

Province of Prince Edward Island



Population: 149,970 ¹

Area: 568,600 ha

Forests: 250,084 ha ²

Ownership of forested lands:

Public: 33,011 ha (13.2%)

Private: 217,073 ha (86.8%)

Public Lands Subject to Forest Management Agreements: 1780 ha

Environmental Coalition of Prince Edward Island: 800 ha

Abegweit First Nation, Scotchford, PEI: 270 ha

ACFOR – Forest Management: 710 ha

Parks and Protected Areas: 18,417 ha

Federal Parks: 3,714 ha

Provincial Parks: 542 ha

Privately-owned Natural Areas: 1,685 ha

Public Natural Areas: 5,376 ha

Wildlife Management Areas: 7,100 ha

1. Description

Located on the east coast of Canada in the Gulf of St Lawrence, Prince Edward Island (PEI) is Canada's smallest province, with a total area of 568,600 ha. PEI's forest belongs to the Acadian Forest region of Canada. The most common coniferous species include black spruce, white spruce, balsam fir and eastern larch with lesser amounts of white pine, red pine, eastern hemlock, eastern white cedar and other conifer species. The primary deciduous species are red maple, trembling aspen and white birch with sugar maple, red oak, beech, white ash and yellow birch accounting for most of the remainder.

Most of PEI's commercial softwood is sold to mills in the provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, with only small volumes processed in-province. The primary market for hardwood species is the domestic fuelwood sector. The Island's value-added wood industry exports to markets around the globe, but the softwood and hardwood volume is small.

In 2012, PEI's largest forest product export markets were the United States (89%), Japan (4%) and Saudi Arabia (3%). Total forest product export sales in 2012 were \$1.62 million.³

¹ [Province of PEI Economic Indicators](#), 2017

² Source of all forest area information: PEI *State of the Forest Report*, 2012

³ Statistics Canada 2012. Trade data accessed via the World Trade Atlas, March 2013. Includes Harmonized System codes 44, 47 and 48.

2. Forest governance

Public lands

Only 13% of PEI's forest is publicly owned. The [Forest Management Act](#) provides authority for the management and harvest of public land forests on PEI. The Province does not allocate long term timber rights for public lands. Instead, all forest products are offered for sale by public tender. The winning bidder only acquires rights to the stumpage for the specified site and all property rights and ownership remains with the Province.

The Province does enter into co-management agreements on public lands with groups whose values and goals are in-line with those of the [2006 Forest Policy](#). When operating on public lands assigned them for management, each group must abide by all standards and requirements and report their activities and progress on a regular basis to the public. Existing co-management agreements have been signed with environmental and First Nations groups.

Harvest activity on public lands accounts for a small percentage of the Island's overall softwood and hardwood harvest. During the period 2001-2010, the area harvested on public lands averaged about 100 ha/yr or less.

Parks and Protected areas

Provincial Parks are established under the [Recreation Development Act](#) and regulated under the [Provincial Parks Regulations](#). The primary intent of PEI's park system is to support local tourism and recreation opportunities.

The PEI [Natural Areas Protection Act](#) (NAPA) and [NAPA Regulations](#) allows for the designation and protection of rare, unique and critical ecological and geological features on public and private lands. PEI has committed to the protection of 7% of the Island and to date, some 3.2% is designated under NAPA and other forms of protection.

All activities in riparian zones along Island watercourses, including forested buffers on public and private lands, are regulated under the [Environmental Protection Act](#) and [Watercourse and Wetland Protection Regulations](#).

Private Lands

PEI's [Registry Act](#) ensures that private land owners and the province are able to obtain a guaranteed title to a property. Under the [Lands Protections Act](#), no individual may own more than 400 hectares of land on PEI. Corporations are limited to 1,200 ha in total land holdings. Management and harvest rights belong to the property owner, but the province does provide forest stewardship assistance and advice to interested land owners as described below.

3. Forest management legislation and regulations

Public Lands

The *Forest Management Act* provides authority for the management and harvest of public land forests on PEI. [Forest management plans](#) are prepared for all public lands and posted for public comment. These plans must meet the standards of the [Ecosystem-based Forest Management](#)

[Standards Manual.](#)

The province does not allocate long term timber rights for public lands, but will enter into co-management agreements with groups and organizations that share a commitment to forest stewardship and who can implement work in compliance with the required standards contained in the *Ecosystem-based Forest Management Standards Manual*.

Forest products from public lands are offered for sale by open tender. The winning bidder only acquires stumpage rights for the specified site and must complete all work to the required standards within a set period of time. All property, ownership and forest management rights remain with the Province. Failure to comply with the terms and standards of the harvest contract can lead to a variety of penalties for non-compliance, including, but not limited to, the loss of the stumpage rights, loss of ability to bid on future public land harvests, and/or fines for infractions of the province's buffer zone regulations under the *Environmental Protection Act*.

The [PEI Department of Communities, Land and Environment](#) has management rights and responsibility for public lands designated as [Provincial Forests, Wildlife Management Areas and Natural Areas](#) (some Natural Areas properties are sand dunes, ponds, etc). Responsibility for provincial parks belongs to the [Department of Economic Development and Tourism](#). Most of the remaining public land on PEI (schools, public buildings, roads, etc.) is managed by the [Department of Transportation, Infrastructure and Energy](#).

Private Lands

Most of PEI's forest (87%) is privately-owned by small woodlot owners and farmers. Management and harvest decisions are the right and responsibility of the owner.

The province will provide [technical advice and assistance](#) to private land owners who are interested in forest stewardship and who practice forestry in compliance standards of the *Ecosystem-based Forest Management Standards Manual*.

Industrial Forest Lands

PEI does not have industrial forest lands.

4. Timber processing legislation and regulations

The *Forest Management Act* provides authority for the management and harvest of public land forests on PEI. All public land forest products are offered for sale by public tender and the province does not allocate long term timber rights for public lands. Private woodlot owners are responsible for their own harvest and management decisions.

As required by the [Forest Renewal Program Regulations](#), all commercial softwood harvested on public and private lands on PEI is subject to a \$2/cord⁴ Forest Management Checkoff Fee. This money is reinvested into forest management programs for public lands and participating private lands.

⁴ A stack of fuelwood, pulpwood or other material measuring 128 cubic feet or 2.4 solid cubic metres.

5. Forest certification

Public lands

Under the 2006 Forest Policy, the province made a commitment to implement various forest certification systems. The province has achieved certification under the third-party Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) system for several public properties comprising 170 ha in the southeastern part of the Island.

The province is actively exploring options to certify additional public land properties under other forest certification systems. The provincial government does not monitor private land certification.

Private Lands

There are currently 446 ha of privately-owned forest land certified under the FSC system on PEI.⁵

6. Public engagement in forest management

Under the 2006 Forest Policy, the province made a commitment to increase public participation in public land forest management.

Public land forest management plans are developed in accordance with the *Ecosystem-based Forest Management Standards Manual* and posted on-line for comment from the public, stakeholder groups, community groups and First Nations. Based on the comments and concerns received, plans can be modified to address any issues.

A signage program was implemented to clearly identify public lands and their primary management goals.

A [Public Land Atlas](#) was developed to enable people to see where public lands are located and to encourage them to use these lands for activities such as recreation, angling, hunting, bird watching, etc.

Workshops, tours and other events are held on public lands to demonstrate how they are being managed and explain the short term and long term goals for each property.

Education programs for youth use public forest lands as areas for teaching, demonstration and ongoing forest research.

⁵ [Certification Status Report, Prince Edward Island-SFM-Year-end 2014](#). www.certificationcanada.org

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