



# The Overstory

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## *A New Year, a New Technologist*

On November 18, 2008 the Federation signed a contract with the Department of Natural Resources to deliver a small-private woodlot certification program. On January 5, 2009 the Federation hired Mike Hutchinson, a Forest Technologist, to coordinate the three- year program. Mike is a graduate of the NSCC Forestry Resources Program and from the Grad class of 2000 at the Maritime Forest Ranger School (now called the Maritime College of Forest Technology.) Since graduation Mike has been self-employed in the forest management industry, providing silviculture, logging and management planning services to government and industry, with his main focus being small-private woodlot owners.

Through the years Mike has found the variability of woodland and woodlot owners throughout the province to be of great interest. “Every piece of ground requires a slightly different management approach, and every landowner has a different set of objectives. This offers variety to my occupation. It’s rewarding to meet new people and keep learning more about forestry.”

Mike’s interest in the forest is reflected throughout his personal life. Spare time is spent on a number of woodlots, carrying out various silviculture treatments or building trails. When not working, Mike can be found in a canoe or on a mountain bike, or just talking to anyone interested in the woods. “I’m very excited about working with the Federation. Our new program has potential to make a great improvement in the social, economic and ecological benefits that the forest has to provide. It all starts with getting landowners involved.”



## ***FNSWO Annual General Meeting (AGM)***

This year our AGM will be held on Saturday, May 30 in Truro. Location is to be announced. An official AGM notice will be distributed to members in the near future, including the agenda, guest speaker line-up and program updates. The focus of the meeting will be on the new Small-Private Woodlot Certification Program and sustainable forest management techniques and resources. Please pencil this in on your calendar as it will be a great day of learning, networking and talking about your woodlot.



## ***Small-Private Woodlot Certification Program***

The Federation is currently in the planning stages of delivering a new program that is funded by the Provincial government. The Community Development Trust Fund allocated \$2.52 million to the Forestry Joint Task Force Plan, of which \$1.5 million was further allocated for small-private woodlot certification through the NS Department of Natural Resources. The Federation will receive \$575,000 over three years to implement the program. Certification is a market-driven governance system that provides consumer confidence by ensuring forest products are sourced from sustainably managed forests. This confidence leads to opportunities to increase value and marketability of forest products in difficult economic times. After careful consideration, your Board of Directors selected the CSA Z804 “Sustainable Forest Management for Woodlots and other Small Area Forests” Standard. The Z804 Standard is an adaptation of the Z809 Standard currently used worldwide by the forest industry. The Z804 Standard was designed by a technical committee to reflect the objectives and challenges faced by small-private woodlot owners.

The Federation will implement the program with assistance from existing private woodlot management organizations. Eligible landowners will have a woodlot management plan (WMP) developed and be given opportunities to attend forest management education and training seminars in their area. The Federation will monitor the woodlot periodically to ensure that the landowner is operating within the parameters of the program. The program will be third party audited to ensure requirements of the Standard are being met. Once certified, the role of the Federation is to provide continual improvement to the program. This may include further training, developing marketing innovations, enhancing forest management techniques, streamlining record-keeping systems, etc.

### **Why should a woodlot owner get involved?**

- Free WMP, professional consultation and access to woodlot management training
- Improved recognition from consumers demanding access to certified forest products
- Belonging to a certified woodlot management organization strengthens future marketing opportunities
- Group certification greatly reduces the cost of initial certification and ongoing audits and improvements to the program
- This program is funded with your tax dollars and can improve the economic and ecological value of your woodlot

Please contact Mike Hutchinson at (902) 670-1870 or mhutchinson@fnsw.ca if you are interested in learning more about this program. For more information on the NS Forest Industry Joint Task Force Action Plan, visit [www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry](http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/forestry). For information on the Community Development Trust Fund in Nova Scotia, visit [www.gov.ns.ca/econ/cdtrust](http://www.gov.ns.ca/econ/cdtrust).

### ***FNSSWO Website***

Our website is up and running and we invite you to have a look. The website includes articles such as: The Federation’s Sustainable Forest Management Policy and articles written by your Board of Directors (this month’s piece was prepared by Terry Pearson on low-impact logging,). Pdf versions of useful forest management resource manuals, the CSA Z804 Standard, a current price list for timber products, a list of certified contractors in the Master Logger program, contact information, and links to other forestry related websites will be available soon.

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