

Dear Premier Alward & Minister Northrup,

We are a group of concerned citizens and avid deer hunters who are frustrated with the current state of the Provincial deer herd. For a better part of two decades, the deer herd has been in decline as a result of the lack of attention former NB governments have placed on managing OUR natural resources. We are an astute group that is fully aware of why the deer herd has declined.

The Department of Natural Resources is going to be making some key decisions on the possible reduction of deer wintering ground and silviculture intensification. We understand that economics play a major role in the future financial success of NB; however, we do not feel that it is currently balanced.

We have recently reviewed the Crown Land Task Force report by Norm Betts and hope that the current government sees through the same regurgitated information that has come from foresters. The report is insulting to the hunting community and any respectful citizen for the following reasons:

1. The report starts out by dismissing the select committee on wood supply where the **public** indicated that conservation matters much more than the wood supply.
2. Allowing Crown Land to be managed out of government hands has placed even less attention on the habitat required to sustain or grow the deer herd.
3. The report focuses on historic forestry data and paints a bright future, but for decades economists have been saying that traditional industries such as forestry and fisheries will never be growth industries and at best case they will remain in a sustainable cycle. Continual pressure to grow such industries will only cause unsustainable natural resource depletion.
4. The report recommends reducing the conservation forests to 28% down from the 30% that biologists say is the bare minimum. The reduction will be at the sacrifice of deer since the entire wood supply will be from Deer Wintering Areas.
5. Page 13 of the report, states: "More than 30 years of silviculture investment policy", but for the last 30 years crown land has been stripped of valuable bio-diverse forests that hold Fish & Wildlife and have been replaced with mono-plantations. The report is basically saying to keep industry afloat, we need more spraying and planting.
6. Page 18 of the report, refers to the conservation forest as "unavailable volume". It does not say that there is no volume, or even that this is valuable for wildlife, but that it's wood forestry that we need to get our hands on. This is not the answer to our financial woes.

7. On page 19 of the report, it clearly shows that we lose money from the forestry industry on Crown Land. We do not believe that providing more “cheap” wood is going to solve the issue. The only way to make more money from Crown Land is to cut more, spray more and plant more, which all leads to less Fish & Wildlife on Crown Land. Remember Crown Land is owned by the people, not the forestry companies.
8. On page 19 of the report, it shows that the Fish & Wildlife department losses money but does not talk about the \$30+ million per year that deer hunters infuse the provincial economy. Perhaps a clear cost-benefit analysis is needed before any decisions are made.

The report is biased toward the forestry industry to secure cheap crown wood and disregards the clear message that NB citizens do not want mono-plantations or the use of herbicides.

As a group of individuals, we have numerous ideas to help increase the deer herd on Crown Land that will not cost the government money. However, we feel at this time the ideas will fall on deaf ears. We are asking Mr. Premier to answer the following questions:

1. Is the goal of DNR to maintain the deer herd or to rejuvenate the deer herd to a scientifically acceptable carrying capacity?
2. What plan is in place to increase the herd to a scientifically acceptable carrying capacity?
3. Governments have been willing to pay for consulting reports on the state of the forestry industry; however, have not studied economic impact of declining Fish & Wildlife Resources. Does the government plan to study these effects? If so, when?
4. What amount of herbicides will be used within the new Forest Management Plan. Will it be an increase, decrease or remain unchanged from the most recent plan?
5. Is the current government going to address the issues affecting the deer herd and engage the hunting community?
6. Are you willing to accept suggestions from the hunting community and wildlife biologists? If yes, what is the probability that the government will implement any of the suggestions?

The hunting community is becoming increasingly frustrated with the lack of respect policy makers have given to our Fish & Wildlife Resources. If the matter is not addressed now, then the resources will never recover. It is time for your government to listen or admit that Fish & Wildlife Resources are not a current priority and never will be.

Sincerely,

Jason White
Warren Toole
Richard Hooper
Charles Burns
Tony Brewer
Ben Noseworthy
Wayne Noseworthy
Iris Noseworthy
Phil Noseworthy
Mike Holland
Rob Holland
Jim Breau
Judy Breau
Gus Lavoie
Caroline Lavoie
Richard Brown
Anthony Fitzherbert
Matthew Tully
Toni Anderson
Kyle Martinson
Rick Allain
Kyle Werner
Kevin Werner
Ryan Forsythe
Keith Brewer
James Boyle
Adam O'toole
Kevin Sabean
David Ward
Kourtney Ward
Michael Murray
Dale Ward
Sharon Ward
Rob Wilson
Justin Barrett
Shane Brewer
John Wood
Chris Penney

Chad Sullivan

Jon Gould

Jordan Weagle

Toni Anderson

Matt Winchester