



Silvicultural Program Audit Service

The renewal of harvested lands is a legal requirement of Sustainable Forest Licenses in Ontario. It is also a social and moral responsibility and a fundamental component of sustainable forest management.

Forest renewal and tending operations represent a significant cost, which may approach 10 percent of the total cost of supplying fiber to the mill. A close examination of the cost of forest renewal operations is therefore part of due diligence in the management of overall wood supply costs.

Wiltshire and Associates Forestry Inc. has a proven track record of providing silvicultural planning and support services to the Forest Industry. Wiltshire and Associates Forestry Inc. is pleased to announce a **new service** which has the potential to save your company significant money on its forest renewal program while also improving silvicultural outcomes. By making a thorough analysis of your current program and by making targeted recommendations for improvement we **guarantee** to provide you with a framework for a less expensive and more effective plan for forest renewal.

The Issues

The results of forest renewal and tending practices vary widely across the province of Ontario. Soils, climate, species range and distribution obviously have a large part to play in the determination of silvicultural outcomes however there are also significant human and organizational elements which either limit or enhance success.

Bill Wiltshire firmly believes, based on 32 years of experience and observation in the industry, that there are cost efficiencies and opportunities to improve silvicultural outcomes in virtually every forest management company.

The weakest link in forestry operations is normally planning and operational control. This is especially true for forest renewal activities. Forest renewal and tending operations represents a

cost, rather than a revenue stream for the forest industry. This coupled with the seasonal nature of *silvicultural* operations generally results in forest renewal operations being critically understaffed in most forest companies.

A frequent consequence of having too few and/or inadequately prepared staff is to wind up making large investments in broad scale and partially ineffective renewal treatments based on inadequate (hurried) field planning. Such broad scale prescriptions and treatments may be effective for 50% or more of the area within a block while overlooking inherent opportunities for natural or lower cost regeneration. We see the outcomes during condition and FTG surveys; a patchwork of excellent regeneration interspersed with poorly stocked areas as well as outright regeneration failures all driven by the underlying site and pre-treatment conditions of the block. When we track the development of areas based on the broad treatment boundaries, the results incorporate both the good and bad and are reported as being mediocre at best.

Beyond the issue of staffing, there may be particular systemic limitations within a company organization or a forest renewal program which erode silvicultural efficiency and effectiveness. Examples of these include:

- 1. Forest renewal and tending activity levels based on wood supply modeling which do not reflect the actual requirements of the management unit.*
- 2. Long term nursery stock commitments which do not contain sufficient flexibility to account for annual fluctuations in harvest level.*
- 3. Simplifying nursery stock orders (normally to get a better price based on volume) to the point that inappropriate levels of compromise have to be made regarding the allocation of species in the field.*
- 4. Inflated commitment levels to tree plant, site preparation and aerial spray contractors based on forecasted activity levels rather than actual on the ground opportunities.*
- 5. Insufficient flexibility in contracts to make ad hoc adjustments.*
- 6. Insufficient oversight of silvicultural operations combined with ineffective or unattainable measures of performance*

More detailed planning and closer control of forestry operations coupled with the removal of systemic barriers will result in **lower overall forest renewal costs** by treating fewer hectares of land, and **greatly enhanced results** by treating that land in an optimal fashion.

The Proposal

System Analysis Wiltshire and Associates Forestry Inc. offers a confidential audit service to examine your silviculture program from an external-unbiased perspective. Drawing on over 30 years of experience in the industry, Bill Wiltshire will provide a thorough analysis of your forest renewal program including:

- A review of past and recent regeneration and Silvicultural success
- Linkages and opportunities between harvest and renewal
- Forest renewal planning ~ “Forest Operations Prescriptions”
- Regeneration methods analysis
- Record keeping analysis
- On-site condition and activity audits (plant quality, MSP quality, Spray results)
- Procurement and contracting of forest renewal and tending services
- Contract standards and oversight

We will provide a thorough and confidential report specific to your operation which recommends practical actions that your company can take to enhance both silvicultural outcomes and to reduce your costs. We will rationalize and prioritize each recommendation based on its ease of implementation and its impact on costs and effectiveness.

Implementation of Recommendations Wiltshire and Associates Forestry Inc. would very much like to be part of implementing the recommendations that we make. This could amount to as little as making a presentation of our findings to your staff and management, or to providing training for your staff in the use of the methods proposed, or to providing contract staff appointments to aid in transition or for longer periods to supplement your company team.

Please give Bill Wiltshire a call at (807) 629-0993 anytime to discuss the appropriateness of this service for your organization.

Wiltshire and Associates Forestry Inc. [WAFI] is a general forestry consultant/contractor that provides services to the forest industry, post-secondary educational institutions, all levels of government and private land owners. The company has been in business since 1996 under the leadership of Bill Wiltshire. WAFI provides both operational and planning support across the spectrum of forestry disciplines including: various types of forest surveys and inventory, forest management planning, operational harvest planning and supervision including boundary and road layout and FOIP inspections, operational silvicultural planning and supervision, and training and education services. The company currently has two full time professional foresters and a minimum compliment of eight seasonal staff that are either forest technicians or foresters.

Bill Wiltshire RPF is a professional forester with 32 years of experience in the forestry sector. Bill was employed by both the federal and provincial governments and industry before starting Wiltshire and Associates Forestry Inc. Bill has particularly developed expertise in the areas of forest soils and ecosystem surveying, silvicultural prescriptions, and forestry training and education.