



SOUTH NATION
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SOUTH NATION CONSERVATION

SNC FOREST

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

MARCH 2022

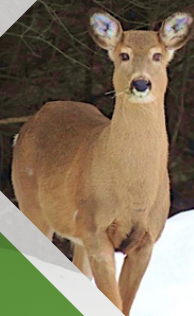


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1 INTRODUCTION

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, 2021, the total area of land owned by SNC was 5,007.1 hectares.

This report outlines the administrative and operational activities that have been carried out from January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021. Activities undertaken during 2021 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 2021, four parcels of land were added to the SNC Forest. There were no depletions in 2021. 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	Purpose	Type	Area (ha.)	Value
168	Nation	Infrastructure	Fee Simple	0.7	\$125,000
169	Augusta	Park	Donation	3.4	\$8,500
170	Alfred-Plantagenet	Forest	Fee Simple	40.4	\$275,000
172	South Dundas	Forest	Fee Simple	30.5	\$105,000
Total Accruals				75.0	\$513,500
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 12, 2021 to November 19, 2021. Five Community Forests, one private commercial forest owner and three private forest owners were included in the 2021 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 and was selected for field audit during the 2021 operating period.

During the FSC audit, seven minor non-conformities and two observations were reported. Minor non-conformities related to FSC Pesticide policies include lack of public availability of Environmental and Social Risk Assessments (ESRA) and knowledge of prohibited chemical pesticides in 3rd party processes (nursery suppliers). Other public knowledge-based non-conformities included lack of Species at Risk information in one management plan, lack of forest management plan contact information, and public availability or knowledge of High Conservation Values Reports. Two administrative non-conformities were reported regarding an update of the group-level Forest Stewardship Standard and the inclusion of definitions for active and inactive forest management units. The non-conformities did not directly apply to the SNC Forest.

Additionally, two observations were recorded. The first observation concerned compliance with Standard Operating Procedures related to rutting. The second observation related to outdated text in the Eastern Ontario Forest Group Policy and Procedure Manual.

The SNC Forest was subject to internal activity assessments conducted by the Group Certificate holder (EOMF) in compliance with FSC requirements on January 25th, 2021 and August 10, 2021. 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 July 16, 2021. The annual report indicated for the period July 1st, 2020 to June 30th, 2021 an annual harvest volume of 3,683.68 m³, 66.7 hectares added to the forest and no area removed from the forest, and a total forest area of 4,371.9.2 hectares.

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

New Staff

Tavish Macleod

New Accreditations

Caroline Goulet, Registered Professional Forester

Phil Duncan, Associate

Forestry Training

None during Covid-19 Restrictions

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 2021. The total eligible area remained 3,989.38 hectares under SNC Forest Management Plan No. H9816. Plan No. H9816 was accepted to the MFTIP under Ontario Regulation 282/98 of the Assessment Act on September 10th, 2018.

2.3.2 Conservation Lands Tax Incentive Program (CLTIP)

In 2021, 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 542.1 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 (OHT)

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. Compliance audits delayed during 2020 due to Covid-19 travel restrictions were completed on September 22-23, 2021. SNC was observed to be compliant with the terms of the HCEA although issues with access by motorized vehicles and encroachment for the purpose of hunting continue to be ongoing issues. Several action items were completed by staff regarding hunting stands and enforcement of motorized vehicle restrictions

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: 2021 Annual Plan Silvicultural Prescriptions

The 2021 Annual Plan was prepared in May 2020 and based on the schedule of operational activities within the five-year operational plan. The 2021 Annual Plan was recommended to the Board of Directors at the June 2020 Forestry Committee meeting and approved by the Board of Directors (BD-071/20) subject to approval of the 2021 SNC Budget. Planned activities remained unchanged and approved in the 2021 SNC Budget (BD- 162/20).

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
2021

Compartment	Treatment	Gross Area (Ha.)	Actual Area (Ha.)	Species	Quantity
7	Tree Planting	5.7	5.7	Various	5,000
75	Second Thinning	8.3	8.3	Pw-Pr-Sw	727.3 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
2021

Working Group	Allowable Harvest Area (ha.)	SNC Forest Compartments (ha.)						Total
		SNC75						
Pw	8.3	8.3						8.3
								8.3

4.3 Tree Planting

Following a second thinning undertaken in 2020, SNC secured funding to under plant portions of SNC 7 in South Dundas.

The purpose of the planting was to enhance the natural ability of the forest ecosystem to sequester and store carbon and increase biodiversity.

All tree planting on the site was completed by SNC staff (Figure 1) in October 2021. The total cost of planting was \$16,563.64 with SNC contributing \$8,281.82.

First-year tree survival will be assessed at the end of the growing season. The plantation will be assessed at the end of year 2 and year 5.

It is estimated that underplanting will increase total carbon reduction on the site to 667.6 tonnes by 2070.

Table 4 summarizes tree planting on the SNC Forest during 2021. The planting was subsidized by Natural Resource Canada under the 2-Billion Tree Program

Table 4
2021 Tree Planting Summary

Compartment	Treatment	Area (Ha.)	Species	Quantity	Comment
SNC 7	Tree Planting	5.7	White Pine	3,800	Plugs
			Red Oak	400	Plugs
			Sugar Maple	300	Plugs
			Hemlock	500	Plugs



Figure 1
SNC Staff Planting Seedlings – SNC 7

4.4 Harvest



Figure 2: Post Harvest Inspection SNC 16/17 – White Spruce Plantation

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

A harvest contract was awarded on SNC 61 but not completed due to inability of the contractor to meet necessary insurance requirements. This contract will be re-tendered later.

Table 5
Summary of Annual Harvest
2021

Harvest Year	Compartment(s)	Species ¹	Estimated Volume (m³)	Actual Volume ² (m³)	Harvest Area (ha.)	Value (gross)
2021	SNC 16/17	Pw	47.31	-	1.0	-
		Sw	561.07	1092.5	9.0	\$13,110.04
		Fuelwood	-	497.3	-	\$994.69
2021	SNC 29	Pr	175.6	236.2	10.5	\$3,070.92
		Sw	392..5	417.4		\$4,591.45
		Fuelwood	-	63.8	-	\$223.17
Total				2,307.2	20.5	\$21,990.27

Harvests were completed to FSC operating procedures resulting in total annual production of 2,307.2 m3 from 20.5 hectares with a stumpage value of \$21,990.27.

5 CAPITAL PROJECTS & FOREST INFRASTRUCTURE

Several infrastructure projects were completed on the SNC Forest in 2021 (Table 6). Additional trail improvements were completed on SNC1 (Robert Graham Trail). Continued improvements were made to the entrance on SNC 7 in South Dundas. Approximately 200 tonnes of aggregate were installed. New landings were constructed on SNC 16/17 and SNC 29.

Table 6
Summary of Capital Projects & Infrastructure
2020

Type	Compartment	Quantity	Comments
Landings	SNC16/17; SNC29	2	new
Entrance Culverts (permanent)	SNC 75	1	Permit obtained; culvert to be installed 2022
Entrance Culverts (temporary)	None	0	
Culverts (Trails)	SNC 160	2	
Aggregates	SNC 7	200 T	
Roads/Trails (new)	SNC 16/17	300 m.	
Roads/Trails (maintenance)	SNC 1	1,000 m.	

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