

Forestry Rejuvenation Project Foundations

In 2014, Regional Council determined to make the rejuvenation of the forest sector within the municipality a strategic goal, building a resilient community through a diversified economy. A 1-day consultation workshop involving a cross-section of local forest land users and First Nations worked with NRRM staff to bring forward a recommended vision and goals for the sustainable management of forest lands within the Municipality to Council.

Forest Lands VISION and GOALS

The NRRM forest lands assets are protected, managed and ecosystems restored to:

- 1. Ensure the health, protection and long-term viability of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal forest values within the NRRM;*
- 2. Support healthy, diverse and resilient communities within the NRRM;*
- 3. Support the social and cultural requirements of healthy and resilient Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities within the NRRM; and*
- 4. Support viable and sustainable local forest sector community businesses with a focus on sustainable forest management and secondary wood manufacturing.*

In order to focus future efforts, the following goals are intended to provide a means for monitoring progress towards achieving the vision for the forest lands within the NRRM.

Operating Philosophy

1. Obtain a Provincial Government partnership agreement for strategic decision-making and monitoring of industry commitments and practices in the management of forest lands
2. Achieve working partnership agreements with key First Nations regarding forest lands within NRRM strategic decision-making
3. Establish and implement a NRRM administrative structure to deliver on the agreement(s) with Government and First Nations

Sustainable Management of Forest Lands

1. Maintain an updated (every 5-10 years) Strategic Management Plan designed to ensure the health, protection and long-term viability of the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal forest values within the NRRM
2. In partnership with the Provincial Government, achieve a diversity of licenses designed to support a diversified NRRM forest sector
3. In partnership with the Provincial Government, require Licensees to demonstrate forest management plans that will contribute to the vision for the forest lands within the NRRM
4. In partnership with the Provincial Government, minimize the cumulative impacts of non-forest resource extraction on the sustainability of the forest lands asset within the NRRM
5. Maintain a transparent NRRM public consultation process that allows local residents to voice concerns and ideas regarding the management of the forest lands within the NRRM

Community Resiliency

1. In partnership with the Provincial Government, create and update a strategic plan to provide a social and cultural resiliency infrastructure for NRRM area communities
2. Develop and update a Strategic Action Plan to achieve diverse, viable and sustainable secondary wood manufacturing businesses that will fully utilize the available wood fibre within the NRRM
3. In partnership with the Provincial Government, ensure decision-making regarding the forest lands within the NRRM results in protection and conservation of environmental, social and cultural values