



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION

SNC FOREST

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2021

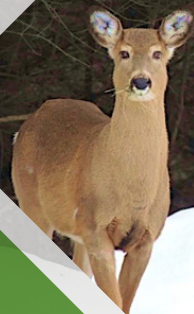


Table of Contents

1	INTRODUCTION	2
2	FOREST ADMINISTRATION	2
2.1	Forest Accruals and Depletion	2
2.2	Forest Certification	2
	New Staff	3
	New Accreditations	3
	Forestry Training	3
2.3	Property Tax Programs	3
2.3.1	Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)	3
2.3.2	Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program	4
2.4	Easements	4
2.4.1	Ontario Heritage Trust	4
3	FOREST MANAGEMENT	4
3.1	Twenty-Year Forest Management and Five-Year Operational Plan	4
3.2	SNC Forest: 2020 Annual Plan Silvicultural Prescriptions	4
4	FOREST OPERATIONS	5
4.1	Silvicultural Prescriptions	5
4.2	Tree Marking	5
4.3	Tree Planting	6
4.4	Harvest	7
5	CAPITAL PROJECTS & FOREST INFRASTRUCTURE	8

1 INTRODUCTION

South Nation Conservation (SNC) owns land including forests and wetlands. These lands are managed in accordance with an approved forest management plan which provides for sustainable timber harvest that generates revenue, improves forest health, provides wildlife habitat, protects natural heritage and creates recreational opportunities. As at December 31, 2020, the total area of land owned by SNC was 4,823.2 hectares.

This report outlines the administrative and operational activities that have been carried out from January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019. Activities undertaken during 2020 were completed during a world-wide Covid-19 pandemic following all applicable health guidelines to control and prevent the spread of disease. No Covid-19 related incidents were observed as the result of performing these activities.

2 FOREST ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Forest Accruals and Depletion

Under the Forest Land Acquisition Program, SNC actively seeks to acquire land for forestry purposes and ensure adequate forest cover throughout its jurisdiction. In 2020, one parcel of land was added to the SNC Forest. There were no depletions in 2020. The forest area at the end of the operating period was 4,823.2 hectares. Table 1 provides a summary of changes to the SNC Forest land base.

Table 1
South Nation Forest
Summary of Accruals and Depletions

Comp.	Municipality		Type	Area (ha.)	Value
SNC 166	North Stormont	Accrual	Split Receipt	65.0	\$182,000.00
Total Accruals				65.0	\$182,000.00
Total Depletions				0.0	\$0.00

2.2 Forest Certification

The SNC Forest maintained Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification during the operating period under Group Certificate RA-FM/COC-000232. The annual FSC audit was completed from November 30, 2020 to December 4, 2020. Four Community Forests, one private commercial forest owner and four private forest owners were included in the 2020 audit. Member-forests are randomly subject to audit following internal monitoring requirements as per the new Group Standard (see attached FSC-STD-30-005V2-0 FM Groups Standard). SNC submitted all documents required for independent annual audits under group certification but were not selected for field audit during the 2020 operating period.

During the FSC audit, one minor non-conformity was reported regarding minimum annual sample size requirements for internal monitoring of forest management units (FMUs) less than

1000 hectares. This non-conformity did not apply to the SNC Forest. The non-conformity was corrected by the end of January 2020.

Additionally, one observation regarding verification of compliance with health and safety regulations, particularly the Workplace Safety and Insurance Act (WSIB) Regulation 1101, was recorded. A contractor (owner-operator) did not have anyone who was certified in first aid on-site during forest operations, although first aid kits were present on-site, as required by regulation. Verification of certification requirements has been added to the SNC pre-start checklist.

On February 12th, 2020, the SNC Forest was subject to an internal activity assessment report conducted by the Group Certificate holder (EOMF) in compliance with FSC requirements. Management activities, social, economic and environmental impacts were monitored in relation to the scale of the operation. The assessment concluded that the forest was managed in compliance with operational standards and FSC Principles & Criteria.

The Annual Reporting Form was submitted to the Group Certificate holder (EOMF) on August 25, 2020. The annual report indicated for the period July 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2020 an annual harvest volume of 3,913.55 m³, 50.2 hectares added to the forest and no area removed from the forest, 5.7 liters of Roundup-Weathermax with Transorb II were used to treat 4.0 ha. for pre-plant tending species, and a total forest area of 4,305.2 hectares.

The annual report also included the following staff changes and forestry training acquired during the operating period:

New Staff

Martin Streit, B.Sc.F., R.P.F., Forester (part-time)
Caroline Goulet, B. Am. For., Dipl. Forestry & Wildlife Management

New Accreditations

Cheyenne Brunet, R.P.F. in Training
Caroline Goulet, Certified Arborist, R.P.F.

Forestry Training

Tree Marker Certification (3 staff)
Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) Data Sensitivity Training (4 staff)
Certified Arborist (1 staff)
Certified Seed Collector (2 staff)
Butternut Health Assessor (3 staff)

2.3 Property Tax Programs

2.3.1 Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP)

There were no changes under the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program (MFTIP) during 2020. The total eligible area remained 3,989.38 hectares under SNC Forest Management Plan No. H9816. Plan No. H9816 was accepted to the MTIP under Ontario Regulation 282/98 of the Assessment Act on September 10th, 2018.

2.3.2 Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program

In 2020, seventeen compartments within the SNC Forest had areas eligible under the Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP) and voluntarily registered under CLTIP for the 2021 tax year. The total area was 538.06 hectares. These properties are all Provincially Significant Wetlands (PSW) and /or Areas of Natural & Scientific Interest – Life Sciences (ALS).

2.4 Easements

2.4.1 Ontario Heritage Trust

The SNC Forest contains 623.04 hectares subject to Heritage Conservation Easement Agreements (HCEA) to the interest of the Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT).

Under the terms of the HCEA, the SNC Forest can be subject to a compliance audit by an OHT representative. As a result of Covid-19 travel restrictions there were no compliance audits completed during the operating period.

3 FOREST MANAGEMENT

3.1 Twenty-Year Forest Management and Five-Year Operational Plan

The Forestry Committee reviewed the Twenty-Year Forest Management Plan and Five-Year Operational Plan and recommended the plans to the Board of Directors in March 2018 subject to final comments until March 15th, 2018. The Board of Directors approved the plans in June 2018 (BD-119/18). There were no changes to the Twenty-Year Forest Management Plan and the Five-Year Operational Plan.

3.2 SNC Forest: 2020 Annual Plan Silvicultural Prescriptions

The 2020 Annual Plan was prepared in May 2019 and based on the schedule of operational activities within the five-year operational plan. The 2020 Annual Plan was recommended to the Board of Directors at the June 2019 Forestry Committee meeting and approved by the Board of Directors (BD-91/19) subject to approval of the 2020 SNC Budget. Planned activities remained unchanged and approved in the 2020 SNC Budget (BD- 185/19).

4 FOREST OPERATIONS

4.1 Silvicultural Prescriptions

Silvicultural prescriptions were prepared for operational activities on seven SNC Forest properties for a gross total area of 142.4 hectares. Silvicultural prescriptions consisted of mainly conifer plantation thinnings. Table 2 summarizes the prescription activities.

Table 2
Summary of Silvicultural Prescriptions
2020

Compartment	Treatment	Gross Area (Ha.)	Actual Area (Ha.)	Species	Quantity
SNC 8	Row/Selection Thinning	11.8	10.0	Pr, Sw	475.6 m ³
SNC 16/17	Selection Thinning	11.4	10.0	Pw, Sw	608.4 m ³
SNC 29	Selection Thinning	29.4	10.5	Pr, SW	568.1 m ³
SNC 30	Row Removal	7.6	4.0	Sw	305.0 m ³
SNC 53	Selection Thinning	22.6	5.6	Sw	183.4 m ³
SNC 61	Selection Thinning	44.0	17.9	Hardwoods	2,154.9 m ³
SNC 62	Selection Thinning	15.6	2.0	Pr	214.3 m ³

4.2 Tree Marking

Tree marking following silvicultural prescriptions were complete on 54.1 hectares of forests during 2020.

Table 3
Summary of Tree Marking
2020

Working Group	Allowable Harvest Area (ha.)	SNC Forest Compartments (ha.)						Total
		SNC 8	SNC 16/17	SNC 29	SNC 30	SNC 61	SNC 62	
Red Pine	15.3	8.0		1.0			2.0	11.0
White Spruce	33.6	2.0	9.0	9.5	4.0			24.2
White Pine	8.1		1.0					1.0
Lowland Hdwd.	34.9					17.9		17.9
Intolerant Hdwd.	5.4							0.0
Total		10.0	10.0	10.5	4.0	17.9	2.0	54.1

4.3 Tree Planting

Table 4 summarizes tree planting on the SNC Forest during 2020. The planting was subsidized by Forest Ontario under the 50 Million Tree Program

Table 4
2020 Tree Planting Summary

Compartment	Treatment	Area (Ha.)	Species	Quantity	Comment
SNC 164	Tree Planting -	2.87	White Spruce	400	Bare root
			Sugar Maple	210	Whips
			Sugar Maple	400	Bare root
			White Pine	2,750	Bare root
			Black Walnut	650	Bare root

Tree planting on SNC 164 recently acquired by SNC in 2019 included inactive agricultural lands. All tree planting on the site was completed by SNC staff (Figure 1). The total cost of planting was \$8,353 with SNC contributing \$2,625 plus applicable taxes.



Figure 1
SNC Staff Planting Seedlings – SNC 164

First-year tree survival was assessed at the end of the growing season. Survival was 62%. The plantation will be assessed at the end of year 2 and year 5. After each assessment, if survival falls below 60%, the plantation will be eligible for refill under the 50-Million Tree Program.

4.4 Harvest



Figure 2: Logs on Landing Awaiting Transport – SNC 2

Planned harvests were undertaken on four SNC Forest compartments under contract. Table 5 provides a summary of the completed harvest.

**Table 5
Summary of Annual Harvest
2020**

Harvest Year	Compartment(s)	Species ¹	Estimated Volume (m³)	Actual Volume ² (m³)	Harvest Area (ha.)	Value (gross)
2020	SNC 2/3	Pr	1,209.8	609.8	32.2	\$10,122.61
		Pw	185.5	135.5		\$1,964.63
		Sw	1,170.0	1,935.2		\$28,060.64
		Po	112.9	224.6	-	\$404.35
2020	SNC 5 SNC 7	Pr	600.8	598.6	31.4	\$8,673.37
		Pw	521.0	524.3		\$5,242.97
		Sw	366.4	828.7	7.9	\$8,287.29
		Po	-	142.7	-	\$285.29
Total			4,166.4	4,999.4	71.5	\$63,041.15

Harvests were completed to FSC operating procedure resulting in total annual production of 4,999.4 m³ from 71.5 hectares with a stumpage value of \$63,041.15.

¹ Pw-White Pine; Pr-Red Pine; Sw-White Spruce; Po-Poplar

5 CAPITAL PROJECTS & FOREST INFRASTRUCTURE

Several infrastructure projects were completed on the SNC Forest in 2020 (Table 6). Additional trail improvements were completed on SNC1 (Robert Graham Trail) including two new water-crossing (culverts) and trail surfacing added (Figure 2).



Figure 2
New Culvert Installation – SNC 1

A new entrance culvert was installed on SNC 7 and a culvert installed on the forest access trail on SNC 5 (Figure 3). The culvert installations included __ tonnes of aggregate.



SNC used a hydro-ax mulcher to clear 950 metres of existing forest access trail and constructed an additional 235 m. of access trail on SNC 2/3. This proved to be an efficient and effective means to maintain forest access trails.



Table 6
Summary of Capital Projects & Infrastructure
2020

Type	Compartment	Quantity	Comments
Landings	SNC2; SNC3; SNC5; SN	4	
Entrance Culverts (permanent)	SNC 7	1	Municipal Permit
Entrance Culverts (temporary)	None	0	
Culverts (Trails)	SNC 5; SNC 1	3	
Aggregates	SNC 1; SNC 5; SNC 7	200 T	
Roads/Trails (new)	SNC 2	235 m.	
Roads/Trails (maintenance)	SNC 3	950 m.	