

MNR-Bowater Pilot Project Forest Co-op Update

Forest Ecosystem Science Co-op
Science Day
April 22, 2008

Pilot Project Objectives

- The objective of this project is to provide for a sustainable wood supply for the northern based forest economy by:
 - improving the knowledge base,
 - investigating new technologies and their application, and
 - transferring them into Ontario's FMP process, efficiently and effectively

Pilot Project Themes

In an effort to organize the work associated with the pilot project, three broad theme areas were created :

1. Forest Information Theme: Enhanced Forest Resource Inventory
2. Modeling and Analysis Theme: Spatial Modeling
3. Management Scales: Landscape Level Planning (MU, Eco-district or Eco-Region)

Enhanced FRI Theme Results

- Pilot results show potential of Individual Tree Crown for FRI
 - Additional attributes valuable – species height & diameter distributions, volume estimates
 - Rapid production time
 - Scalability
 - Repeatability & ability to improve results with new data

Enhanced FRI Theme Results

- Polygons delineated by ITC were not homogeneous.
- More clearly document the process used by ITC to delineate polygons and assign attributes.
- With the increased resolution of new remote sensing data alternative forest-level inventory tools such as ITC offer forest managers another tool to evaluate forest resource information.
- The scale at which it is intended must coincide with the objectives of the forest manager and the level of inference required.

Spatial Modeling Theme Results

- Results of pilot have been positive:
 - Three person team created a spatial model and all the inputs from scratch in a few weeks
 - Explored a meaningful range of alternatives quickly (11 very different approaches)
 - Balanced a number of different and sometimes competing objectives (i.e. NDPE, caribou, First Nations, cost control)
 - Tested likely approach of the Landscape Guide
- Achieved superior volume with a comparable balance of non-timber objectives
- Recommend approval of FSOS for use in FMP's

Management Scales Theme Results

- Analysis shows that the larger the management scale the better the ability to balance timber and non-timber values
- Volume gains in the order of 10% across terms was consistently achieved and gains in excess of 20% for highly constrained runs
- Volumes gains can be achieved with cost reductions
- Sustainability benchmarks very wide in natural systems

Project Status

- The final project reports completed and presented to the Executive Committee.
- A summary report will be completed and provided to the Forest Co-op.