

To: PEI Forestry Commission

Att: Jean-Paul Arsenault

From: Ira Smith  
273 Richmond St  
Charlottetown, PE  
C1A1J7

I am a woodlot owner and own 267 acres of woodland in lot 11 area of Prince County. I have a Forestry Manage Plan for all my woodlots. I am a member of the Wood Owners association of PEI and was one of the founding directors. Since returning to PEI in 2003 there has been 60,000 trees planted on my land.

I have a number of concerns related to forestry Policy for PEI.

1. Clear cuts - For a long time Forestry has been planting plantations of white spruce. When these are mature and ready to harvest the only practicable method is clear cut. Clear cuts are not very popular with the public on PEI. It would be helpful if your final report acknowledge this fact and indicated that clear cuts are appropriate in these circumstances.
2. Hurricane damage white spruce plantation - Recent hurricanes did a lot of damage to the forests on PEI. Because of the hurricane people are concluding that white spruce are very susceptible to damage from a hurricane and are not suitable for planting in plantations on PEI. I do not agree. I have over 33,000 spruce trees planted on my land from 2006 to 2011 and had no damage to the spruce trees from the hurricanes. There is a significant lower hurricane risk to a properly managed plantation than a natural forest. Before issuing your report I would recommend that obtain data on actual damage to white spruce plantations.
3. Commercial woodlot – There is substantial financial advantage to managing your woodlot a commercial woodlot. The main criteria is that it is managed so that it has a reasonable expectation of generating a profit over an extended period of time. There is also a requirement to keep proper records. The big advantages are that you can deduct the cost of planting trees or other expenses related to the property from your income for tax purposes. Also property taxes. And the final point is that you can transfer the property to your children tax free. Not many woodlot owners are making use of this tax provision. More use of this provision would be financially beneficial to woodlot owners.
4. Unproductive or marginal productive woodland - In 2006 I purchased 75 acres of woodland in Popular Grove most of which had been clear cut. I immediately requested Forestry to plant as much of the clear cut as possible. They planted about 20,000 trees on this land and I am happy with the results. However, there was at least 20 acres they did not plant because the land was not the best and their lack of trees. The natural generation on this land was not good. Mostly alter bushes. This part of my woodlot will not produce valuable timber and since the alter bushes are almost mature will sequester very little additional carbon. Many

woodlot owners have similar areas in their woodlots. Part of the government's objectives in sequestering carbon could be achieved by better use of the marginal the woodland.