



# Ontario's Policy and Legislative Framework for Sustainable Forest Management on Crown Lands

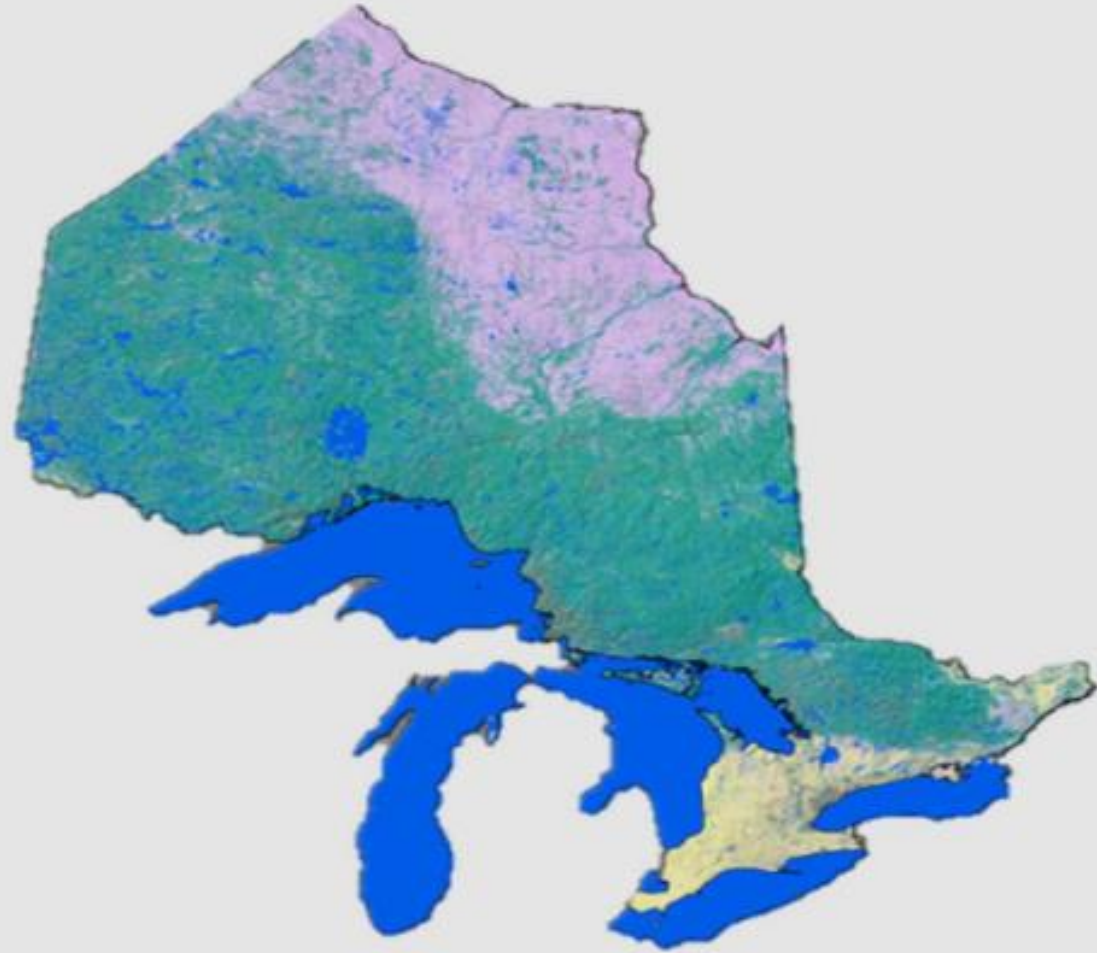
FOR200 November 25, 2019

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# Ontario

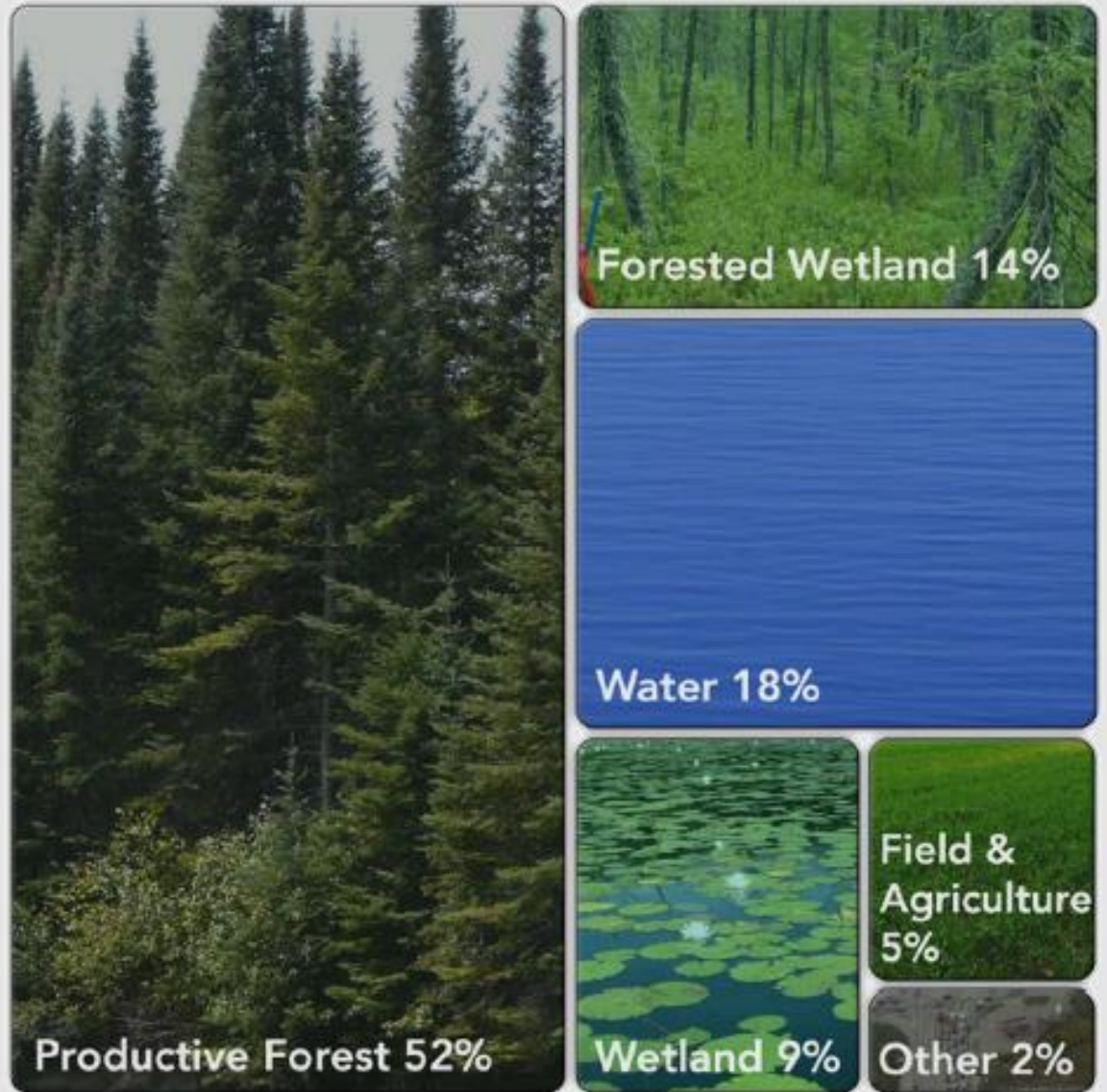
- 1.1 mill. sq. km
- Approximately the size of Egypt
- 66% forested





# Ontario's Forests

- Ontario is 107.6 million ha
- 66% forested
- 38% of Ontario's forest is managed
- 2% of world's forests
- 17% of Canada's forests
- Major species is black spruce



# Ownership

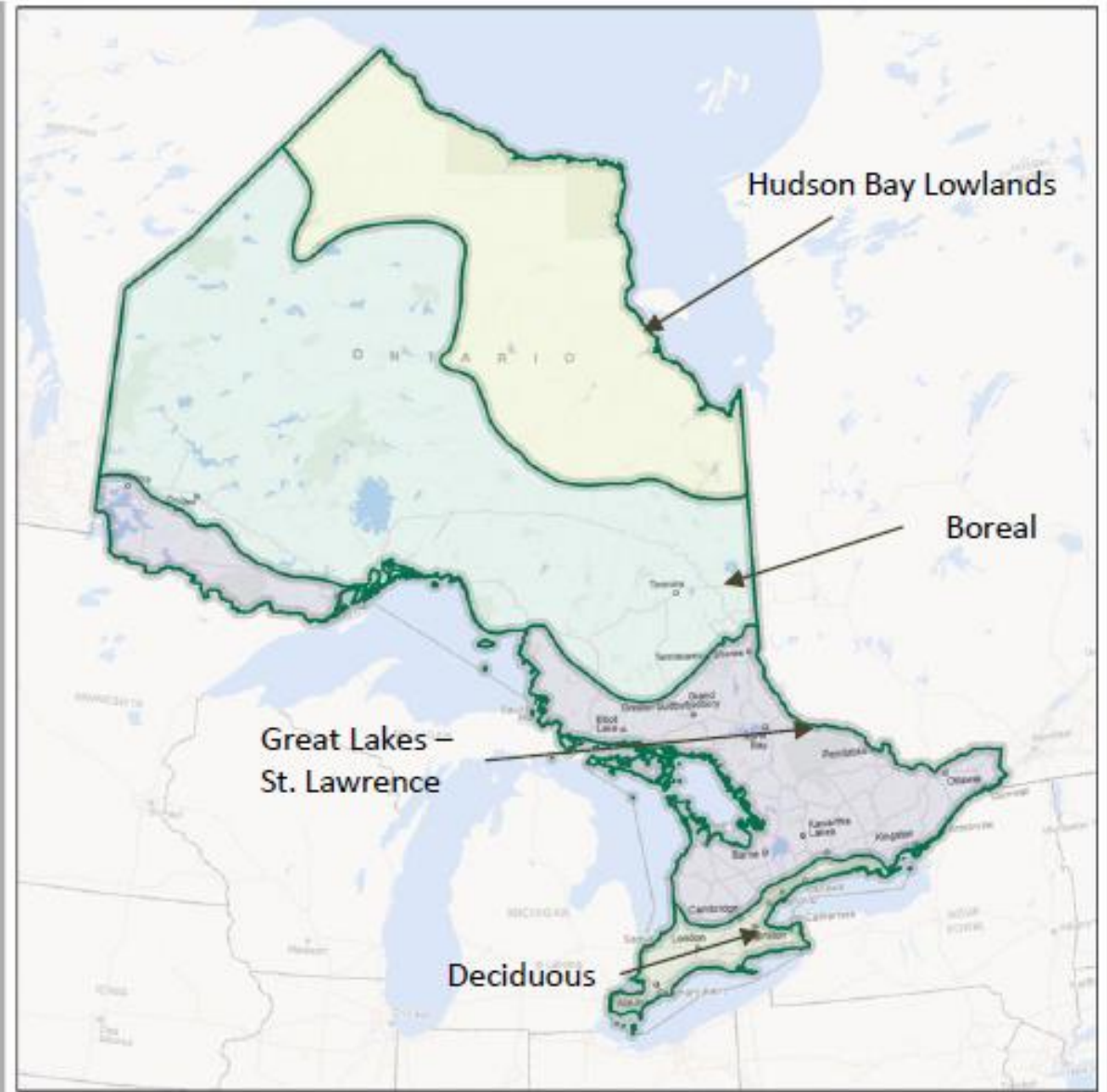
- Area of the Undertaking (AOU) is largely Crown
- Most private land is in central/southern Ontario
- 4.5 of Ontario's 9.8 million hectares of parks and protected areas are in the AOU





# Forest Regions

- Hudson Bay Lowlands:  
stunted black spruce, willow and larch
- Boreal:  
black and white spruce, fir, jack pine,  
poplar and white birch
- Great Lakes – St. Lawrence:  
white & red pine, spruce, maple and  
other hardwoods
- Deciduous:  
maple, oak, ash, hickory, hemlock and  
walnut





## Sustainable Forest Management Includes:

- Strategic direction/commitments
  - Legislation/regulations
  - Forest policies & strategies
  - Forest management plans
  - Forest licences
- 
- Monitoring, evaluation and audits
  - Legislated public reporting
  - Founded on sound science and information

*Operations  
Can  
Begin*







**MNRF** A new strategic vision for the  
Horizons 2020 Ministry of Natural Resources  
and Forestry

# Legislative and Policy Framework

## Strategic Direction/Commitments

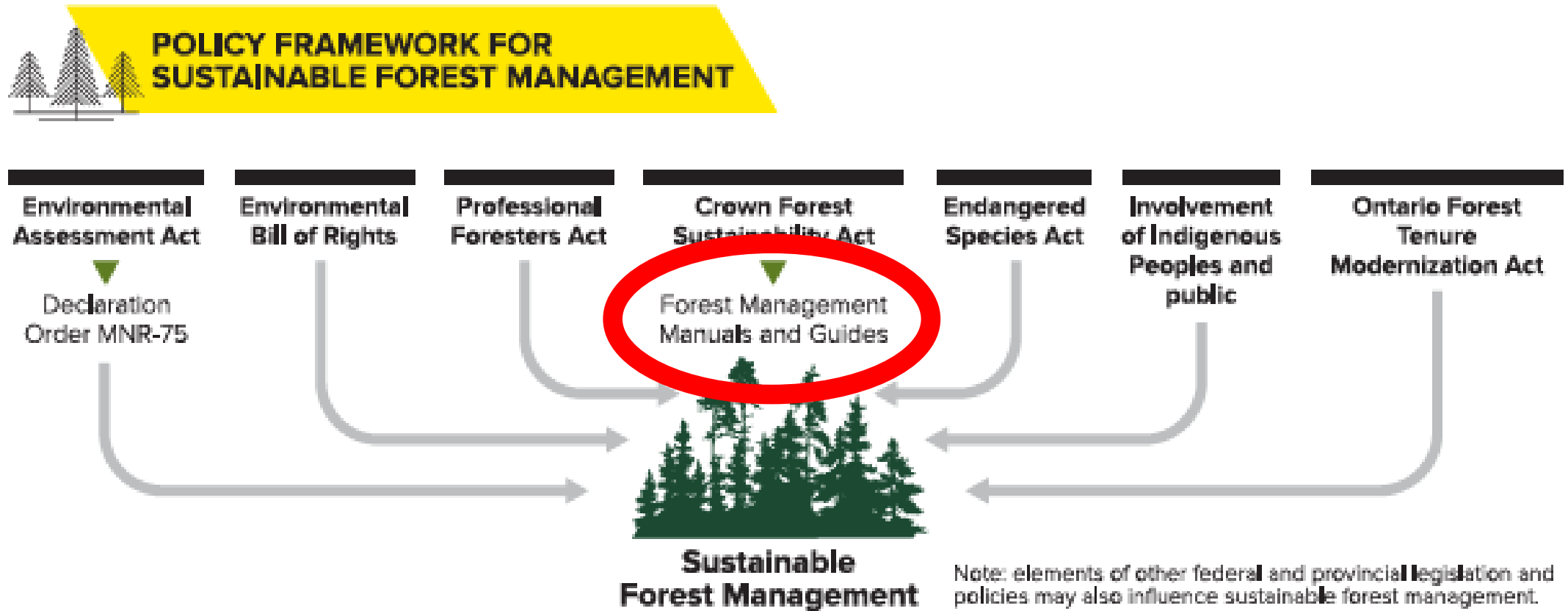
- Impending Forest Sector Strategy
- A Made-in-Ontario Environment Plan
- Land Use Plans

## Legislation/Regulations

- Crown Forest Sustainability Act (MNRF)
- Environmental Assessment Act (MECP)
- Endangered Species Act (MECP)
- Far North Act (MNRF)
- Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act (MNRF)
- Other Related Acts: Environmental Bill of Rights, Algonquin Forestry Authority Act, Professional Foresters Act, Federal Fisheries & Migratory Birds Convention Acts, etc.



# Ontario's Policy & Legislative Framework for Forest Management on Crown Lands







# Crown Forest Sustainability Act

## Purpose:

- “to provide for the sustainability of Crown Forests...to manage Crown forests to meet social, economic and environmental needs of present and future generations”

## Implementation:

- Applies to all Crown land in Ontario
- Relies on 4 regulated Manuals to provide detailed requirements

## Provides for:

- The regulation of forest planning
- Information management and exchange
- Forest operations, licensing, trust funds, processing facilities, remedies and enforcement
- Independent forest audits





### Forest Information Manual 2009

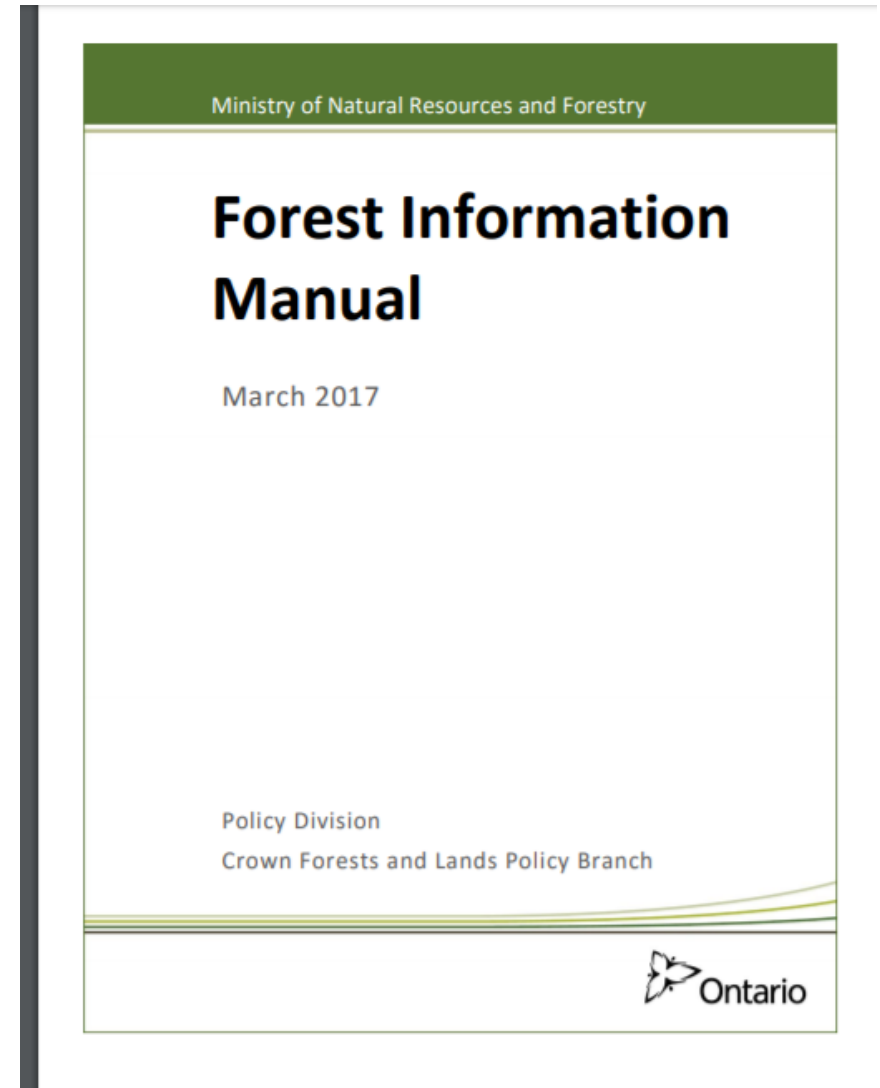
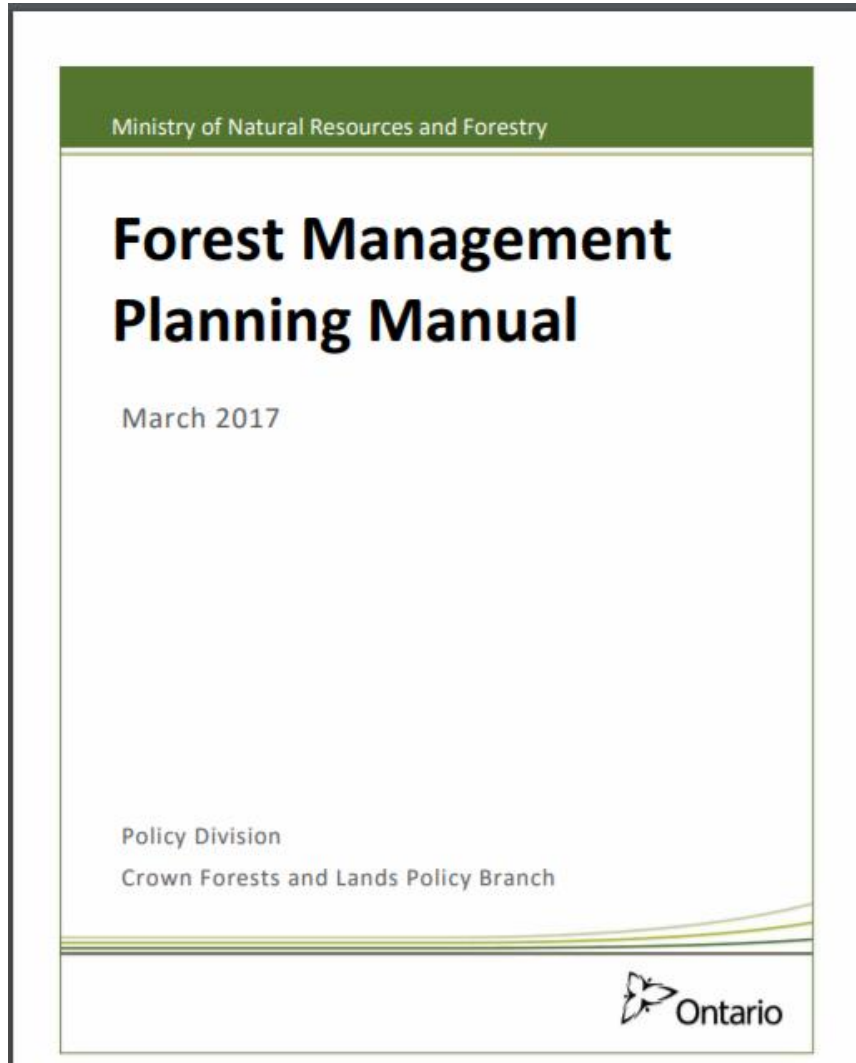
# Forest Management Manuals

1. Forest Management Planning Manual
  - Direction for developing a forest management plan
2. Forest Operations and Silviculture Manual
  - Guidance for operations authorized by approved forest management plans
3. Forest Information Manual
  - Information requirements to support forest management planning
4. Scaling Manual
  - Provides instructions and standards for the authorized movement and determination of quantity and quality (measurement ) of harvested Crown forest resources.

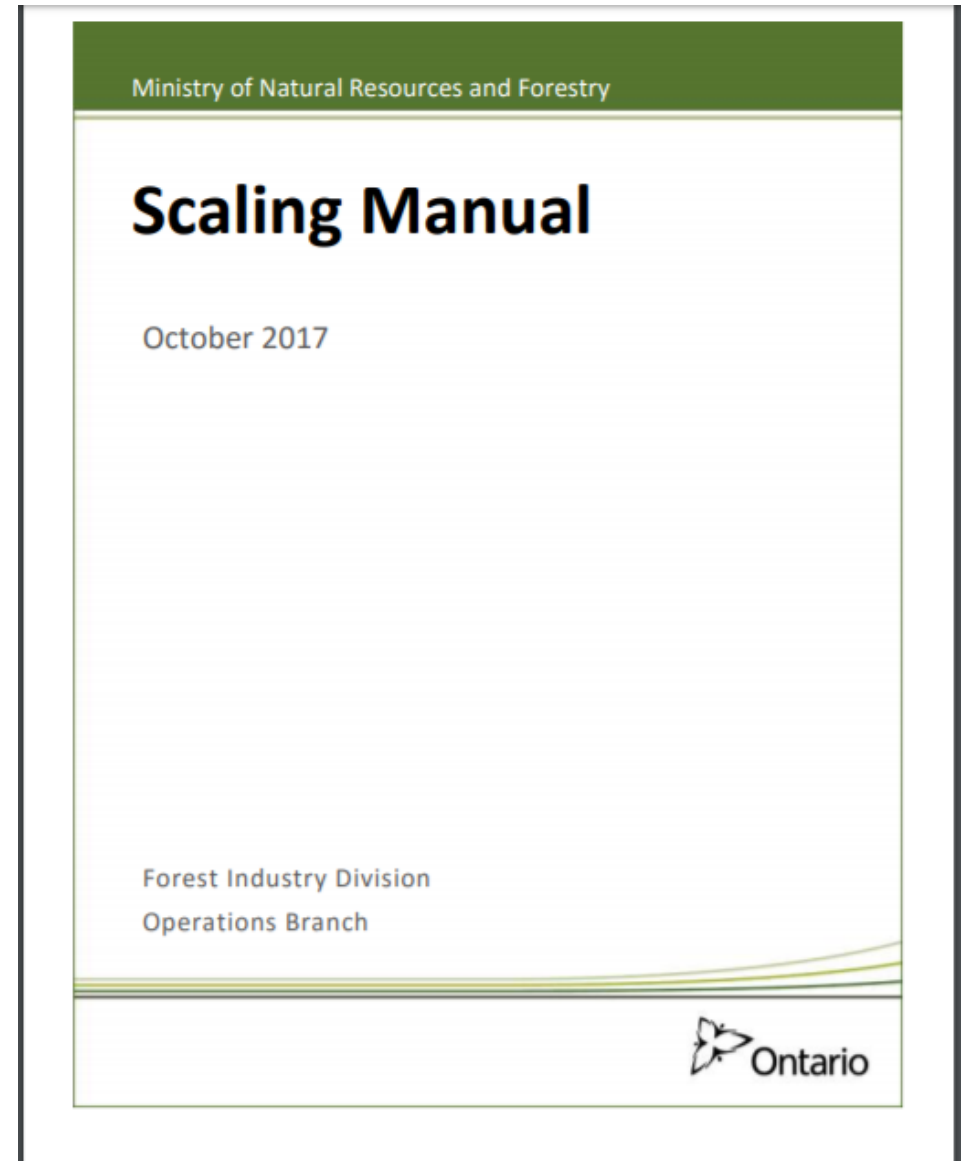
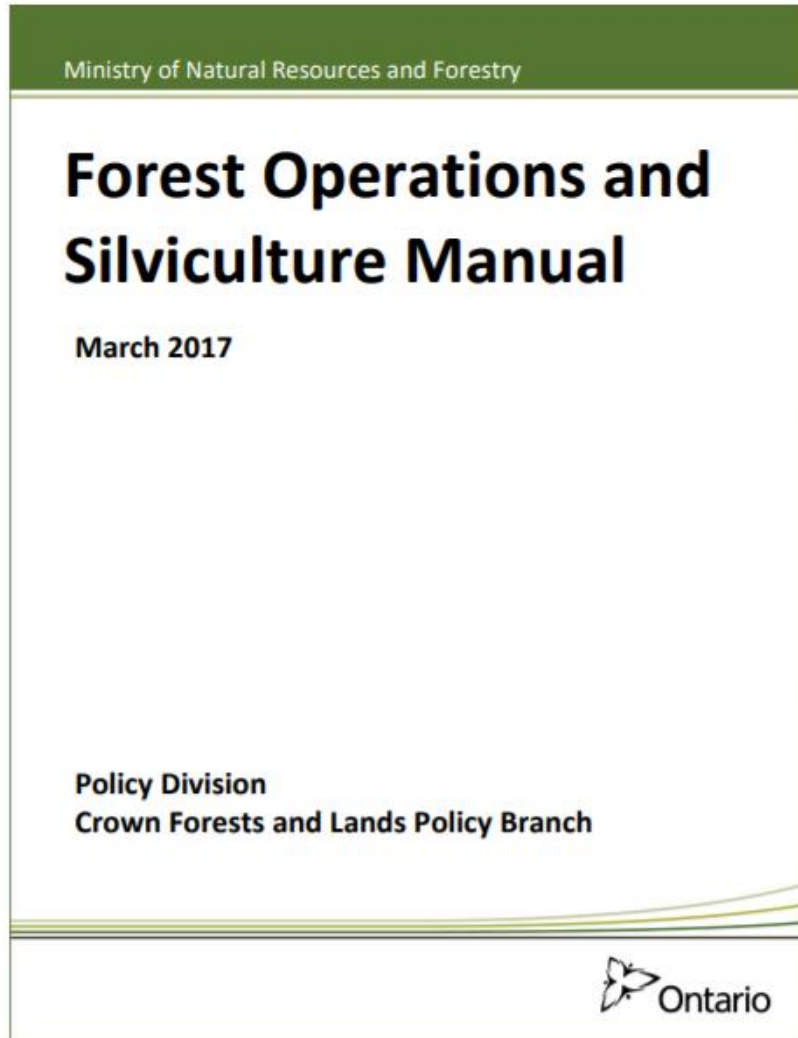




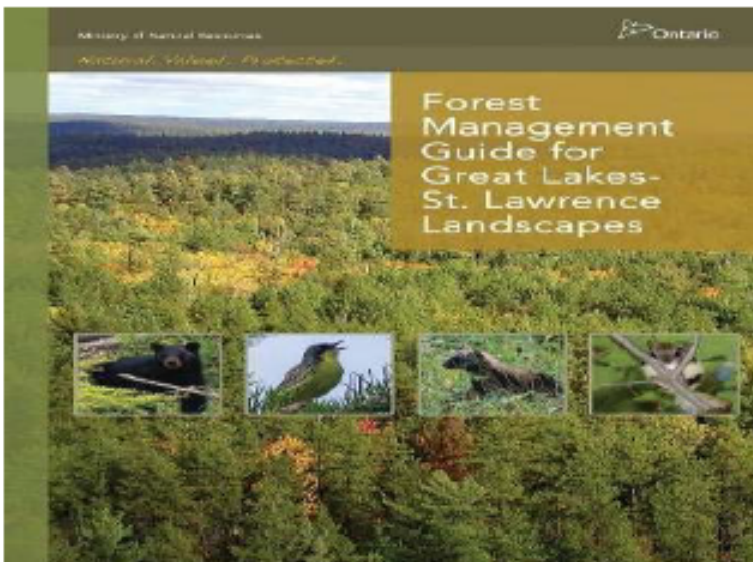
# CFSA REGULATED MANUALS



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### Key principles:

Emulate natural disturbance (managed forests look and function like natural forest ecosystems)

Protect biodiversity (balance habitat for wildlife, birds, plants, fish)

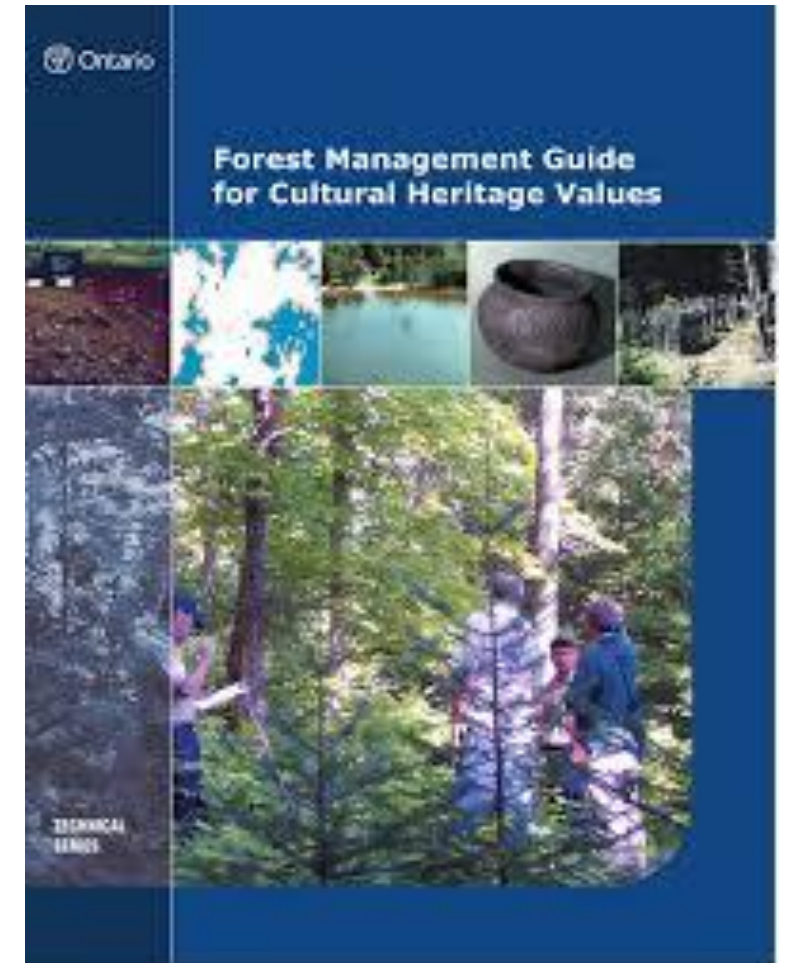
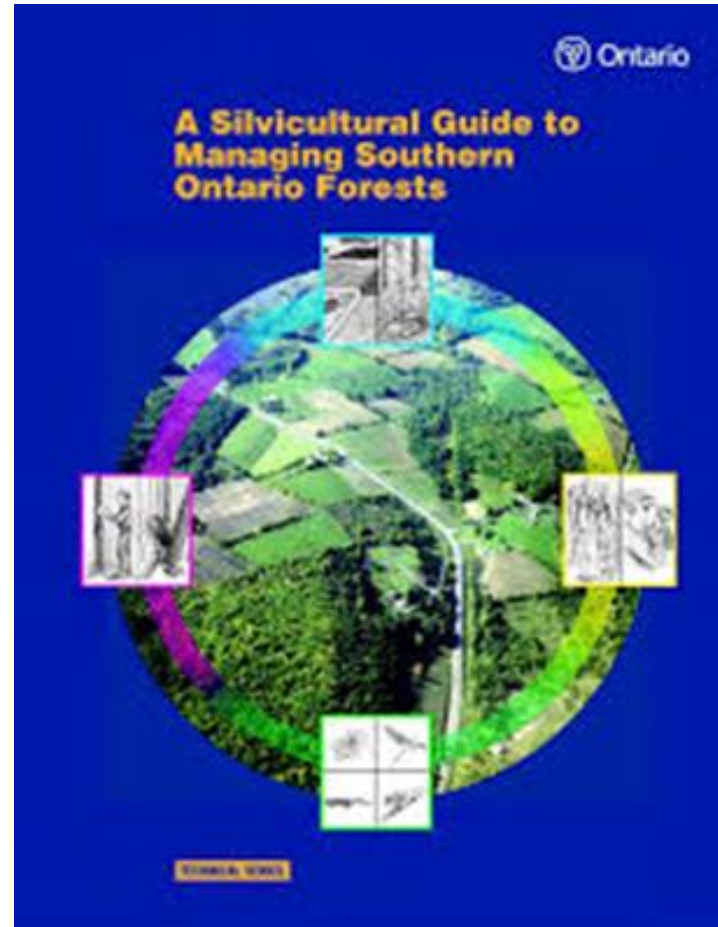
Protect sensitive habitats (bird nests and species at risk)

## Forest Management Guides

1. Forest Management Guide for Boreal Landscapes, and Forest Management Guide for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Landscapes
2. Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales
3. Forest Management Guide to Silviculture in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Boreal Forests of Ontario
4. Forest Management Guide for Cultural Heritage Values
5. Management Guidelines for Forestry and Resource-Based Tourism



# FOREST MANAGEMENT GUIDES





# Forest Management Guides

## Landscape

These guides direct the amount and arrangement of different types and ages of forest on the landscape. This helps forest managers find a balance of habitat for all life forms (wildlife, birds, fish, plants) and measures for protection of specific habitat features, e.g. bird nests, species at risk.

- Forest Management Guide for Boreal Landscapes (Boreal Landscape Guide)
- Forest Management Guide for Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Landscapes (GLSL Landscape Guide)

# Forest Management Guides

## **Stand and Site**

This guide gives direction on modifying forest operations to retain special features such as decaying trees and fallen logs, protect sensitive habitats such as bird nests and woodland pools, and ensure the conservation of water and soil resources.

Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (Stand and Site Guide)



# Environmental Assessment Act



- In August 2015, Declaration Order MNR-75 replaced 2 previous orders: MNR-71 and MNR-74
- Permits access, harvest, renewal and maintenance activities in the Area of the Undertaking
- 5-year reporting requirement
- 41 forest management units in the EA Area of the Undertaking (Average unit is 1 million hectares)



# Endangered Species Act



Includes prohibitions against:

- Killing, harming, harassing, capturing, taking, possessing, or transporting a species at any life stage that is listed as *threatened, endangered or extirpated* on the SARO list
- Damaging or destroying habitat
- Specific direction and recommendation must be followed in forest management planning



# Forest Resource Inventory



measuring tree age  
with increment borer



using 3D imagery for interpretation



Example Forest Resources Inventory from Quetico Provincial Park







## Forest Management Plan

Must be approved  
before operations  
take place

Ontario's managed forests are divided into planning areas known as management units. Before any forestry activities can take place, a forest management plan (FMP) must be prepared and approved.

- FMP requirements are described in the Forest Management Planning Manual
- Based on the forest management manuals and guides
- Mandatory public participation and Aboriginal Consultation
- Prepared by a multi-disciplinary team involving industry, government, local citizens, and Aboriginal communities
- Currently, one 10-year plan with a mid-plan check and option of 2-year extension
- Takes ~2.5 years to complete and costs ~\$1.5 to 2 million for industry and government
- Determines how much/where harvesting and forest renewal can occur, and where roads can be built
- Must ensure forest sustainability (CFSA) while providing a balance of social, economic and environmental values







## Forest Renewal & Silviculture

- Renewal of the forest following harvest is required by law and is carried out by forest managers in accordance with a Forest Management Plan
- Approved Plan establishes prescriptions and level of renewal required to sustain the forest
- Forest renewal includes natural and artificial regeneration
- Dedicated funding provided by two Trusts enabled by CFSA: Forest Renewal Trust (FRT) and Forestry Futures Trust
- Forest industry pays an FRT charge for wood harvested and forest managers are reimbursed from the FRT for expenditures for silviculture activities to renew the forest





## Forest Tenure in Ontario

**Forest Tenure** is the legal arrangements that define rights and responsibilities for the management and use of Crown forests.

### Forest Tenure Implementation Approach

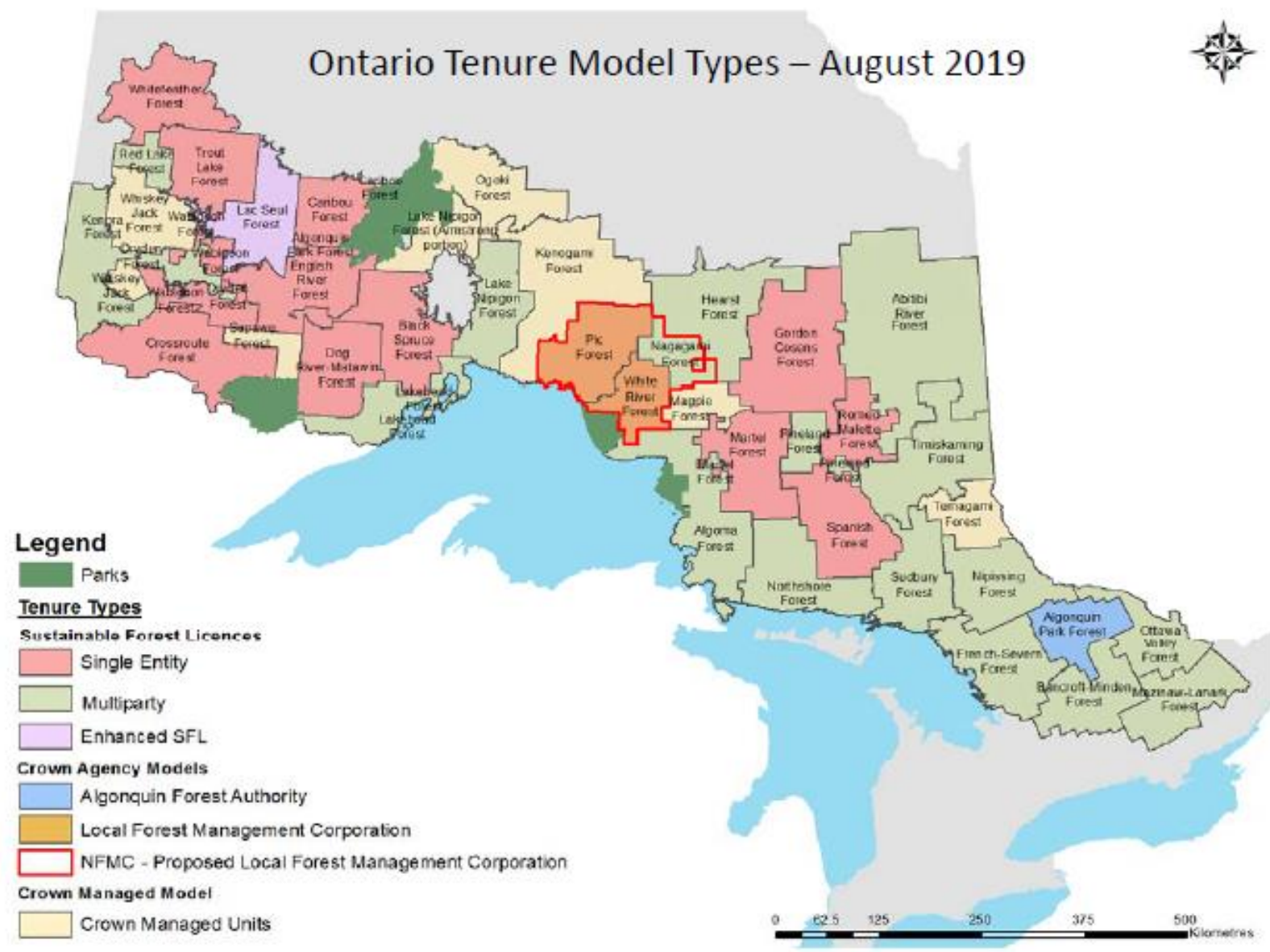
- Focused on:
  - Forests currently managed by the Crown and
  - Forests where there is capacity and willingness among the forest industry, local communities and Indigenous communities to come together.
- Prioritized in consideration of MNRF resources and readiness of industry, local communities and Indigenous communities.





# Sustainable Forest Licences

August 2019



# Ontario's Policy & Legislative Framework for Forest Management on Crown Lands

