

October 2, 2008

The Honorable Donald Arseneault
Minister of Natural Resources
Forestry Task Force Consultation
Department of Natural Resources
P.O. Box 6000
Fredericton, NB E3B 5H1



Re: New Brunswick Task Force on Forest Diversity and Wood Supply Report.

Dear Sir:

2C1Forest is a major Canadian-U.S. collaborative of conservation organizations, researchers, foundations and conservation-minded individuals. Our international community is focused on protection, conservation and restoration of forests and natural heritage across the Northern Appalachian/Acadian ecoregion.

The ecoregion stretches from New York to Nova Scotia and southern Quebec. New Brunswick, with its large amount of public land and its location at the heart of the ecoregion, is the cornerstone upon which the ecological viability of the region depends. Once home to several large animal species like the cougar, the region is now home to 3.8 million people. A further 70 million live within a day's drive of the region. Maintaining the health of the ecoregion and ensuring the economic vitality of its communities is our critical challenge.

Our scientific analysis tells us this ecoregion is at risk of being separated into a series of ecological islands and that protection of key linkages across the landscape is vital. The science of conservation biology demonstrates the need to provide larger, buffered and connected ecosystems in order to reduce the rate of biodiversity loss. High value conservation areas can not be managed in isolation from each other, even if they are separated by a provincial or international border. It is therefore important for New Brunswick to manage its public lands in a way that conserves their ecological integrity and resilience.

The Restigouche River Watershed is in one of our five priority linkages. This immense basin includes the sub-watersheds of the Matapedia, Patapedia, Kedgwick, Little Main and Upsalquitch rivers. Its natural areas link the forests of the Maine north woods to the wild areas of the Gaspé. Conserving the ecological functions of the Restigouche River Watershed will allow the Canada lynx to disperse across this vast region and provide continued shelter and food for a wide variety of important species. Our Science Committee has also identified other parts of New Brunswick public land that are of high conservation value, either as cores of relatively undisturbed natural area, or areas that are critical for maintenance of connectivity across the region.

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Re: New Brunswick Task Force on Forest Diversity and Wood Supply Report.



Two Countries
One Forest
Deux Pays
Une Forêt

Two Countries, One Forest is pleased to provide comments in response to the New Brunswick Task Force on Forest Diversity and Wood Supply Report. In general we support Management Options A and B that provide the greatest opportunity for sustained forest vitality, multiple value streams and a resilient and flexible economic base for the region.

Specifically we support conservation strategies that recognize and plan for connectivity between high value conservation areas. To achieve this goal we recommend that the New Brunswick Forest Management Plan;

- Identify and conserve the highest value conservation lands in a permanently protected status;
- Protect roadless areas from development and fragmentation;
- Increase logging- restricted buffer zones in stream-side forests and upland tributaries in the watershed;
- Reduce clear cutting in favour of ecologically appropriate logging that conserves mixed forests and preserves old-growth forest stands; and
- Continue the practice of soliciting public comment and participation in forest management planning on an ongoing basis.

Two Countries, One Forest appreciates the unique responsibility New Brunswick has in the stewardship of the vast public forest resources of the province. In contrast to the challenges presented by the fragmentation of private ownership in other jurisdictions across the region, New Brunswick has an historic opportunity to accomplish long-term, sustainable forest management at an unprecedented scale, while supporting the development of a diverse forest reliant economy.

We look forward to working with you toward our common goals and thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the New Brunswick Task Force on Forest Diversity and Wood Supply Report.

Sincerely yours,

Alice Chamberlin
Executive Director

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