History

The OFIA Code of Forest Practices was first created in 1992 by a task force comprised not only of industry, but members of the academic, environmental, labour and First Nations communities. It was developed as a result of several events, most notably the release of the Canada Forest Accord. When the OFIA signed the Accord, its member companies committed themselves to adopting self-regulating codes of forest practices. In addition, the Association was actively involved in the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy's Forest Round Table, through which members agreed to the "development, application and reporting of user codes of practice covering all activities in the forest."

Five years after its initial release, the OFIA conducted a review of the Code to reflect advances in the art and science of forest management, and to accommodate changing environmental, social and ecological needs and values. The second edition was approved by the Board of Directors on December 4, 1997.

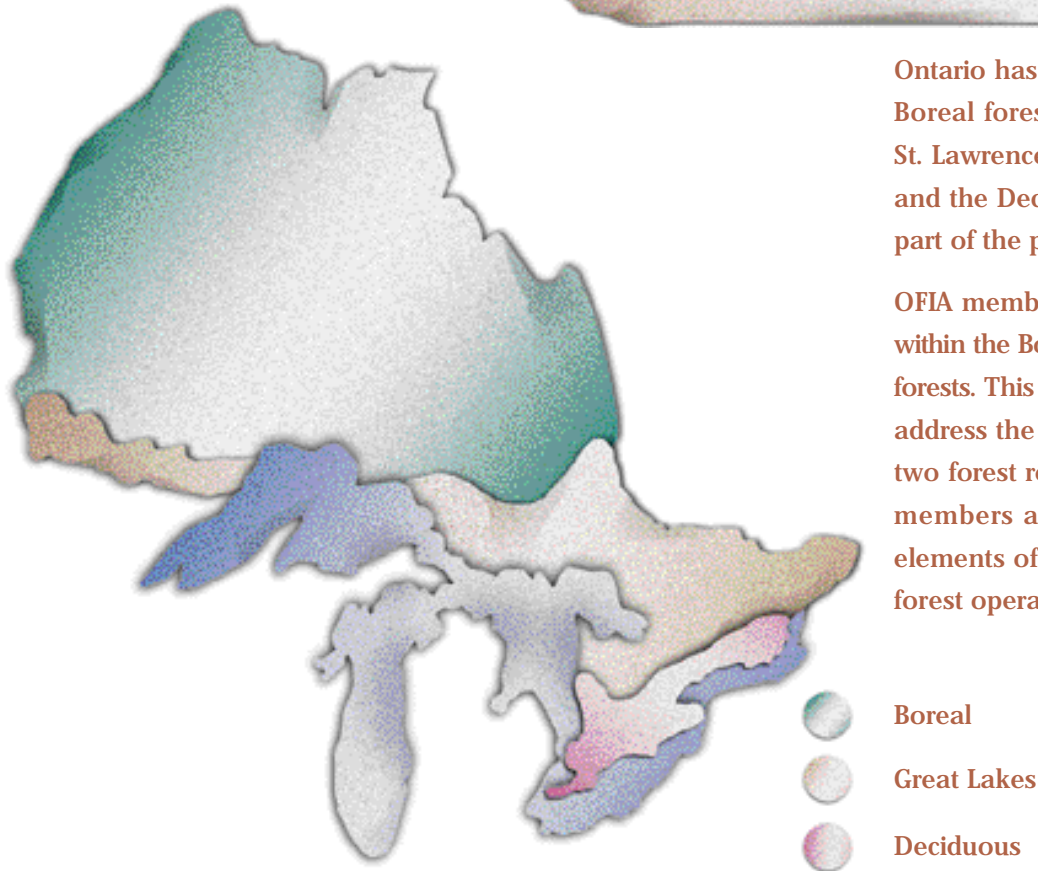
In the fall of 2001, the Association embarked on its second review of the Code of Forest Practices, obtaining input from members as well as an external review committee representing a broad range of forest values. The current version of the Code was approved on December 17, 2002.



The Three Forest Regions of Ontario

Ontario has three distinct forest regions: the Boreal forest to the north, the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence forest in south-central Ontario, and the Deciduous forest in the southern-most part of the province.

OFIA member companies operate primarily within the Boreal and Great Lakes – St. Lawrence forests. This Code has been developed to address the unique challenges faced in these two forest regions. OFIA members and non-members alike will be able to adapt the elements of the Code to fit their particular forest operations.



The Boreal Forest

In the forests of northern Ontario, the number of tree species is significantly less than in the south. Species that grow in the north have adapted to a very rigorous climate, and have been subject to large and dramatic natural disturbances, particularly fire, over many thousands of years. Some, such as aspen and jack pine, are especially adept at regenerating shortly after fire. As these large areas regenerate, the resulting natural stand is frequently dominated by a single species and a single age class.

Harvesting operations in the Boreal forest are designed to be similar to the pattern created by natural disturbance and to account for biodiversity, wildlife habitat and other forest values. Forest renewal is accomplished naturally or through artificial regeneration techniques such as site preparation, planting and/or seeding.

The Great Lakes – St. Lawrence Forest

Central Ontario forests, by virtue of their climate and soil, are endowed with a multitude of tree species and a large variety of diverse natural ecosystems. This diversity results in a great number of species which can grow in stands of varying ages and mixtures. When trees are harvested from central Ontario forests, they are generally harvested individually or in small patches to accommodate the species' characteristics that have evolved over the centuries. Through these harvesting practices, openings are created in the overstory — or canopy — allowing seedlings to establish themselves and start another generation.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRUST

Public trust and accountability are realized through corporate openness, informed public participation in planning and publicly available reviews of forest management performance.

BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST

Forest management supports the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to provide a wide range of social, economic, and cultural benefits.

BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

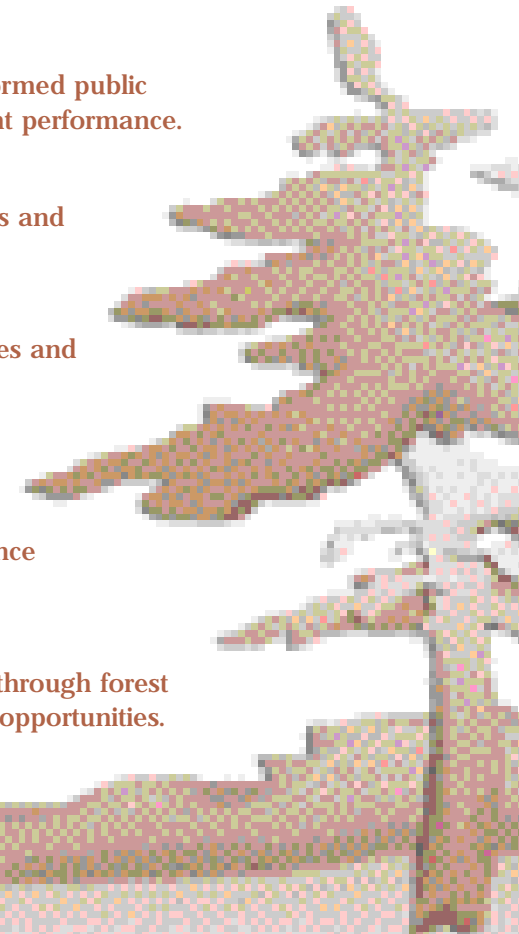
Forest management activities contribute to the maintenance of genetic, species and ecosystem diversity and enhance the health and natural productivity of the forest environment.

COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS

Awareness and understanding of the forest industry are improved by communicating industry achievements and challenges, as well as its importance to the economy, society and communities.

COMMUNITIES AND WORKFORCE

Community health, workforce stability and the local economy are enhanced through forest company support of services and human resource policies that provide local opportunities.





COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS

Member companies respect and comply with all applicable laws, international treaties and agreements.

FIRST NATIONS AND ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

Aboriginal peoples are involved in forest management and benefit economically through partnerships, joint ventures, employment opportunities and new business relationships.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Human health and safety are paramount in all mill and woodlands operations and activities.

PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE

Excellence in forest management is achieved through knowledge, cooperative decision-making and finding creative solutions to complex problems.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESSIVE CHANGE

Research, development and adaptive management strategies lead to the continual improvement of sustainable forest management practices.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

Policies and practices maintain natural diversity and ecological function while providing social, economic and cultural opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations.

1 COMMITMENT *Member companies will:*

- 1.1 make available to the public statements of corporate vision and policy related to the maintenance of biodiversity and implementation of sustainable forest management.
- 1.2 promote responsible use of the forest's multiple resources to strengthen and diversify local communities while providing social, economic and cultural opportunities.
- 1.3 advocate sustainable forest management principles in the processes and public dialogues which establish objectives, policies, programs and guidelines for forest management and land use within Ontario.
- 1.4 support research programs, development strategies and forest science partnerships that lead to the continual improvement of forest management practices.
- 1.5 participate in regular reviews of forest management performance and communicate the results of legislated audits and voluntary certification processes.
- 1.6 build mutually beneficial, long-term relationships with Aboriginal peoples through employment, business alliances, education and training, and community involvement.
- 1.7 enhance public accountability and trust by working to increase public awareness and understanding of the forest industry.
- 1.8 ensure that sufficient resources are available to achieve sustainable results in forest management planning and operations.
- 1.9 cultivate positive working relationships with governments, communities, stakeholders and First Nations partners to improve the quality of public land management.

2 HUMAN RESOURCES *Member companies will:*

- 2.1 endorse human resource policies that provide employment opportunities to local people and support local services.
- 2.2 promote economic development and provide employment opportunities for First Nations and Aboriginal communities.

- 2.3 uphold the principle that health and safety are paramount in all aspects of business, and work to meet or exceed laws covering health and safety of forest workers.
- 2.4 ensure that requisite safety equipment is available at all facilities and operations, and that forest workers are trained in the use of equipment and in first aid practices.
- 2.5 provide training and information to ensure that forest workers fully understand government regulations, industry standards and company policies and objectives.
- 2.6 ensure that forest workers are trained, competent, and well-informed regarding operational requirements and mitigation procedures, and possess the resources necessary to properly engage in their work.
- 2.7 encourage employee access to training and continuing education programs that broaden and increase their contribution to the maintenance of a healthy forest environment.
- 2.8 provide meaningful opportunities for forest worker participation in the decision-making process while supporting innovation and creative problem solving.
- 2.9 provide training and information so that forest workers can communicate effectively with the public as ambassadors of the forest industry.

3 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION *Member companies will:*

- 3.1 provide interested groups and individuals with timely, useful and understandable information to facilitate informed and effective participation in forest management.
- 3.2 establish networks and build relationships through which concerns may be identified, considered and resolved before they become issues.
- 3.3 respect stakeholder input in the setting of forest management objectives and targets.
- 3.4 provide fair opportunity and encouragement for the involvement of First Nations and Aboriginal communities in forest management planning.

- 3.5 maintain an ongoing dialogue with First Nations and Aboriginal communities to support the resolution of issues related to forest management.
- 3.6 communicate to explain sustainable forest management and promote increased public awareness, understanding and support for the forest industry.

4 PLANNING *Member companies will:*

- 4.1 support land-use planning efforts which have the goal of maintaining representative examples of existing ecosystems across the landscape while considering the current and future needs of the forest industry.
- 4.2 incorporate provincial, regional and local policy direction into forest management plans, while addressing local concerns and values.
- 4.3 develop and implement forest management plans which recognize the full range of social, economic, cultural and ecological values associated with the forest.
- 4.4 work with First Nations and Aboriginal communities to recognize, identify and conserve sites of special social, economic, cultural or religious significance.
- 4.5 develop information management systems to efficiently manage and disseminate information used in forest management planning and performance evaluation.
- 4.6 periodically review and revise management plans to incorporate new information, and respond to changing environmental, social and economic circumstances.

5 ROADS *Member companies will:*

- 5.1 develop and construct road networks that minimize the loss of productive forest area and minimize adverse impacts on forest ecosystems, known values and other forest uses.
- 5.2 formulate comprehensive strategies for the construction, use, maintenance and deactivation of forest roads, through consultation with other forest users.

- 5.3 design, build and maintain roads in accordance with construction and safety standards appropriate for their intended level and duration of use.
- 5.4 install water crossings of the appropriate capacity and durability to meet use requirements, protect water quality and lessen impacts on identified values.
- 5.5 minimize site disturbance during road construction and water crossing installation.
- 5.6 strive for continual improvement of road building, maintenance and deactivation practices through training and skills development.

6 HARVEST *Member companies will:*

- 6.1 conduct harvesting operations using well-maintained equipment appropriate to the site, soil, topography, season and weather to minimize impacts on the environment.
- 6.2 develop harvesting plans that consider landscape objectives, watershed attributes, wildlife habitat requirements and the needs of other forest users.
- 6.3 employ harvesting systems and equipment configurations that integrate harvesting and regeneration objectives while recognizing the sensitivity of each site.
- 6.4 formulate harvesting strategies that promote continuous employment and economic benefit in consideration of potential environmental impacts.
- 6.5 ensure that refuse and other wastes generated during operations are minimized, handled and disposed of in accordance with legislative requirements.
- 6.6 minimize wood waste associated with harvesting and processing operations and manage roadside slash accumulations to reduce the loss of productive forest area.
- 6.7 leave residual trees and woody debris within harvest blocks to provide for biodiversity and wildlife habitat objectives.
- 6.8 encourage optimal use of the forest's diversity of products.
- 6.9 harvest at a rate that does not compromise the long-term sustainability and productivity of the forest.

7 RENEWAL *Member companies will:*

- 7.1 regenerate all harvested areas in a timely and effective manner using practices validated by sound science, proven technology and/or local experience.
- 7.2 develop renewal strategies that recognize the natural productive capacity of the forest as well as its unique species, site and soil characteristics.
- 7.3 regenerate harvested areas with seed of local origin to ensure that genetic, species and ecosystem diversity are maintained.
- 7.4 promote natural regeneration where species, site and soil characteristics are advantageous to the natural establishment and growth of desired tree species.
- 7.5 employ practices that promote the growth of natural forest species, restore unique forest types, and enhance timber productivity.

8 TENDING AND PROTECTION *Member companies will:*

- 8.1 apply integrated pest management principles, where practical and appropriate, to reduce the need for tending and protection.
- 8.2 support the development and use of effective and economical non-chemical pest control alternatives.
- 8.3 use registered chemical pesticides and biological control agents when intervention is required, and only in the absence of effective and economical alternatives.
- 8.4 apply pesticides and biological control agents using experienced and licensed applicators.
- 8.5 dispose of unused pesticides and pesticide containers in accordance with laws and regulations.
- 8.6 cooperate with and assist government agencies in the prevention, detection, monitoring and management of forest fires.
- 8.7 cooperate with and assist government agencies in the prevention, detection, monitoring and control of disease and insect infestations.

9 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT *Member companies will:*

- 9.1 cooperate with agencies to support research, development and data collection programs that advance the quality and effectiveness of forest management.
- 9.2 develop and maintain a monitoring system to evaluate the effectiveness of forest regeneration and assess the need for additional treatments.
- 9.3 monitor operations and activities for compliance, report on areas of non-conformance and take appropriate corrective and/or preventative actions.
- 9.4 incorporate data from scientific studies and monitoring programs to improve current practices and develop innovative approaches to solving problems.
- 9.5 promptly report spills to the appropriate government agencies.

10 CODE IMPLEMENTATION *Member companies will:*

- 10.1 develop and apply standard operating procedures that reflect the spirit and intent of this Code of Forest Practices.
- 10.2 design and implement an internal monitoring system to evaluate Code compliance.
- 10.3 require that contractors undertaking forest management activities on company-managed lands adhere to the Code.
- 10.4 actively promote this Code with all who supply wood to their mills and/or all who receive timber from their forests.
- 10.5 encourage forest workers to report activities that are contrary to the Code, while ensuring that no one is penalized for reporting.
- 10.6 promote awareness and understanding of the Code through business relationships, communications strategies, and public awareness campaigns.
- 10.7 participate in regular reviews of the Code.
- 10.8 annually renew their commitment to the Code.
- 10.9 strive for continual improvement in the implementation of this Code.

This chart illustrates the degree to which elements of the Code address each Guiding Principle

GUIDING PRINCIPLE	DIRECTLY LINKED ELEMENTS	ASSOCIATED ELEMENTS
ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRUST	1.1, 1.5, 3.3, 10.3, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9	1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 2.8, 2.9, 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.6, 4.6, 10.1, 10.2, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6
BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST	1.2, 4.1, 4.3, 5.2, 6.2, 8.6, 8.7	1.3, 2.2, 4.2, 4.4, 5.1, 6.4, 6.8
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY	5.5, 6.1, 6.3, 6.6, 6.7, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5	1.1, 2.7, 4.1, 5.1, 5.4, 6.2, 6.4, 6.5, 6.9, 7.1, 7.2, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 9.3
COMMUNICATION AND AWARENESS	1.7, 2.9, 3.1, 3.2, 3.6, 10.4, 10.6	1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.9, 3.3, 3.5, 4.5, 10.3
COMMUNITIES AND WORKFORCE	1.9, 2.1, 2.7, 6.4, 6.8	1.2, 1.6, 1.8, 2.2, 3.2, 3.3, 4.2, 4.4
COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS	2.5, 6.5, 8.4, 8.5, 9.3, 9.5	2.3, 2.4, 2.6, 4.2, 6.6, 6.9, 8.3, 10.1, 10.2, 10.5
FIRST NATIONS AND ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES	1.6, 2.2, 3.4, 3.5, 4.4	1.2, 1.8, 1.9, 2.1, 3.2, 3.3
HEALTH AND SAFETY	2.3, 2.4, 8.3, 10.1, 10.5	2.5, 2.8, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 9.5, 10.2
PERFORMANCE EXCELLENCE	2.6, 2.8, 4.5, 5.3, 5.4, 7.1, 7.2, 10.2	1.4, 1.8, 2.5, 2.7, 5.5, 5.6, 6.3, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 9.1, 9.2, 9.4, 10.1, 10.9
RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESSIVE CHANGE	1.4, 4.6, 5.6, 8.2, 9.1, 9.2, 9.4	7.1, 8.6, 8.7, 10.9
SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT	1.3, 1.8, 4.2, 5.1, 6.9, 8.1	1.1, 1.2, 2.7, 3.6, 4.1, 4.3, 5.2, 6.2, 6.7, 7.1, 7.2

External Review Committee (2002)

The current version of the Code of Forest Practices would not have been possible without the time, effort and vision of a number of people. The Ontario Forest Industries Association would like to thank the following individuals for their role on the External Review Committee, listed in their 2002 positions:

Dr. David Balsillie

Associate Professor, Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto

Chief Bentley CheeChoo

Tribal Chair,
Matawa Chiefs Council

James Faught

Executive Director,
Federation of Ontario Naturalists

John F. Goodman R.P.F.

President, Ontario Professional Foresters Association

Jamie Lim

Mayor of Timmins

Wilf McIntyre

National Vice President, Industrial Wood and Allied Workers of Canada

Dr. Reino Pulkki R.P.F.

Dean, Faculty of Forestry and the Forest Environment, Lakehead University

Mike L. Willick R.P.F.

Assistant Deputy Minister,
Ministry of Natural Resources

OFIA Code of Forest Practices Committee (2002)

The following members of the OFIA Code of Forest Practices Committee were responsible for revising and updating the Code in its current form:

CHAIR

Allan Foley R.P.F.

General Manager,
Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc.

Laing Bennett R.P.F.

Manager of Fibre Supply,
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General Manager, Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. / The Vermilion Forest Management Company Ltd.

Kent Virgo R.P.F.

Divisional Forester – Boreal Ontario, Tembec Forest Resource Management, Tembec Inc.

Scott Jackson

Forest Issues Specialist, Ontario Forest Industries Association

The following terms apply to this Code of Forest Practices

AUDIT

An independently led review of the quality of forest management practices, controls, and processes to ensure that the organization continues to be in control and in compliance with relevant legislation, policies, directives and standards.

BIODIVERSITY

The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.

ECOSYSTEM

The sum of the plants, animals, environmental influences and their interactions within a particular habitat.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Generally, the practical application of scientific, economic and social principles to the administration and working of a forest for specified objectives.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

A document containing pertinent information and prescriptions by means of which forest policy, goals and objectives are translated into a continuity of specific treatments on a management unit for a specified number of years.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Any activities that enhance or recover forest growth or harvest yield. This includes harvesting, renewal and maintenance of a forest resource, and all related activities. It also includes road construction within forest lands for the purpose of facilitating harvest or forest management, and management of waste resulting from harvesting.

HABITAT

An area with the combination of resources (food, cover, water) and environmental conditions (temperature, precipitation, presence or absence of predators and competitors) that promotes occupancy by a given species or population and allows it to survive and reproduce.

LANDSCAPE

A heterogeneous land area composed of a cluster of interacting ecosystems that is repeated in similar form throughout. A landscape is normally defined by physical land features or climate.

PESTICIDES AND BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AGENTS

Any organism or substance that is used in forest management for the purposes of controlling or removing an identified forest pest. Examples of forest pests include competing vegetation and infestations of harmful forest insects.

REGENERATION

The renewal of trees in a forest, whether naturally (through self-sown seed or vegetative means) or artificially (through site preparation, seeding and/or planting).

STAKEHOLDER

Anyone who derives a direct benefit from the forest.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT

The planning and activities that maintain and enhance the long-term health of forest ecosystems, while providing environmental, economic and social opportunities for the benefit of present and future generations.

VALUES

A principle, standard or quality considered worthwhile or desirable.

WATERSHED

The area drained by an underground or surface stream, or by a system of streams.



For more information please contact:
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