



## **NOTICE**

**MEETING:** St Mary's Municipal Council  
Committee of the Whole

**DATE:** Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018

**TIME:** 1:00pm

**PLACE:** St. Mary's Municipality  
Council Chambers, Sherbrooke, NS

**Please advise if unable to attend**

Dated: April 25, 2018

Marvin MacDonald, CAO

**Municipality of the District of St. Mary's  
Committee of the Whole  
Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda and Any Additions
4. Approval of Minutes from Committee Meeting held April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018
5. Business Arising from Minutes
6. Port Hawkesbury Paper – Marven Hudson & Andrew Fedora
7. Other Matters of Business
  - a. Wild Islands Conference
8. Adjournment

**Municipality of the District of St. Mary's  
Committee of the Whole  
Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

**Meeting, Date & Time**

The Committee of the Whole meeting of St. Mary's Council was called to order on Wednesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 at 1:01pm in the Council Chambers Sherbrooke, N.S.

**Attending**

Deputy Warden Dort  
Councillor Kaiser-Kirk  
Councillor Baker  
Councillor Smith  
Councillor Malloy

**Also Attending**

Marvin MacDonald, CAO  
Marian Fraser, Director of Finance  
Denise Sawlor, Municipal Clerk/Special Projects Coordinator

**Absent with Regrets**

Warden Mosher  
Councillor Findlay

**Approval of Agenda**

*On motion of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Malloy that Council approve the agenda with the following Additions:*

- 8. Other Matters of Business
  - b) Minister of Municipal Affairs – 12 month notice
  - c) Sherbrooke Sewage Treatment Plant – System Assessment Report
  - d) Update on Planning and Economic Development Position

*Motion carried.*

**Approval of Minutes**

*On motion of Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Councillor Baker that Council approve the minutes of the Committee Of The Whole held April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018*

*Motion carried.*

### **Business Arising From Minutes**

- Engage Nova Scotia
  - Marvin has had a follow up discussion and it looks like September is the easiest option for a public engagement workshop in St. Mary's.
  - Marvin will continue to work with Engage NS over the next few months.
- Dongdu International Group
  - No response yet to the letter sent by the Municipality.
- Port Hilford/Indian Harbour Lake
  - Municipality has sent a letter regarding the road flooding issue.
  - Lloyd Hines, MLA has responded to the letter stating he is aware of the situation and has staff in Halifax working on it.
  - Glenn Terris, DNR Area Manager has also responded that he is in discussions with other government departments about the issue.
  - Alan McNeil, Inland Fisheries has responded to Councillor Kaiser-Kirk's letter on the issue.

### **Port Hawkesbury Paper (PHP) – Marven Hudson, District Superintendent Forest Operations & Andrew Fedora, Leader – Sustainability & Outreach**

- See attached presentation.
- Improvements have been made in forest management practices over the past 20 years.
- Currently doing more silviculture than clearcutting.
- PHP stopped the use of herbicides in 1997.
- Only 2% of herbicide use in Nova Scotia is forestry related.

*Denise left 1:35pm (Marvin took minutes while Denise absent)*

- PHP does not normally do land clearing but in some cases may for development purposes or for fire prevention purposes.

*Denise Return 1:38pm*

- High grade wood is not sent to biomass.
- Pulpwood when sold is sometimes used as biomass in other countries.
- PHP hardwood, 60% goes to Sheet Harbour, 30% goes to the Port Hawkesbury Mill and 10% to Northern Pulp.

*Marian left 1:43pm*

- Various companies as well as places like the hospital in Truro have their own biomass plants.
- Low grade wood is considered anything that can't be sold as premium product.

*Marian return 1:47pm*

- PHP has a 60 year strategy for hardwood stands that is broken into 15 year segments.
- All cuts on crown land are advertised on the website <https://novascotia.ca/natr/forestry/fibre-allocation> at least 40 days in advance.

- 80% of the PHP crown lands in St. Mary's is within a watershed and is maintained in closed canopy condition.
- The plan for 2018 is to cut approximately 1000 hectares in St. Mary's. 70% of that will be clear-cut because it is over mature softwood.
- Approximately 400 hectares of silviculture is planned for St. Mary's in 2018.

*Break 2:34pm – 2:45pm*

#### **Other Matters of Business**

- Wild Islands Conference
  - Conference is being held at Liscomb Lodge May 27-29<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

***On recommendation of Councillor Kaiser-Kirk and seconded by Councillor Baker that Council pay for Councillor Findlay's expenses associated with attending the Wild Islands Conference.***

#### ***Recommendation adopted.***

- Minister of Municipal Affairs – 12 month notice
  - See attached letter
  - There are several items in the letter that may impact St. Mary's.
  - Marvin will find out more over the next few months.
- Sherbrooke Sewage Treatment Plant – System Assessment Report
  - The Municipality is required to submit a system assessment report to Nova Scotia Environment.
  - The report is part of the approval process for the waste water treatment plant.
  - Marvin has applied for funding to cover the cost of the report.
  - A request for quotes was put out to local engineering firms and the responses have been received.

***On recommendation of Councillor Baker and seconded by Councillor Malloy that CBCL Ltd. be awarded the contract to complete the System Assessment Report for the Sherbrooke Waste Water Treatment Plant in the amount of \$4,800 plus HST.***

#### ***Recommendation adopted.***

- Update on Planning and Economic Development Position
  - Marvin has updated the Economic Development Officer job description to include a planning component.
  - The updated job title will be "Planning and Economic Development Officer".
  - The job will be posted on the Municipal website by the end of the week.
  - Marvin will have a work plan completed for the position.
  - The completed job description will be sent out to councillors.

#### **Adjournment**

***On Motion of Councillor Smith there being no further matters of business, Council adjourned at 3:03pm.***

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Recorded By  
Municipal Clerk

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Approved By  
Deputy Warden Dort

# Crown Land Forest Management

## Report Inconsistent Practices

Maritime SFI Implementation Committee 1-800-631-3657

Port Hawkesbury Paper 1-866-875-1869

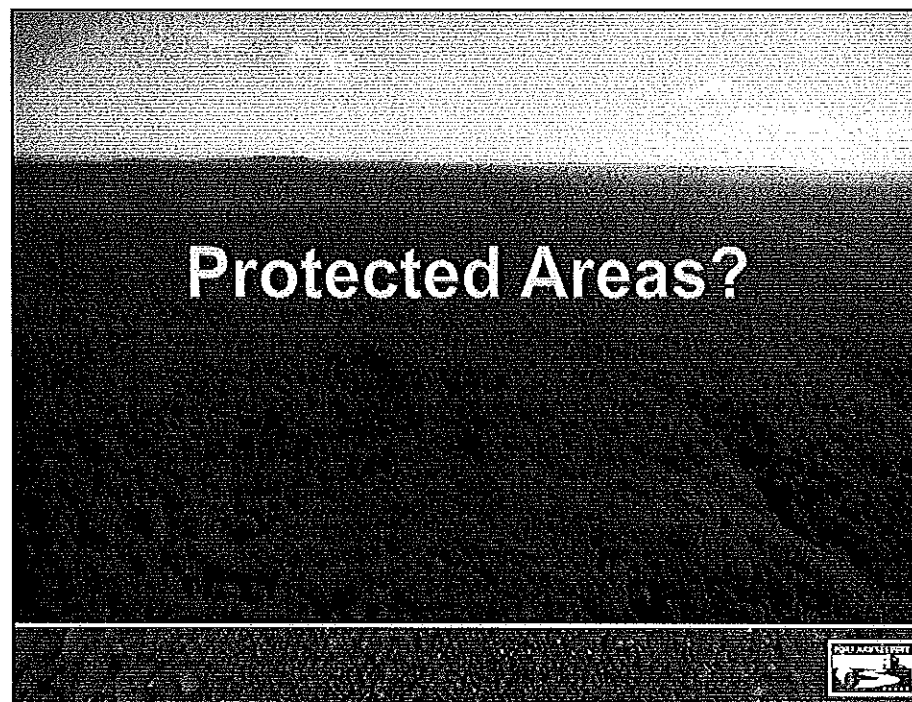
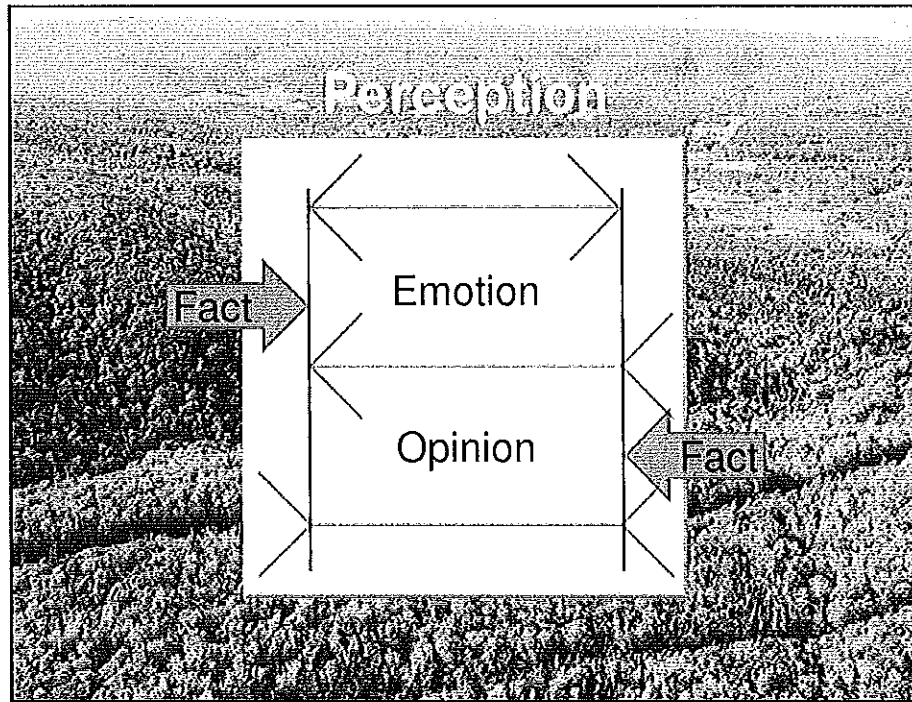
[woodlands@porthawkesburypaper.com](mailto:woodlands@porthawkesburypaper.com)

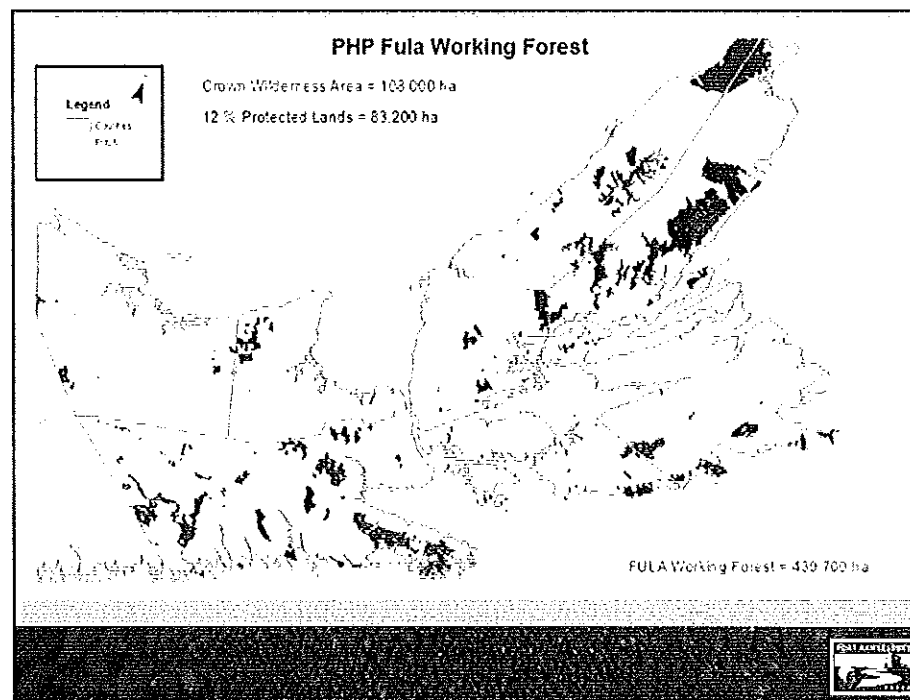
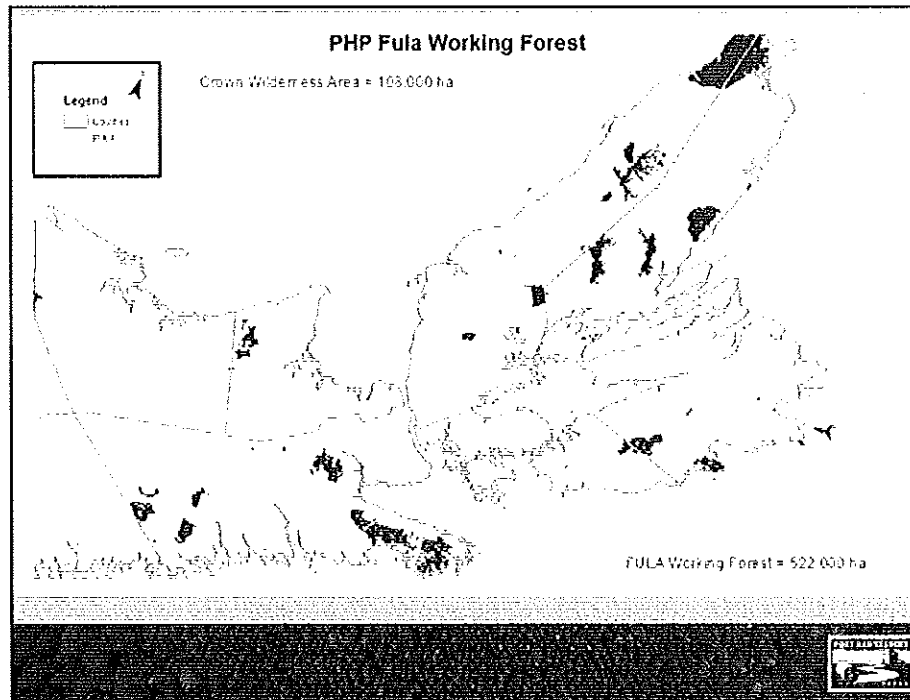


## Perception

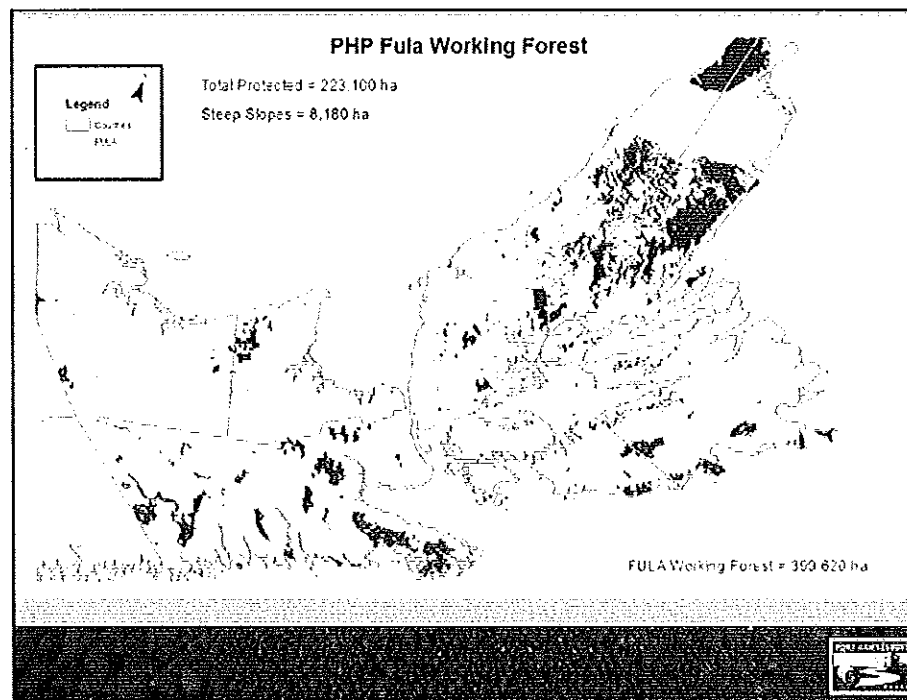
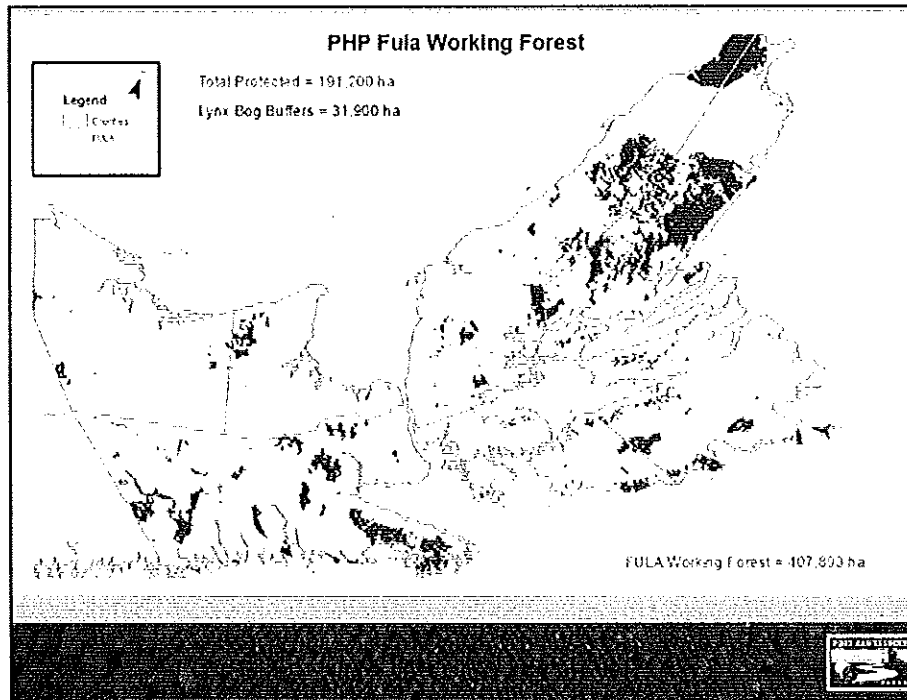
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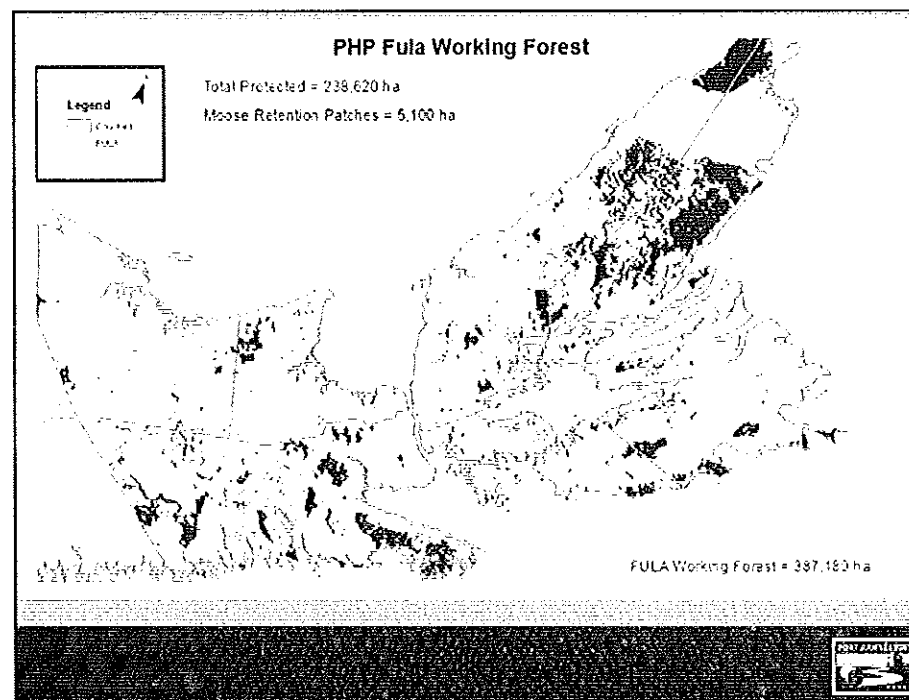
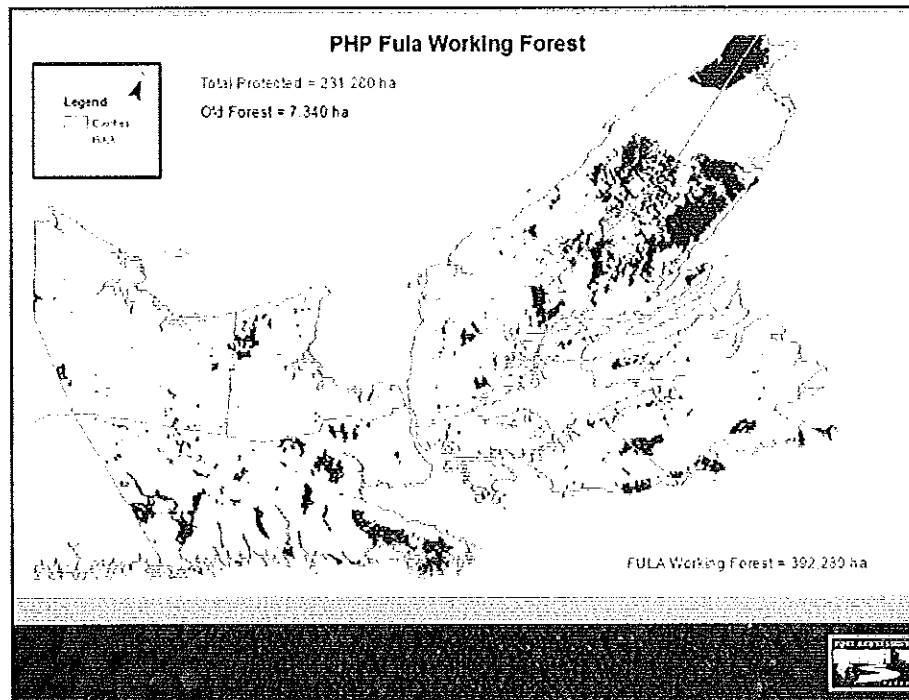
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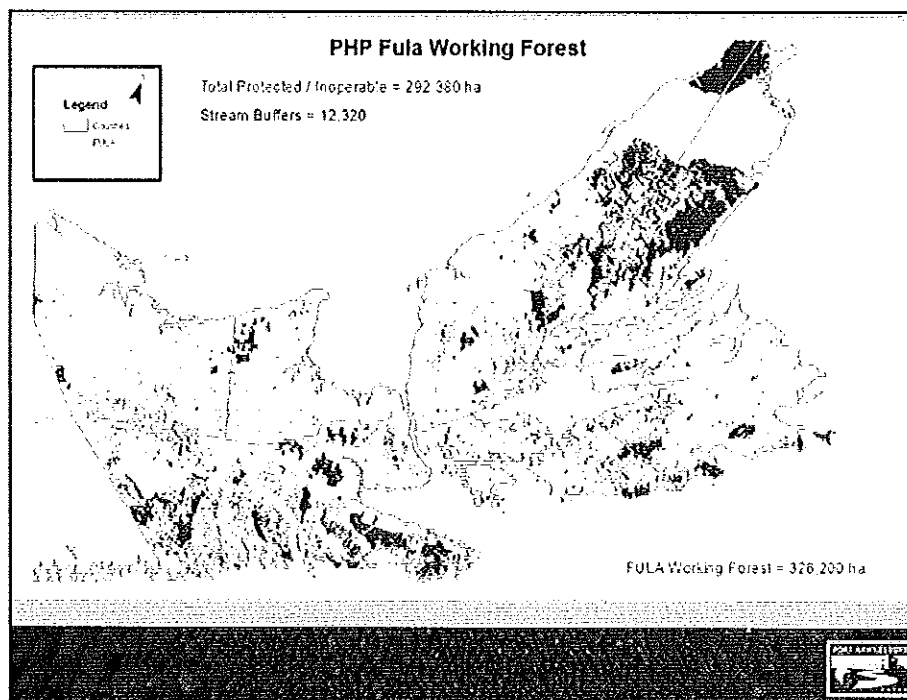
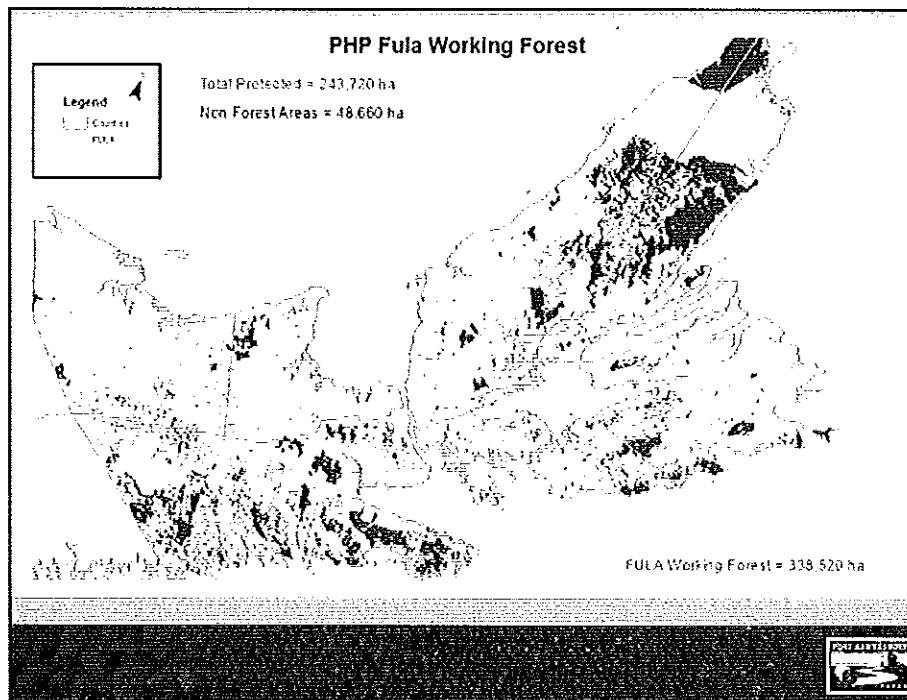


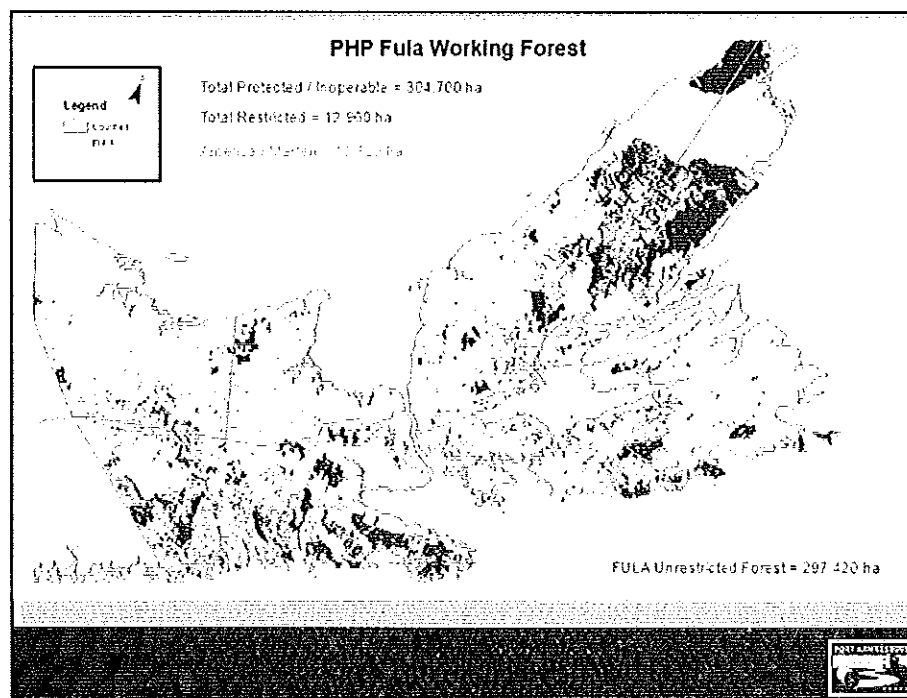
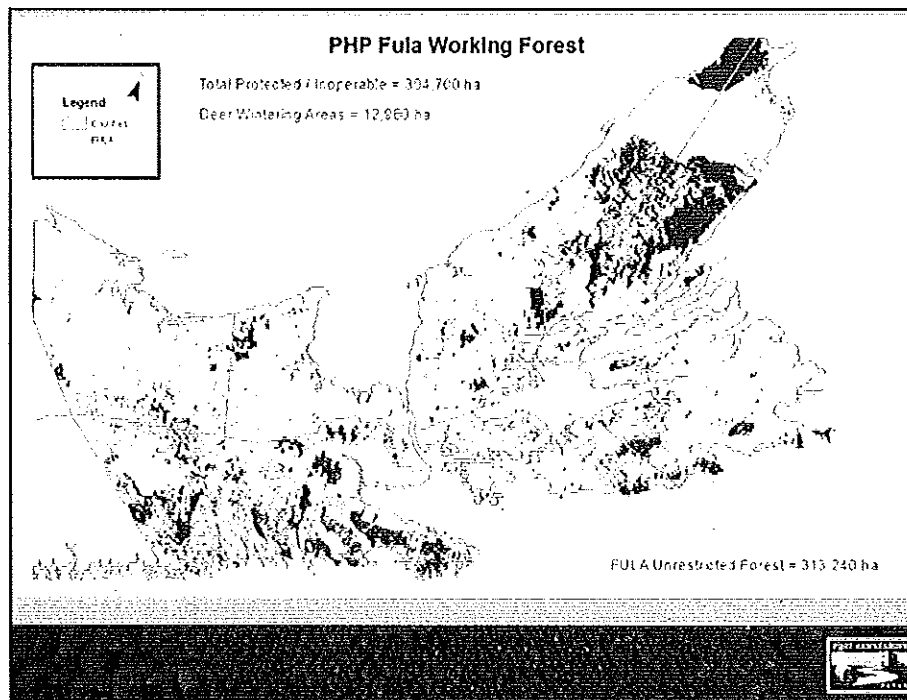


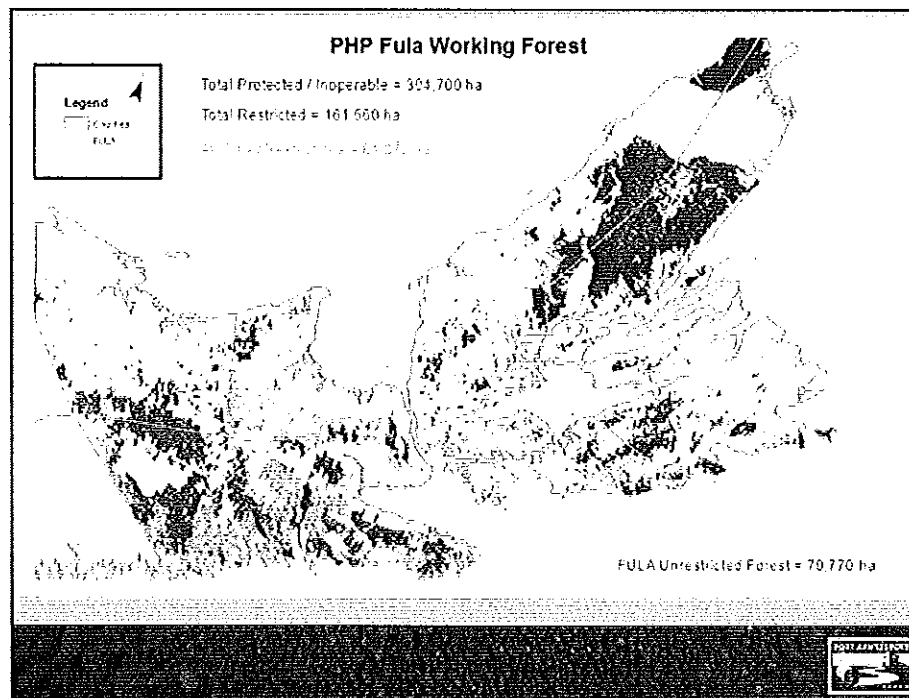
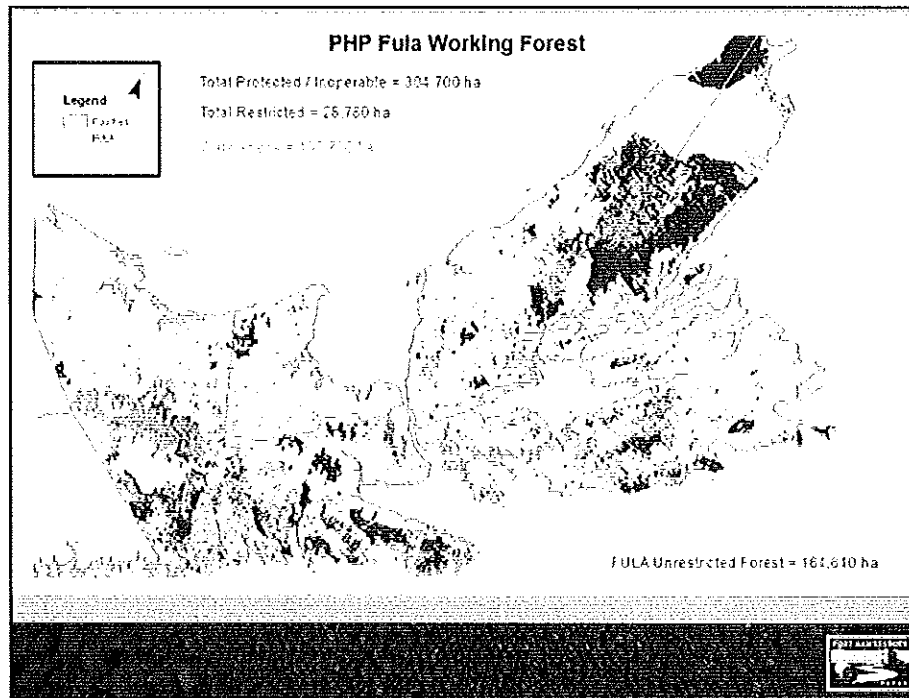


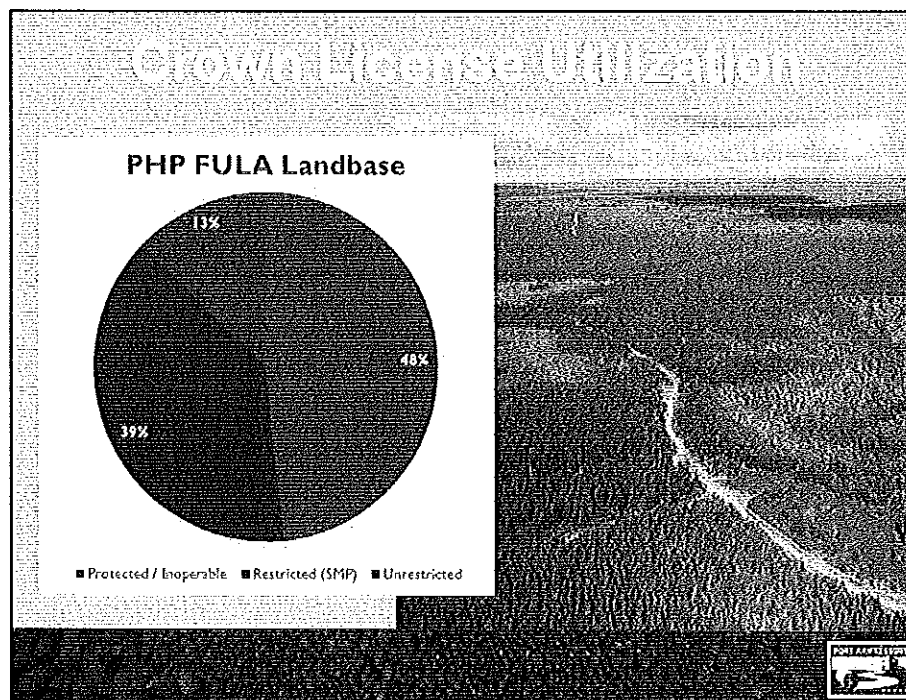
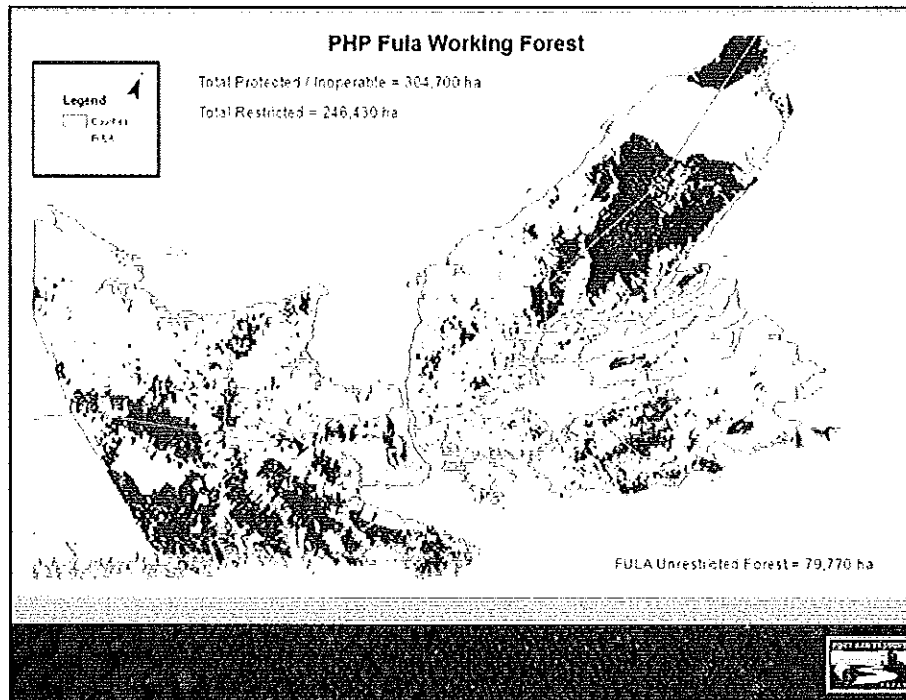


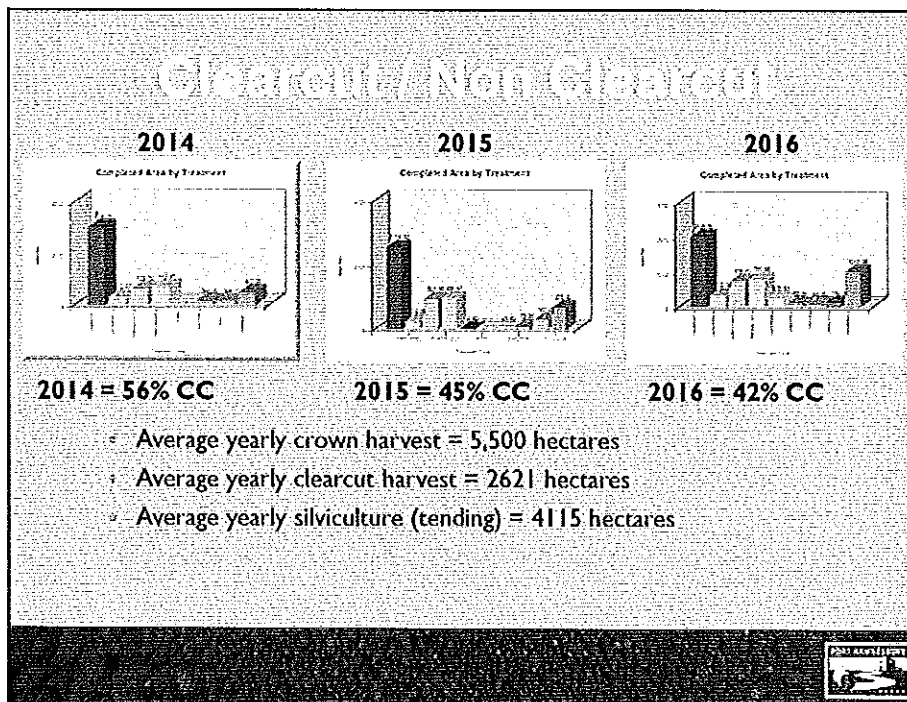
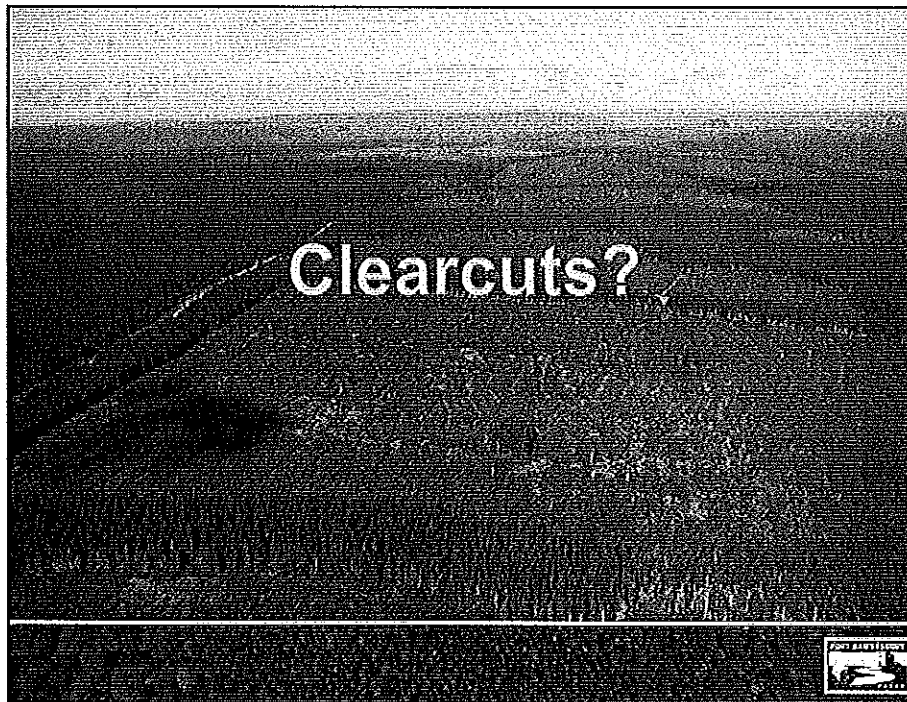


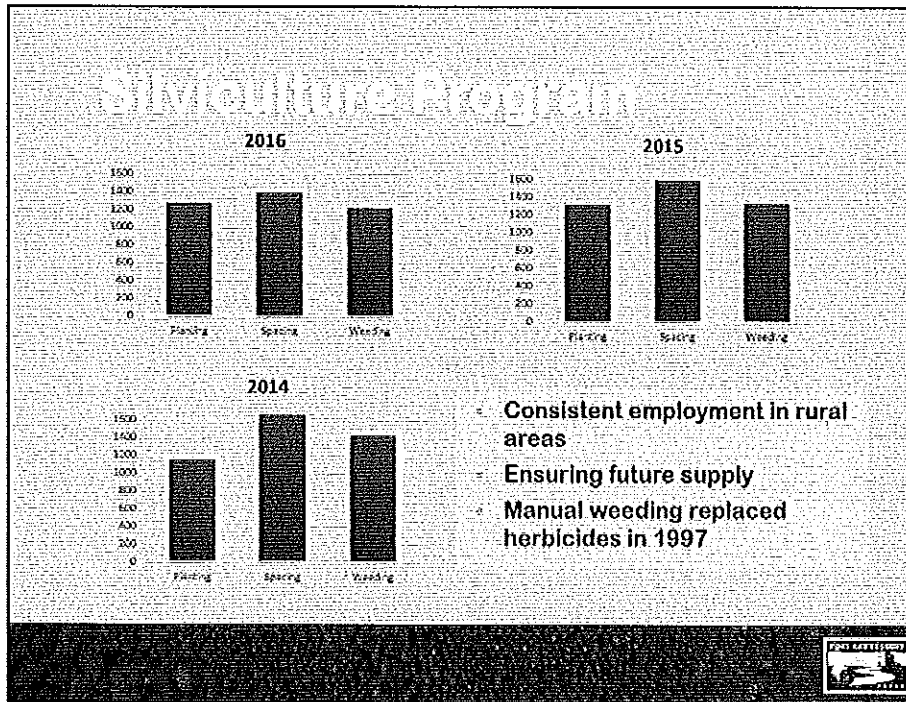




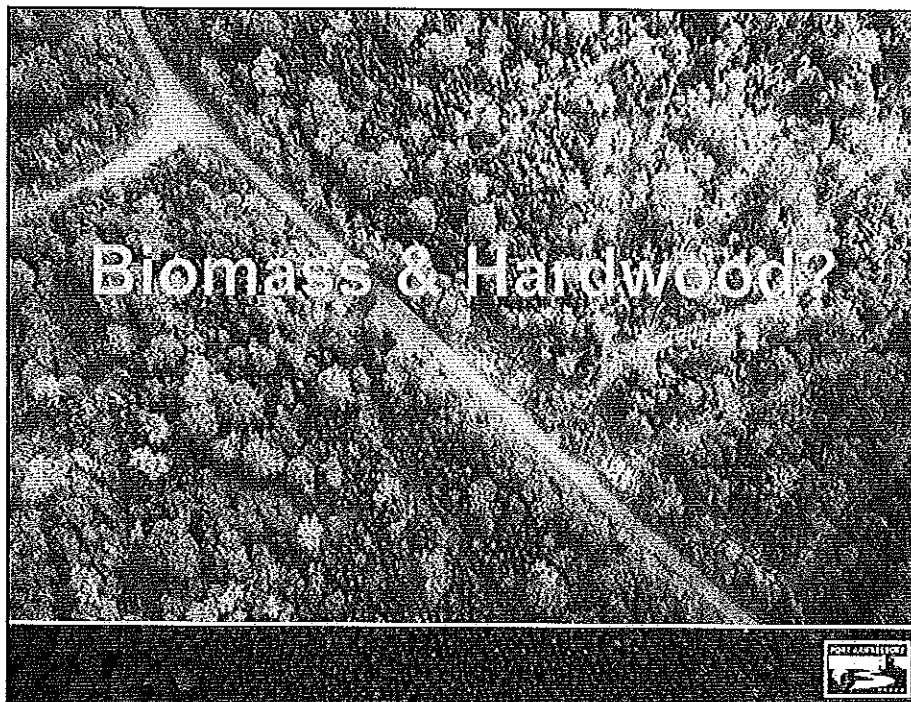


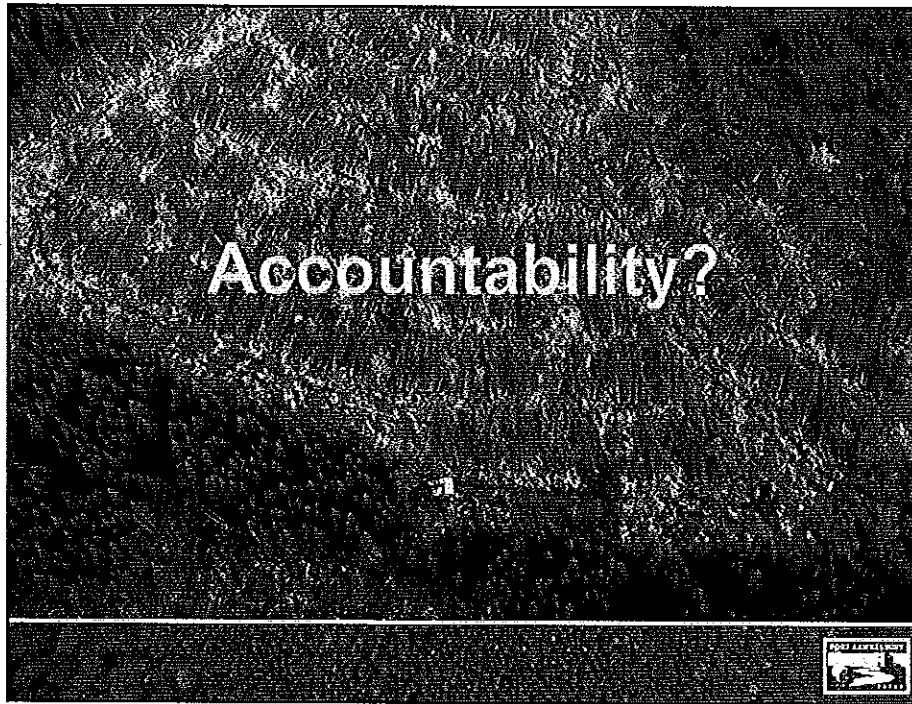


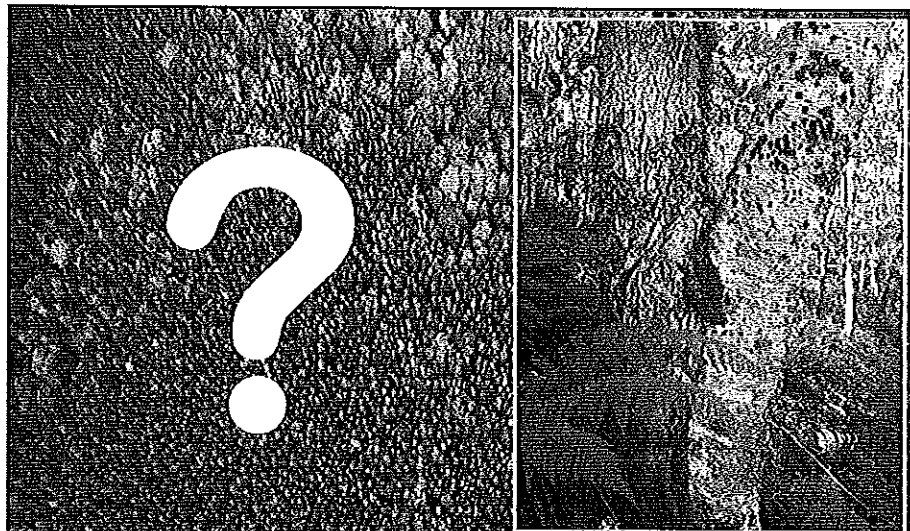













**Report Inconsistent Practices**  
Maritime SFI Implementation Committee 1-800-631-3657  
Port Hawkesbury Paper 1-866-875-1869  
[woodlands@porthawkesburypaper.com](mailto:woodlands@porthawkesburypaper.com)





PHP LP Woodlands

Port Hawkesbury Paper LP, 120 Pulp Mill Road, PO Box 9500, Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia B9A 1A1

## Frequently Asked Questions about Port Hawkesbury Paper

### Company Information

***How many people are employed by Port Hawkesbury Paper and its woodlands contractors?***

Approximately 300 people work directly for the mill (25 in the Woodlands Unit). About 400 people are employed as contractors working on the licensed Crown resource, in road construction, silviculture, harvesting, and trucking of forest products from private woodlots.

***What is the annual financial contribution to the local economy by Port Hawkesbury Paper?***

Port Hawkesbury Paper's annual direct contribution to businesses operating in Nova Scotia is \$170 million.

***How much land does the company manage?***

The Company has a Crown license agreement to manage approximately 523,000 hectares of land, plus a variety of short term agreements with private woodlot owners for wood harvesting & other forest management treatments.

### Wood Supply

***How much wood does Port Hawkesbury Paper use annually?***

The Company uses up to 600,000 tonnes of softwood each year at the mill.

***Where does the wood supply come from?***

The wood comes mostly from the seven eastern counties of the province. Wood is also purchased in central Nova Scotia and periodically, lesser amounts from other sources.

- Approximately 55% of the wood is harvested from company managed lands
- About 45% is purchased from private suppliers

Most of the wood is processed at Port Hawkesbury Paper, but some goes to sawmills to be made into lumber. By-products from lumber manufacturing are often returned for use at the mill.

***How much area is harvested each year?***

Less than 1.5% of the total land managed by Port Hawkesbury Paper is harvested each year, 45% of which is managed using non-clearcutting methods.





## PHP LP Woodlands

Port Hawkesbury Paper LP, 120 Pulp Mill Road, PO Box 9500, Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia B9A 1A1

### Silviculture

#### ***Are all harvested areas planted?***

All harvested areas are regenerated with new forests. However, not all areas need to be planted. Areas are checked prior to harvesting, and the presence of advanced natural regeneration is noted. Two years after harvest, the site is again assessed and if the natural stocking level is not acceptable, the area will be planted.

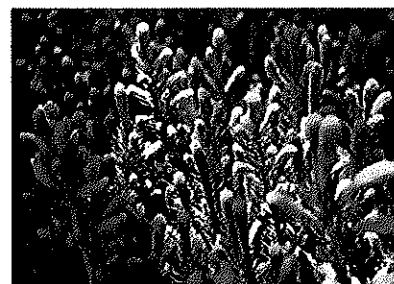
- Generally, 40-50% of the annual harvest area needs to be planted
- The Company plants between 2.5 to 3 million seedlings annually

#### ***What species of trees does Port Hawkesbury Paper plant?***

The Company plants trees suited to the site, grown from nurseries within Nova Scotia. The species are native to the province:

- Red Spruce 38%
- White Spruce 32%
- Black Spruce 30%

Port Hawkesbury Paper has planted over 150 million trees since 1962.



### Sustainability

#### ***What is Port Hawkesbury Paper doing to improve its environmental and sustainability performance in Nova Scotia?***

The Woodlands Unit has implemented and maintained a Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) program since 2001. Our SFM program includes third-party certification to the FSC® Maritime Standard (since 2008) for responsible forest management and the Sustainable Forest Initiative® (SFI). These standards ensure that the company is meeting rigorous requirements for the management of ecological, social and economic forest values. The Woodlands Unit and mill are also certified to the FSC and SFI Chain of Custody standards, which trace the path logs take from the forest, through the mill, to when the product is sold to an end user.

#### ***How does the public participate?***

Port Hawkesbury Paper is always open to receive broad-based input from local communities and interested parties in its SFM program. In addition, representatives with interest in influencing our forest management decisions participate in our public Forest Advisory Committee.

#### ***What are some of the non-timber values PHP manages for?***

Examples of non-timber values managed for include: old forests, wildlife corridors and habitat, special management zones, species at risk, unique ecosystems, indicator species, viewscapes, recreations, heritage and culture, and domestic watersheds.



**Municipal Affairs  
Office of the Minister**

PO Box 216, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2M4 • Telephone 902 424-5550 Fax 902 424-0581 • [novascotia.ca](http://novascotia.ca)

APR 18 2018

Mr. Geoff Stewart  
President  
Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM)  
Suite 1106  
1809 Barrington Street  
Halifax, NS B3J 2K8

Dear President Stewart:

Under the provisions of the *Municipal Government Act*, the Minister of Municipal Affairs must provide to the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities 12-months' notice of any provincial legislation, regulation or administrative actions that could have the effect of decreasing revenues or increasing the required expenditures of municipalities.

This letter is intended to provide notice of such changes for fiscal year 2019-2020 and beyond. The Department of Municipal Affairs (DMA) canvassed all provincial departments to seek information on plans for legislative, regulatory and policy changes in the coming fiscal year. The following is a summary of the results of that process.

**Department of Municipal Affairs**

In the 2016-17 Budget, the Province committed to freezing the Equalization Grant at 2014-15 allocations. The Equalization Grant will be reviewed in 2018-2019 in collaboration with our municipal partners to explore options for redevelopment. DMA could phase-in the redeveloped program over a period of several years beginning as early as fiscal year 2019-2020.

Based on the UNSM resolutions and commitment in the Partnership Framework, DMA is also considering consulting with municipalities on land use planning and minimum planning standards. Costs associated with land use planning and minimum planning standards are currently unknown; however, it could have a negative effect on some municipal budgets going forward.

**Department of Environment**

In November 2017, Health Canada approved a new lower health-based guideline for lead (5ug/L) in potable water. Once released (in 2018), the guideline will require utilities to collect samples for lead at the customer's tap. Nova Scotia Energy (NSE) regulations refer to these guidelines, and NSE will audit sampling protocols and respond to exceedances of the limits in these guidelines.

While the anticipated costs associated with the above-noted guidelines are currently unknown, Health Canada is informing utilities directly of the changes and what they could mean moving forward.

#### **Department of Justice**

The Biological Casework Analysis Agreement provides Nova Scotia municipalities with DNA analysis arising from criminal investigations. DNA analysis is an important and affordable service that helps solve crimes. The anticipated cost to Nova Scotia in 2018-19 is approximately \$681k. The temporary reduction in costs for 2017-18 and 2018-19 is due to lower than anticipated expenses resulting from the consolidation of the lab. It is expected that the cost of the service will normalize in 2019-20 onward as consolidation is now complete. The proration of the cost to municipalities will be reassessed annually upon DMA's release of the "Total Uniform Assessment" for the current fiscal year.

There is a possibility that the federally directed legalization of cannabis could have implications for municipalities in 2018/19 and beyond in areas such as municipal policy and policing/by-law enforcement. However, until there is clarity around the federal, and subsequent provincial, legislative and regulatory frameworks, there can be no specific implications identified. DMA is on the inter-departmental working group on cannabis legalization and will be leading municipal engagement as this initiative unfolds. As you know, all government departments are continuing to review programs which could affect municipalities. These potential impacts will be identified if and when they are approved through the process.

As outlined in previous correspondence from the Department of Justice, the Additional Officer Program may experience changes inclusive of both structure and functions, effective April 1, 2019. The review of the Additional Officer Program has been completed. The report has provided three options for the go-forward state of the program, currently under review. The Stakeholder Committee, made up of representation from police agencies and municipalities, will be kept informed as the process continues. It is anticipated that a decision on the future state of the program will be determined in Fall 2018, with any resulting changes effective April 1, 2019.

The *Accessibility Act* sets out that the Governor in Council may make regulations prescribing municipalities, universities and organizations as public-sector bodies. Within one (1) year of being prescribed as a public sector organization, municipalities will be required to develop an accessibility plan and establish an accessibility advisory committee. It is anticipated that municipalities will be prescribed as public sector organizations under the *Accessibility Act* within the next year.

A provincial/municipal accessibility working group has been established between the Department of Justice (Accessibility Directorate), the Department of Municipal Affairs, UNSM and the Association of Municipal Administrators (AMANS). The timing of prescription and the implications of the *Act* for municipalities are currently topics of discussion at this working group.

#### **Department of Health and Wellness**

Hospitals are exempt from property taxes under the *Hospital Act*, although municipalities can charge hospitals fees for services. Some Nova Scotia Municipalities charge the health authority for services and some do not. Currently, there is no uniform approach across the Province on how municipalities invoice the health authority or how they must be paid. The NSHA will be paying outstanding bills owed to municipalities for services such as sewer.

Over the coming year, the Department of Health and Wellness will be reviewing more broadly the issue of municipal charges to ensure consistency across the Province. It is not certain what, if any, negative effect this review may have on municipalities in the 2019-20 fiscal year.

#### **Department of Intergovernmental Affairs**

Under the terms of the Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA), which came into force on July 1, 2017, the Province is responsible for compliance with the Agreement by regional, local, district and other forms of municipal government. The parties have agreed, within one year after the effective date (July 1, 2017), to undertake a review to determine whether the Person-to-Government Dispute Resolution provisions should apply to measures adopted or maintained by a Party's regional, local, district or other forms of municipal government (Article 1002). It is anticipated that this review will be initiated by July 2018.

#### **Department of Natural Resources**

Bill 32, an *Act to Repeal Certain Statutes Pertaining to Forestry Agreements*, includes repeal of the *Scott Maritimes Limited Agreement (1965) Act*. Repeal of this Act is subject to the successful completion of negotiations for a replacement Forest Utilization License Agreement with Northern Pulp under the Crown Lands Act.

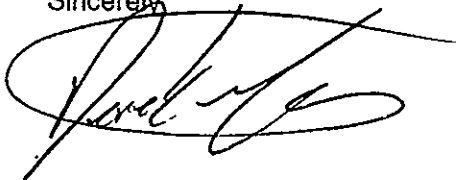
Repeal of the *Scott Maritimes Limited Agreement (1965) Act* will have negative financial implications for the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). A unique stumpage revenue-sharing provision of *the Scott Maritimes Limited Agreement (1965) Act* requires that 20% of the annual Crown lands' timber revenue generated from the leased lands be paid to Halifax County (now HRM) by the Province in lieu of tax being paid on that Crown land. A replacement for this in lieu payment is not anticipated to be included in the Forest Utilization License Agreement with Northern Pulp. Associated revenue payments to HRM in 2015-16 and 2016-17 were \$322,743.68 and \$230,695.59 respectively.

#### **Housing Nova Scotia**

A Province-wide initiative pertaining to capital renewal in public housing buildings may proceed in 2018-2019 that could require additional municipal contributions. Under existing handover agreements, municipalities pay a percentage of losses resulting from the operation of a public housing project. These percentages may differ by agreement, but the average cost-share rate is 12.5%. Should this initiative proceed, municipalities with public housing buildings that are identified for renewal investment in 2018-19 would be responsible for contributing their share of the renewal costs for the building, in alignment with the percentage share outlined in their current handover agreements.

If any of the above content is unclear or should you have any questions regarding the provided information, please do not hesitate to contact the Department for clarification.

Sincerely,



Derek Mombourquette  
Minister