

Province of Manitoba

Population: 1,325,000 ¹

Area: 63.6 million ha
54.8 million ha land base

Forests and other wooded land: 36.3 million ha ²

Ownership/allocation of forested lands:

Public: 34.5 million ha (95 %)

Private: 1.1 million ha (3 %)

Federal: 725,000 ha (2 %)

Public forest land subject to forest management licence agreements: 11.4 million ha

Parks and protected areas: 3.4 million ha

1. Description

The Province of Manitoba, Canada's central province, consists of 63.6 million hectares of prairie, lake and forest. The southern boundary of the province borders the United States at 49° latitude and the northern boundary flanks the Territory of Nunavut at 60° latitude.

Forests make up about 36.3 million hectares of the province's 63.6 million hectare land base.

Boreal forest:

The Northern Coniferous or boreal forest is the largest forest zone in Manitoba. It covers a broad swath across the north-central and central part of the province, dipping down to extend across the eastern border into Ontario. Dominant species are black spruce in the lowland bogs and fens, and jack pine, poplar and white spruce on the uplands.

Manitoba's boreal forests support the majority of the province's forest industry, providing resources for kraft paper and lumber. This region is also important for mining. With its large rivers, provide hydro-electricity for domestic use and export. First Nations' communities are found throughout the boreal forest, and the area is an important tourist destination.

¹ Manitoba bureau of Statistics, June 2017

² Source of all forest area information:

Broadleaf/Mixed Wood Forest:

The Broadleaf/Mixed Wood Forest dominates the south-central portion of the province. This forest type is often referred to as the Aspen Parkland, which consists predominantly of aspen, with smaller amounts of white spruce, oak, maple and elm.

This forest region supports many small forest operations and contains some of the most productive forest in the province. A variety of wood products are produced from the broadleaf/mixed wood forest, including engineered wood product (siding) and lumber.

Small Broadleaf Forest Stands:

The grasslands of southern Manitoba parallel the edge of Manitoba's central forest zone. While often thought as an endless expanse of grass, there are actually thousands of small broadleaf forest stands dotting the prairie landscape. These mini oases of deciduous trees and shrubs not only provide critical habitat for wildlife, but a valuable source of income to farmers and landowners through proper woodlot management.

2. Forest governance

Public lands

The [Forestry and Peatlands Branch](#) of Manitoba Sustainable Development is one of several government branches responsible for ensuring sustainable resource management for present and future generations of Manitobans. Under the authority of [The Forest Act](#), and [The Forest Health Protection Act](#) the Forestry and Peatlands Branch manages provincial Crown (public) forests by setting forest harvest levels, monitoring [forest management activities](#), ensuring forests are [regenerated](#), providing protection from [insects and diseases](#) and [collecting revenues](#) for use of Crown timber.

Private lands

There are no acts or regulations currently in effect that govern forest management on private land. Forestry Branch does support forest management programs outside of Crown forests through Manitoba Conservation's Sustainable Development Innovations Fund to partner with the [Manitoba Forestry Association](#) to deliver [woodlot management](#) programs to private landowners in southern Manitoba. Manitoba's Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (MAFRD) also provides online resources to help landowners make informed decisions.

Forestry Branch assists rural and urban areas with community forest management, including the [Dutch Elm Disease Management Program](#). It also administers the [Forest Health Protection Act](#), [Forest Health Protection Regulations](#) and [Arborists Regulations](#). Further the Forest Health Protection Act allows an officer of the Crown the ability to enter, inspect and issue an order for nursery stock, forest products and trees that are considered a forest threat.

The Heritage Tree Program, under [The Forest Health Protection Act](#), recognize trees with exceptional significance to Manitobans in order to promote public awareness of the environmental, cultural, social and historic importance of trees and forests on both Crown and private lands.

3. Forest management legislation and regulations

The [Forest Act](#) is the main legislative framework for forestry activity on Crown Land in the Province of Manitoba and works in harmony with:

- The [Forest Health Protection Act](#);
- The [Wildfires Act](#);
- The [Crown Lands Act](#);
- The [Provincial Parks Act](#); and
- The [Environment Act](#).

The *Forest Act* describes utilization, management, regulation and protection of the forest resource:

- Utilization: The sustainable use of trees to make products such as paper, lumber, furniture, windows, wood pellets, etc. The Inventory section of the Forestry and Peatlands Branch specifically records and analyses data that shows where and how many trees are in the province
- Management: Short and long-term planning for forest utilization, such as [Forest Management Licence Agreements](#) for large companies. The Forestry and Peatlands Branch monitors activities in the forest, including long-term planning and development of new projects, and develops forest practices.
- Regulation: Rule making for the management planning process and utilization practices. Provides the ability for Resource Officers to monitor, issue orders and penalties for operations not in compliance.
- Protection: Focuses on providing protection for the forest regarding insects and disease. Reforestation of harvested forests by returning them to pre-harvest conditions protects

Compliance monitoring, enforcement and penalties

Conservation Officers within [Regional Support Services](#) co-ordinate the delivery of programs and services including compliance and enforcement activities related to natural resources. Conservation Officers will work with regional forestry staff to issue the required permits to authorize activities, and review forestry operations. Any infractions to an agreement or permits could result in seizure of timber, or payments of 4 times the dues.

Acts and regulations governing parks and protected areas

Manitoba's provincial parks were created under the authority of the *Provincial Parks Act*. The system plan establishes the boundaries, classifications and land use categories of every provincial park and park reserve in Manitoba. It also identifies provincial park and park reserve lands that contribute to Manitoba's network of protected areas.

Manitoba has 86 provincial parks totalling more than four million hectares of land. Parks are designated as Wilderness Parks, Natural Parks, Recreation Parks or Heritage Parks, while the Park Reserve designation provides interim protection for lands under consideration. Park lands are further classified into six Land Use Categories to direct appropriate land uses

within identified areas. Manitoba is also home to Riding Mountain and Wapusk National Parks, and four Canadian Heritage Rivers.

The goal of Manitoba's [Protected Areas Initiative](#) is to create a network of protected areas that contains representative examples of the tremendous biological diversity found across Manitoba's varied landscapes. Since the start of the Protected Areas Initiative in 1990, the protected area network has increased from 350,000 hectares to just over 7.1 million hectares today. Approximately 11% of Manitoba is protected.

In Manitoba, protected areas legally prohibit logging, mining, hydro electric development, oil and gas exploration and development, exploring for and harvesting peat, and any other activities that significantly and adversely affect habitat. Protected areas include the protected parts of ecological reserves, traditional use planning areas, provincial parks and park reserves, wildlife management areas, provincial forests, national parks, and some conservation agency-owned lands. Manitoba ended commercial logging in all provincial parks except Duck Mountain Provincial Park in 2009.

Manitoba provincial parks and protected areas are governed by the following mechanisms:

- [The Ecological Reserves Act](#)
- [The East Side Traditional Lands Planning and Special Protected Areas Act](#)
- [The Provincial Parks Act](#) and [The Upper Fort Garry Heritage Provincial Park Act](#)
- [The Wildlife Act](#)
- [The Forest Act](#)
- [Memorandums of Agreement](#) between the province and conservation agencies

4. Timber processing legislation and regulations

All Crown wood must be scaled by a licensed scaler. [Manitoba Scaler's Licence Program](#) provides a uniform standard of training and certification for individuals involved in scaling timber harvested in Manitoba and ensures that all proper scaling methods are followed by industry.

Wood can only be transported if approved in a Scaling Plan. An annual scaling plan is required detailing the method and location of scaling, and the final destination for all planned harvest. All Crown timber being transported must be accompanied by a completed load slip as per the Forest Act and Regulations.

All harvested Crown wood must be reported by the last business day of the month following the month in which the timber was scaled and delivered. Timber delivered to a designated reporting facility is reported and paid for by the facility. Crown timber delivered to other destinations must be reported by the timber cutting right holder via a Timber Return.

[Timber Dues and Charges](#) (Forest Protection Charge and [Forest Renewal Charge](#)) are payable on all Crown timber on the last business day of the month after the monthly timber report must be provided. [Timber Dues](#) for kraft, OSB, and softwood lumber are set monthly

based on the previous month average commodity reference prices. Timber Dues for other commodities are reviewed and set on an annual basis.

All facilities that process timber into a product for sale must hold a valid wood processing facility licence. A wood processing facility must not accept wood unless it is properly identified as to ownership (Crown or private). The facility must maintain records on all timber purchased, inventory volumes and production.

5. Forest certification

The two existing Forest Management License holders in Manitoba are third party certified and in good standing. The certification schemes active in Manitoba include Canada's National Sustainable Forest Management Standard (CSA) (CAN/CSA-Z809) and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative ® (SFI) Inc. There are 11.73 million ha certified under these schemes.³

6. Public engagement in forest management:

Forest Management Planning

Companies who hold, or are seeking, a Forest Management Licence require a long-term Forest Management Plan under *The Forest Act*. The Forest Management Plan must be developed in accordance with current guidelines provided by Manitoba Sustainable Development.

Communication Strategy

The communication strategy is an essential element of the Forest Management Plan. It provides the proponent the chance to gather and address comments from Indigenous communities and stakeholders. The provincial report of *Consultation on Sustainable Development Implementations* recommends involving the public at the earliest stages of a development proposal to ensure meaningful inclusion in land planning. Formal communication opportunities are throughout the various stages in the planning process. A good communication strategy encourages opportunities for all stakeholders to identify values within the forest.

Communication Plan

The communication plan is developed as part of the Terms of Reference of the Forest Management Plan and is located in the Appendices if not circulated to the public. At a minimum, the communication plan must include the following information: a list of communities, non-government organizations, First Nations, Metis organizations, stakeholders, advisory groups, associations, and other interested individuals that the proponent intends to contact. It must provide a location and general timing of proposed communication meetings. The level of engagement of each group will be determined by the proponent to ensure meaningful input to develop the plan.

Manitoba Sustainable Development recommends the proponent meet with Forestry and Peatlands Branch staff to discuss how they plan to engage indigenous communities in the planning process.

³ [Certification Status Report, Manitoba-SFM-Year-end 2016](http://www.certificationcanada.org) www.certificationcanada.org

Minimum Requirement for Communication

To help an exchange of information, the proponent must deliver information on the following aspects of the forest management plan:

- management objectives;
- wood supply/modelling and scenarios;
- summaries of resource information;
- information to assist in an understanding of the plan;
- access development;
- proposed operating areas;
- monitoring; and
- mechanisms to identify and collect values in the forest.

Not all attributes of the plan will be available at each communication session because of the iterative process of planning.

Section 35 Consultation

The legal obligation for Crown consultation is a requirement of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. In this Act "aboriginal peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Metis peoples of Canada.

Further the Manitoba [*Interim Provincial Policy for Crown Consultation with Aboriginal Peoples*](#) states that:

"The Government of Manitoba recognizes it has a duty to consult in a meaningful way with First Nations, Métis communities and other aboriginal communities when any proposed provincial law, regulation, decision or action may infringe upon or adversely affect the exercise of a treaty or aboriginal right of that First Nation, Métis community or other aboriginal community."

The objectives of the Policy are:

- to ensure Manitoba informs itself and gains a proper understanding of the interests of First Nations, Métis communities and other Indigenous communities with respect to a proposed government decision or action;
- to seek ways to address and/or accommodate those interests where appropriate through a process of consultation while continuing to work towards the best interests of the citizens of Manitoba; and
- to advance the process of reconciliation between the Crown and First Nations, Métis and other indigenous communities.