

LENNOX-ADDINGTON COUNTY FOREST

ANNUAL WORK REPORT

FOREST MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Year 20 of the 2003-2022 Forest Management Plan

January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022



Prepared by:

David Puttock, Ph.D., R.P.F.

Silv-Econ Ltd.

913 Southwind Ct.

Newmarket, ON L3Y 6J1

Table of Contents

1.0 Introduction.....	2
2.0 Planning	2
3.0 Forest Certification	2
4.0 Forest Inventory	2
5.0 Silviculture.....	2
6.0 Monitoring and Assessment.....	3
7.0 Cycling Trails.....	3
8.0 Other Management Activities	3

1.0 Introduction

This Annual Work Report has been prepared to track the progress of the Forest Management Plan for the Lennox-Addington County Forest (LACF), 2003-2022. Domtar Forest Resources-Trenton was the original agent retained to assist the County to develop and implement the forest management plan in 2003. Domtar discontinued its forest management program in the spring of 2005. Silv-Econ Ltd. was engaged to implement the forest management plan beginning in 2005. The management activities are described below. Table 1 provides details of the work program in the LACF during 2022.

2.0 Planning

The 2003-2022 Forest Management Plan for the LACF includes sequential 5-year Operating Plans that guide the forest management activities for the specified period. The current Operating Plan covers the period 2019-2023. A new Forest Management Plan 2023-2032 is being prepared.

3.0 Forest Certification

The LACF is certified under Silv-Econ Ltd.'s Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) / NEPcon (formerly Smartwood) group manager certificate NC-FM/COC-001769. Forest certification involves adherence to FSC Principles and Criteria for sustainable forest management. Compliance is monitored through annual third-party audits conducted by NEPcon. Foresters from Silv-Econ participate in the audits. The County Forest was audited in 2022 during Silv-Econ's annual audit. This was a desk audit for compliance with those FSC principles and criteria which do not involve field visits to the forest. Timber produced from certified forests can be marketed as such and sold to mills that have FSC chain-of-custody arrangements.

4.0 Forest Inventory

A forest inventory is a fundamental tool for assessing the current state of a forest. The LACF forest inventory was updated by Silv-Econ in 2022. The updated inventory will help inform the 2023-2032 Forest Management Plan and associated 5-Year Operating Plans.

5.0 Silviculture

Forest management embodies a suite of activities designed to maintain and enhance the health of the forest. These include silvicultural management such as stand improvement thinning, tree planting in areas where natural regeneration is absent, tending to remove undesirable competing vegetation, and activities to protect the forest from natural and human-induced disturbances where possible.

No silvicultural operations were scheduled in the County Forest in 2022. However, a severe wind event in late May devastated large areas of forest across southern and central Ontario including approximately 3 hectares in compartment 3 (Flinton). Damage included uprooted and toppled trees and trees that were sheared off at 2-6 metres above ground. Silv-Econ mapped the perimeter of the area that was destroyed (Map 1).

None of the other County Forest compartments were seriously affected by the May 2022 wind event.

Timber Salvage Operations in Compartment 3

The damaged timber in compartment 3 was salvaged by Herb Shaw & Sons Ltd, Pembroke under agreement with the Township of Addington Highlands. Approximately 1500 tonnes of timber were recovered during the 4-week salvage operation.

Restoring Compartment 3

Bartram Woodlands Inc., Guelph has been contracted to plant approximately 5500 red and white pine seedlings in compartment 3 in spring 2023 to restore forest cover to the destroyed site. The planting costs will be partly offset through Forest Ontario's 50 Million Tree Program.

6.0 Monitoring and Assessment

Regular monitoring of the health of the forest is an important component of sustainable forest management. The 2022 forest inventory collected information on forest health including invasive plants, pathogens, and forest pests such as *Lymantria dispar dispar* (LDD), commonly known as the spongy moth (previously gypsy moth). Defoliation from LDD appeared to be minor in 2022, suggesting that populations of LDD moth in the region may have peaked in 2021.

Monitoring in 2022 also included inspections for the presence of two invasive plants, Pale swallowwort, a.k.a. Dog strangling vine and Garlic mustard. Both species can quickly occupy and overtake a site, affecting biodiversity by excluding native vegetation. Fortunately, neither of these species was observed in the County Forest.

A colony of Japanese knotweed was observed at the side of the road in compartment 2 in 2021. The site was subsequently cleared to make room for a log landing and re-emergence of the plant was not observed in 2022. The site will be assessed in 2023 to determine if the plant re-emerges and if further action is required to control it. Monitoring for invasive plants is done annually and also whenever forest managers are on site for other activities, such as forest inventory, tree marking, harvest monitoring, and tree planting. The locations of invasive plants are mapped, and control measures are implemented where possible.

7.0 Cycling Trails

The County has established a network of cycling trails in compartment 3 (Flinton). Unfortunately, many of the trails in the north part of the block were destroyed during the May 2022 wind event and subsequent timber salvage operations. The County intends to restore the trails in this block after the damaged area has been replanted.

8.0 Other Management Activities

No other management activities were conducted in 2022.

Table 1. Report of management activities in the Lennox & Addington County Forest 2022

Activity	Comp	Area (Ha)	Expenses (\$)	Revenues (\$)	Notes
Planning Annual work planning and reporting	All		850		
Forest Certification Annual certification program expense County share of annual auditor's fees (desk audit only)	All	455.65	3,518 0		
Forest Inventory Update Update the forest inventory in conifer plantations and selected natural stands	All	216	10,800		
Monitoring & Assessment Inspection for LDD moth defoliation & monitoring for invasive plants was done during the forest inventory update.	All	216	0		
Response to Wind Damage in Compartment 3 (Flinton) Mapping damaged area Monitoring salvage operations Arrange for restoration planting	3	3.1	3,000		1
Other Activities No other activities					
Total			18,168		

Notes

1. Salvage done by Herb Shaw & Sons, Pembroke under agreement with Township of Addington Highlands

