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about Canadian pulp,
paper, and wood

managing canada's forests responsibly

As concern about their environmental footprint grows, consumers want to know they are making well-informed buying choices, and living in a way that puts less pressure on the Earth.

Canada's forest sector makes sure its wood, pulp and paper products are the result of responsible forest and production practices. Harvested areas are regenerated promptly, and Canada's tough forest regulations met. Companies welcome outside scrutiny of practices, participate in recovery and recycling, and promote carbon neutrality across the value chain. Buyers can be confident that today's quality products from Canada won't come at the expense of tomorrow's forests.

Looking for suppliers who commit to and deliver on these principles is an easy and effective way to choose responsible wood, pulp and paper products.

a legal, responsible source

Canada's forest sector is a world leader in progressive forestry practices, wildlife conservation and efficient utilization of resources and raw materials – and it is committed to continual improvement. Tough laws and enforcement, backed by more third-party forest certification than any other country, ensure Canada's forest products are from legal and sustainable sources.

a publicly owned resource

Canada has more than 400 million hectares (988 million acres) of forest and other wooded land, representing about 10 per cent of the world's forest cover. Most of Canada's forests (93 per cent) are publicly owned, and managed by the federal, provincial and territorial governments on behalf of Canadians.

By law, companies that harvest public forests must regenerate them promptly. As a result, Canada has about 90 per cent of the forested areas it had before European settlement – and its rate of deforestation is virtually zero.



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Canada stretches across five time zones. It has nine forest regions with diverse climatic conditions, terrain and soils, and about 180 species of trees. The largest forest region is the boreal, which forms a band more than 1,000 kilometres (620 miles) wide from the Yukon to the Maritimes. Canada's boreal region covers roughly one third of the Earth's boreal forested area.

open, rigorous planning

Canada's sustainable forest management model is built on rigorous planning and management processes at all levels across the country – national, provincial, territorial and regional. Its forest sector has a proud tradition of working with Aboriginal peoples, environmental and conservation groups, local communities, labour groups, and other interested groups and individuals to find common ground and mutually agreeable solutions to address social, environmental and economic values.

Integral to the model are broad public consultations, comprehensive assessment and monitoring networks, detailed reporting tools, and mechanisms to adapt practices based on new scientific information.

a strong regulatory regime

Sustainable forest management in Canada includes a well-established public process that sets management objectives for public forests, and skilled resource professionals. It is backed by a multi-faceted governance structure that includes well-developed public policies, legislation and regulations, enforcement, regular monitoring and public reporting. When forest-related laws are broken, legal penalties are applied through the justice system, and legal logging operations that do not meet legislated standards are subject to penalties and fines.

measuring progress

Canada was one of the first countries to use science-based criteria and indicators to stay on top of changes and trends to ensure decisions about sustainable forest management are based on solid evidence. Its involvement with criteria and indicators began with the Montréal Process in 1992.

Criteria define a range of forest values – such as maintaining biological diversity, minimizing impacts on soil and water, or providing a broad range of goods and services for long-term economic and social benefits – and indicators are objective measures of progress.

Criteria and indicators have supported Canada's forest strategies and forest research for 20 years, and are used to measure progress in meeting sustainable forest management objectives. There are a set of six criteria and 46 indicators at the national level, and provinces/territories either have their own criteria and indicators or adapt the national set to their own needs.

Across Canada, criteria and indicators are being used to shape national policies, regulations and legislation on forest management. Around the world, they are helping countries track and report on the status and trends in their efforts to achieve sustainable forest management.

Canada's most recent criteria:

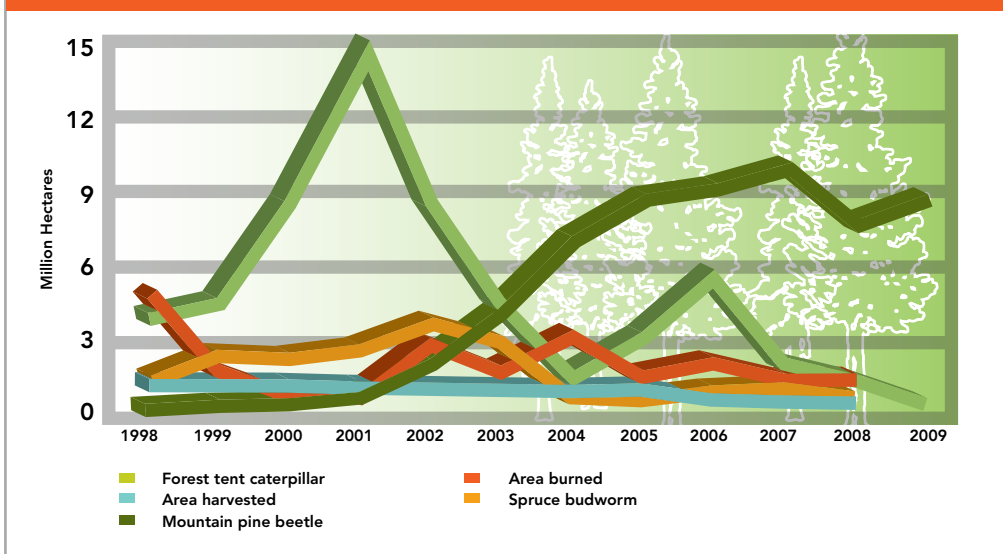
1. **Biological Diversity:** Maintaining biological diversity so organisms and ecosystems can respond and adapt to environmental change.
2. **Ecosystem Condition and Productivity:** Ensuring forest ecosystems can cope with and recover from natural and human disturbances and maintain their ecological functions and processes.
3. **Soil and Water:** Modifying management techniques to minimize disturbance, erosion, and compaction.
4. **Role in Global Ecological Cycles:** Ensuring forests are able to depend on and contribute to self-regulating processes responsible for recycling carbon, water, nitrogen, and other life-sustaining elements.
5. **Economic and Social Benefits:** Providing a broad range of forest goods and services over the long term, offering significant economic and social benefits.
6. **Society's Responsibility:** Reflecting social values in forest operations, and recognizing many rural communities depend on the forest for their economic, social and cultural well-being.

Canadian boreal forest agreement

The Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement will lead to the highest environmental standards of forest management in Canada's boreal forest. Signed in May 2010 by 21 forest companies and nine leading environmental organizations, it aims to conserve significant areas of Canada's boreal region, protect threatened woodland caribou and provide a competitive market edge for participating companies. It covers public forests licensed to industry signatories – which initially total 72 million hectares (178 million acres).

Areas alongside streams, rivers, lakes or other water sources include productive forest lands and the trees protect water quality and aquatic habitat by moderating water temperatures, stabilizing banks, providing nutrients and reducing the amount of silt in the water. Canada has stringent rules regarding harvesting within these riparian zones near waterways.

AREA OF FOREST DISTURBED BY FIRE, INSECTS AND HARVESTING



Sources: Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre, National Forestry Database and British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range

science-based decisions

Canadians expect their forests to be managed carefully and sustainably. Sustainable forest management involves meeting society's need for forest products and other benefits, while respecting the values people attach to forests and preserving forest health and diversity.

Science plays a major role in Canada's sustainable forest management. It is used to determine harvest schedules and silvicultural treatments, maintain biodiversity, set aside protected areas and address disturbances like wildfire and pests. Science is especially important in making decisions that will help the forest sector adapt to the uncertain effects of climate change.

managing natural forests

The natural forests that make up almost half of Canada's land mass are constantly changing over time. Like all healthy ecosystems, they are dynamic and have a variety of ages – the oldest forests have new growth, and older trees can be found in new forests. Canada's diverse forest ecosystems are more resilient and support habitat for a wider variety of species. This resilience is one way Canada is responding to the ecological conditions expected with climate change.

forest management planning

Before a tree can be cut on Canada's public lands, companies need an approved forest management plan – developed in consultation with the public – to show how they will manage for forest values other than timber. They must compile a profile of current forest conditions, identify desired future

conditions, and show how these can be achieved. They often run computer models to simulate different harvesting and management strategies before choosing the best approach to achieve the desired objectives.

harvesting methods

A silvicultural system covers all activities that best meet the unique values of each site from early planning through harvesting, replanting and tending the new forest. As well as identifying the most appropriate harvesting method, resource professionals also set aside reserves to protect scenery and keep silt out of waterways, time the harvest to avoid soil damage, and much more.

Clearcutting is a common harvesting method that resembles large natural disturbances, such as fire, wind, floods and insects. It removes most of the trees from an area and leaves patches of trees and buffers to provide wildlife habitat and protect other forest values. This is the most ecologically appropriate way to harvest and renew Canada's boreal forest, which is shaped by natural disturbances and has species such as black spruce that thrive in full sunlight.

Forest managers are retaining more trees and more coarse woody debris to provide structure in forest stands and the landscape, as well as planning harvest areas around natural boundaries and leaving reserves around sensitive areas such as waterways or important wildlife habitat. Other harvesting techniques, such as retention or selection cutting, are used in areas where soils are dry or terrain unstable, or when clearcutting may affect old-growth areas, wildlife habitat or other values.



summary

With responsibility for 10 per cent of the world's total forest cover, Canada manages its diverse lands and produces quality forest products in a way that meets the highest environmental standards.

Choosing wood products from Canada means using an environmentally sustainable product that is better for the environment than steel, plastic or concrete. Choosing pulp and paper from Canada means using products from one of the most environmentally responsible sources in the world. Canada's forest products industry is poised to continue to contribute significantly to the greening of society.

resources

Natural Resources Canada:

Canada's Forests
<http://canadaforests.nrcan.gc.ca>

The State of Canada's Forests 2010
<http://canadaforests.nrcan.gc.ca/rpt/2010>

Sustainable Forest Management
<http://canadaforests.nrcan.gc.ca/article/sustainableforestmanagement>

Forests and Climate Change
<http://canadaforests.nrcan.gc.ca/article/climatechange>

Forest Fire in Canada
<http://fire.cfs.nrcan.gc.ca/home-accueil-eng.php>

Canadian Council of Forest Ministers:

SFM in Canada: Criteria and Indicators
http://ccfm.org/english/coreproducts-criteria_in.asp

Other Resources:

Canadian Boreal Forest Agreement:
www.canadianborealforestagreement.com/

Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre:
www.cifffc.ca

To learn more, visit feel-good.ca.



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