Interlink

Issue No. 0004-05 ~ December 2005

Forest Ecosystem Science Co-operative Inc.
977 Alloy Drive, Suite 18, Thunder Bay, ON P7B 5Z8
Telephone: (807) 346-2860 FAX: (807) 346-2299
Web-Site: www.forestco-op.ca

THANK YOU PROJECT PARTNERS

Members, Friends, and Staff of the Forest Co-op developed 12 Letters of Intent (LOIs) describing diverse and interesting projects for the Enhanced Forest Productivity Science Program's (EFPSP) second round. We hope the Forestry Futures Trust (FFT) agrees that they are consistent with FFT definitions of enhanced forest productivity – that is activities with the potential to:

- Increase the volume of wood produced or harvested per hectare,
- Shorten the rotation,
- Increase the quality or value of the product, or
- Clarify the forest cover needed to protect non-timber values.

Forest Co-op LOIs involved osprey nest timing restrictions, small mammals in mixed-wood trials, residual trees on cuts, growth and yield plots in a variety of situations, NEBIE plots, commercial thinning, mixedwood productivity, silvcultural effectiveness, succession modeling, and more. Designs ranged from robust experiments to creative new applications for existing data.

The Board of the Forest Co-op thanks you all for this exceptional effort!

Economically, it is a profoundly difficult time for the forest industry. Therefore the support pledged in the LOI's by the forest industry is remarkable, and that pledged by industry's partners is invaluable. My sometimes rosy glasses, darkened by reports of mill closures and layoffs, see clearly on this black December night – partners share the belief that good science must continue to be the basis of our forestry practices!

Successful LOIs will evolve into full proposals in January. There is still time to become a partner in projects of your choice – please call Dianne Miller to discuss your interest, and how participation can benefit your organization. See the next page for a summary of projects. FFT's Notice of Acceptance of LOIs is scheduled for December 19th, 2005.

May you find a successful LOI in your stocking …

Kandyd Szuba—Chair, Board of Directors

FOREST ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE CO-OPERATIVE INC.
—serving forest practitioners since 1997

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
The Forest Ecosystem Science Co-operative Inc. (Forest Co-op) is a partnership of organizations investing in forest science initiatives for the purpose of supporting sustainable forest management and reducing uncertainties associated with forest management decisions.

VISION
The Forest Ecosystem Science Co-operative Inc. will be recognized as a leader of science partnerships supporting sustainable forest management in Ontario.

MISSION
The Forest Ecosystem Science Co-operative will co-ordinate the delivery of timely relevant forest science, networking forest practitioners and the science community.

FOREST CO-OP—LETTERS OF INTENT TO FFT'S ENHANCED FOREST PRODUCTIVITY SCIENCE PROGRAM

#	Short Title	Description	Partnership Interest to Date *
1	Mixedwood Productivity	Replicated trial comparing growth in single species vs. mixed plantings of Po, Pj, Sb	Bow, FRP, LU, Nee, OMNR, TFA
2	Performance Assessment – PJ and Sb	In failed treatments & after FTG assessment of stands in NW Ont.	Bow, Buc, FRP, LU, OMNR, Wey
3	SEM – Silvicultural Effectiveness Monitoring	Development & pilot testing a provincial system for SEM	Abi, Bow, Buc, Dom, FRP, Geo, LAMF, Nee, OMNR, Wey
4	MOSSY – Modeling Ontario's Stand Succession & Yield	Refinement of MOSSY with new data; development of a user's manual	Abi, Dom, FRP, Nee, OMNR, Wey
5	Commercial Thinning – Pj and Sb	Response assessment; province-wide exceptions monitoring; PGPs as demo plots	Bow, Dom, FRP, Nee, NRC, OMNR
6	Prescribed Burn – PGPs	Matched plots in 14-35 yr old plantations established after wildfire, PB, mech. SIP	Abi, Bow, CC, Dom, FRP, LAMF, Nee, NRC, OMNR, Wey
7	Residual Tree Retention – Response of Key Birds	Recent burns and cuts with NDPEG direction compared (stubbed trees also).	Abi, Dom, FRP, Nee, NRC, OMNR
8	Osprey – Timing Restrictions	Response to planting, harvesting, skidding, forwarding, hauling.	Abi, Buc, Dom, Nee, OMNR, TFA
9	NEBIE Boreal	More work on ~ 100 plots testing effects of IFM on stand output, biodiversity	Bow, Buc, FRP, NRC, OMNR, Wey, UofG
10	Imagery – Remsoft Spatial Planning Tool	Combining direction for habitat & wood supply to test for gains in efficiency	Bow, OMNR
11	Small Mammal – Response to Mixedwood Silviculture	Live-trapping in SLAM trials	Abi, Dom, LAMF, OMNR
12	Yield Curves – NW	Development of yield curves using existing growth plots & M. Penner's methodology	Abi, Bow, Buc, Dom, FRP, LAMF, Nee, OMNR, Wey

*Abi = Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada, Bow = Bowater Canadian Forest Products Inc., Buc = Buchanan Forest Products Ltd., CC = Confederation College, Dom = Domtar Inc., FRP = Forestry Research Partnership (MNR, Tem, CFS), Geo = Geospatial Consulting Inc., LAMF = Lake Abitibi Model Forest, LU = Lakehead University, Nee=Neenah Paper Company of Canada, Tem = Tembec Industries Inc., TFA = Timiskaming Forest Alliance, UG = University of Guelph

FOREST CO-OP OBJECTIVES

- Enhance Dialogue in Science Priority Setting
- Foster Forest Science that Supports a Sustainable, Predictable and Affordable Wood Supply
- Grow in Accordance with Partner Needs and Sector Opportunities Seeking an Annual Project Target Level of $2 Million
- Maintain a Broad Representation of Membership
- Focus on Forest Science which will Reduce Uncertainties Associated with Forest Management Decisions
- Enhance Forest Technology / Knowledge Transfer and Implementation

FOREST CO-OP FISH & WILDLIFE BUSINESS UNIT

A meeting of the Forest Co-op Fish & Wildlife Business Unit was held in Sault Ste. Marie at the end of September. Participants included Jim Baker (OMNR), Glen Brown (Tembec), Neil Dawson (OMNR), Steve Holmes (NRCan), Scott Jones (OMNR), Dave Kreutzweiser (NRCan), Steve McGovern (OMNR), Derrick Romain (Abitibi), Jim Saunders (OMNR), Jennifer Simard (Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre), Kandyd Szuba (Domtar), Ian Thompson (NRCan), Hector Vincent (Neenah), Bob Watt (OMNR), and Dianne Miller (Forest Co-op).

Since the focus of the meeting was to discuss the development of projects, a number of the participants came prepared to lead discussions on a variety of topics including:

* Breeding Bird Atlas – Habitat Matrix Project
* River / Stream Ecological Classification Techniques
* Stream Crossings
* Residual Trees with a Wildlife Perspective
* Species at Risk
* Environmental impacts of selection logging in riparian reserves
* Osprey, eagle and heron guidelines

Two of these projects have since been developed and submitted as Letters of Intent to the Forestry Futures Trust's Enhanced Forest Productivity Science Program. Other project and project ideas discussed at the meeting will be developed further as interested partners are identified. OMNR participants involved with Species at Risk were asked to convey the interest of the Forest Co-op FWBU in participating in their future endeavours. The next meeting of the Forest Co-op FWBU is to be scheduled for the spring of 2006.

Of further note, the annual project report, dated September 1st, for the Forest Co-op Marten Habitat Project, was circulated to the project partners. It is expected that the results (2007 – 2008) of this work, led by John Fryxell (University of Guelph) in conjunction with Ian Thompson (NRCan) and Jim Baker (OMNR), will lead to significant improvement in forest management operations and planning for long-term sustainability of marten populations. In addition, the Forest Co-op Marten Cores project, led by Brian Naylor and Steve Mills (OMNR), is evaluating the relationship between the supply of suitable habitat in patches of various sizes and the harvest of martens by trappers. Analysis of trapper harvest data will be complete by January and a report regarding a more intensive study of selected sample traplines will be available by April 2006.

FOREST CO-OP ROADSHOWS

Through the summer and fall, I had the pleasure of meeting with many Forest Co-op members, potential members, partners and friends. Kandyd Szuba, from Domtar and Chair of our Board, accompanied me as I toured to areas in northeastern and northwestern Ontario. The meetings held in Mattawa, Sault Ste. Marie, Timmins and Thunder Bay focused on the benefits of Forest Co-op membership along with participation and engagement in Forest Co-op projects. Opportunities for relevance, partnerships, assistance with operational realities, commitments of industry and government dollars, and leveraging potential were highlighted.

Kandyd and I were delighted with the keen interest and enthusiasm that greeted us in all the gatherings. It was more than obvious that there is no shortage of work that needs to be done, nor knowledgeable professionals available to conduct the science. The key to our future success is in harnessing the mutual needs and the resources into collaborative partnerships to produce the relevant, timely science that will support sustainable forest management. In the year ahead, I look forward to getting together with you – our members, partners and friends –, at your invitation or mine, as we face the challenges and grow with the many opportunities to accomplish our collective goals.

Finally thanks to Kandyd, Al Stinson (OMNR), Brian Batchelor (OMNR), Mary-Ellen Stoll (OMNR), Bob Watt (OMNR), Bill Meades (NRCan), and Trisha Greer (OMNR) and everyone who participated at the meetings to make the events successful initiatives.

Dianne Miller – General Manager

Forest Co-op Membership

Active Members

Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada— Paul Poschmann

Bowater Canadian Forest Products Inc.— John Lawson

Domtar Inc.—
Kandyd Szuba /* Brian Nicks

FERIC— Mark Ryans /
* Brad Sutherland

Forintek Canada Corporation—
Yves Levesque / * Tony Zhang

Lake Abitibi Model Forest—
Wayne Young / *Wally Bidwell

Natural Resources Canada (CFS) — Pardeep Ahluwalia /
Wendy Beilhartz/
William Meades / Rod Smith

Neenah Paper Company of Canada—
Ken Lennon / *Bob Forbes

Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources—
Rob MacAlpine /*Eric Doidge
Ed Iwachewski / *Dan Duckert
Al King / *Taylor Scarr
Joe Kapron / *Scott Jones
Mary-Ellen Stoll / *Bob Watt
Tricia Greer / *Bill Towill
Wayne Fiset / *Vivienne Scott
Tim Sullivan / *Steve Kingston
Frank Kennedy
Alex Gardner/ *Brian Batchelor

Tembec Industries Inc.—
George Bruemmer / *Jeff Leach

Weyerhaeuser Company Ltd—
Murray Ferguson / *Janet Lane

Associate Members

Confederation College of Applied Arts & Technology—
Brian Kurikka/*Dave Archibald

GeoSpatial Consulting Inc.—
Craig Robinson / * Geordie Robere-McGugan

Sumac Forest Information Services Ltd.—
Dave Carr / *Todd Domney

** Denotes—Alternate*

Forest Co-op Growth & Yield Business Unit (GYBU)

With the snow starting to fly, the 2005 field season of the Forest Co-op GYBU PGP Program is quickly drawing to a close. With hard work from all involved, it has also proven to be a very successful and productive field season. The work is far from over though as the focus now shifts to data management and analysis in preparation for next year's field season.

The field work scheduled for completion as part of the Forest Co-op GYBU PGP Program for 2005-2006 includes the re-measurement of approximately 250 PGPs, which were established in 2000 during the second year of the Forest Co-op GYBU PGP Program, and the establishment of some 200 new PGPs across the boreal region. In addition, 40 PGPs were located in young plantation conditions for future measurement. To date, all of the field work for these plots has been completed and as I write this, the last of the binders and digital data is being delivered. In the south-central region, 24 PGPs are currently being measured along with the re-measurement of 14 Logging Damage assessment plots. Completion of field work and delivery of all the data is expected by year's end. With the assistance of the Forestry Futures Trust Enhanced Forest Productivity Science Program (EFPSP), the 2005-06 program is operating on a budget of $520,000.

With the continued support of the Forest Futures Trust EFPSP through the 2006-07 and 2007-08 program years, preparations are now underway for next year's field season. Efforts in 2006-07 will be focused on the fifth year re-measurement of some 450 PGPs established in 2001, the third year of the Forest Co-op GYBU PGP Program. The operating budget for the Forest Co-op GYBU PGP 2006-07 Program is $384,000.

In other Forest Co-op GYBU projects, work is continuing on jack pine forest succession modelling and NW yield curve development. Work has also recently begun on a project entitled "Development of growth intercept models for black spruce and jack pine plantations in Ontario". The three year project, being led by Dr. Jian Wang at Lakehead University, has also received support funding from the Lakehead University Living Legacy Research Program.

The spring meeting of the Forest Co-op GYBU is scheduled for March 30, 2006 in Sault Ste. Marie.

Dave Wood—Project Co-ordinator

From the Forest Co-op Management and Staff

Best wishes to you and your families for a safe and joyous festive season and a healthy, fun-filled 2006!

Dianne Miller – General Manager
Dave Wood – Project Co-ordinator
Kathy Johns – Administrative Assistant

Forest Ecosystem Science Co-operative Inc.
977 Alloy Drive, Suite 18
Thunder Bay, Ontario P7B 5Z8
Web-Site: www.forestco-op.ca
Phone: (807) 346-2860
Fax: (807) 343-2299
Email: office@forestco-op.ca