

The Boreal Forest is the 310 million hectares of forest that lie within the 545 million hectares of boreal region. The Canadian portion of the boreal forest starts in the Yukon and northeastern British Columbia, and stretches across the northern parts of the Prairie provinces, Quebec and Ontario, to Labrador and Newfoundland.

The forest envelops the economy and culture of Northwestern Ontario as inexorably as it covers the land. In this region, the dependence of humanity on the forces and resources of the boreal wilderness is virtually the same today as it was a hundred, even a thousand, years ago.

Few if any other regions of Canada can match the totality of the forest's influence on the history, industry and lifestyle of the people of Northwestern Ontario. For both First Nations peoples and non-native inhabitants, it has shaped everything from their patterns of settlement to livelihoods and recreation.

The land mass of Northwestern Ontario is immense and, up to the tree line in the far northern lowlands, entirely forested. A southerly band reaching from Thunder Bay to Rainy Lake is primarily Great Lakes forest of mixed hardwoods and conifers. The rest is boreal spruce, balsam fir, jack pine, poplar, birch, tamarack and cedar. The region contains more than 18 million hectares of productive forest, roughly 45 percent of the provincial total. As an official administrative area, Northwestern Ontario stretches 740 kilometres west from White River to the Manitoba boundary and 850 kilometres north from the U.S. border to the coast of Hudson Bay.



While the rugged terrain of the Canadian Shield has been a formidable obstacle to travel, the land has also provided the means to overcome this barrier. Wood, roots, hide and bark are the ubiquitous materials for the canoe and snowshoe, the tools of travel for millennia. Countless millions of ties for the Trans-Continental railways have been harvested from its forest. And the bedrock and aggregates beneath the trees have paved the way across bogs and ravines for national highways.

The harvesting and fashioning of wood into product dominates both industry and employment. More than two-thirds of Northwestern Ontario communities are primarily dependent on the forest and forest industries. The forest industry provides 40 percent, both direct and induced, of the region's employment.

Source: http://www.borealforest.org/index.php?category=ont_nw_forest&page=overview

Northwestern Ontario's vast forests have spawned an enormous regional enterprise based on wood. The region's forest products are valued at more than \$3 billion a year and the industry provides more than 15,000 jobs.

The most valuable forest product by sales is wood pulp, produced by five mills (Weyerhaeuser in [Dryden](#), Bowater in [Thunder Bay](#), Norampac in [Red Rock](#), Kimberly-Clark in [Terrace Bay](#) and James River Corp. in [Marathon](#)). Newsprint is next, manufactured at mills in Kenora, Fort Frances and Thunder Bay. Groundwood specialty paper (a higher grade of newsprint) is made in [Fort Frances](#) and fine paper is produced at mills in [Dryden](#) and [Thunder Bay](#).

Sawmills producing stud and dimension lumber also dot the Northwest. The largest are in [Thunder Bay](#), but there are others in [Atikokan](#), Hudson (near [Sioux Lookout](#)), Dubreilleville, Hearst, [Longlac](#), White River and [Dryden](#). Sawmilling is expanding, with new mills planned for [Ear Falls](#) and Nakina.

Other wood production exists in the form of a specialty mill (windows and doors) in [Thunder Bay](#) and plywood mills in [Nipigon](#) and [Longlac](#). A recent development is the huge expansion of the Northwest's chipboard and panelboard industry. A provincial initiative to use the vast and little-exploited aspen forest has resulted in two new oriented strandboard (OSB) mills at Barwick (near [Fort Frances](#)) and in Wawa. A third OSB mill might be established in either [Ear Falls](#) or [Dryden](#).

The forest products sector is critical to the economic structure of Northwestern Ontario. In [Thunder Bay](#), for example, forest-based products accounted for 80 per cent of the \$2 billion generated by local manufacturing. The combined annual production capacity is 618,000 tonnes of newsprint, 460,000 tonnes of bleached pulp, 156,000 tonnes of coated fine paper and 310 million board feet of dimension lumber. This constitutes over five percent of Canada's total forest-based sales.

Source: http://www.borealforest.org/index.php?category=ont_nw_forest&page=facts

Forests have always had a central role in the cultural, economic and social development of Ontario. In the 20th century, the forest supported the rapid development of the pulp, paper, veneer and sawmill industries. Today, Ontario's forests play a critical role in the province's economy. They contribute to a high standard of living by supporting more than 90,000 jobs in the forest industry, forest-based tourism businesses, fishing and hunting, equipment manufacturing, transportation, trapping and retail and service industries, in more than 50 communities in northern and southern Ontario.

Forest Sector Industries

Ontario's forest products companies are leaders in sustainable forest management. Through effective government regulation and company initiatives, Ontario's forest products companies are in an excellent position to meet emerging international standards of forest sustainability and environmental protection.

Ontario has a vibrant world-class forest products industry comprised of the logging industry and two major forest sector industries: the wood products manufacturing industries, and the paper and allied industries.

The logging industry is made up of both large and small contractors, as well as large, mill-owned operations. The contractors may work independently or directly for company-owned mills.

Figure 1 - Overview of Ontario's Forest Products Industry



The wood products manufacturing industries include businesses such as sawmills, veneer mills, and structural board and lumber plants producing construction materials and specialty wood products.

Pulp and paper mills are the largest types of plants for converting timber fibre to forest products.

Keeping Ontario Open for Business

Ontario's forest products sector makes a significant contribution to the provincial economy. In 2001, the forest products sector shipped approximately \$18 billion worth of forest products. Wood products industries accounted

for \$5.7 billion of that total, while paper and allied industries amounted to \$11.1 billion. The balance of \$1.2 billion, was the value of logging activity within the province.

The sale of forest products abroad is also important to the province's balance of trade. In 2002, the value of forest products exports, primarily to the United States, is estimated to be \$9.3 billion. The main products being exported are softwood lumber, wood pulp and newsprint.

Many communities in northern Ontario depend on the forest industry. However, thousands of jobs in southern Ontario also depend on forest products such as paper, lumber and other by-products. The industry continues to diversify and evolve through better use of timber and timber by-products and value-added manufacturing. Products such as medium-density fibreboard and oriented strand board have added to this diversification.

In addition to being a major employer, the forest industry makes significant investments in capital improvements and mill expansions each year.

The following chart illustrates the significant capital investments made in the province.

Chart 1
Ontario Forest Industry
Recent Major Capital Investments

Name	Location	Type	Capital Investment
Anthony Forest Products/Domtar	Sault Ste. Marie	New engineered I-joistplant	\$ 20 million
Bowater	Ignace	Modernization of closed softwood sawmill	\$ 27 million
	Thunder Bay	Air improvement program	\$125 million
	Thunder Bay	New softwood sawmill	\$ 69 million
Buchanan Forest Products	Longlac	Upgrade softwood sawmill	\$ 15 million
Buchanan Group	Nakina	New softwood lumber mill	\$ 40 million
Buchanan Northern Hardwoods	Thunder Bay	Ontario's first poplar and birch only sawmill	\$ 29 million
Domtar	Chapleau, Elk Lake, Narin Centre, Timmins, White River	Upgrade softwood sawmills	\$111 million
Georgia Pacific	Sault Ste. Marie	New medium density fibreboard mill	\$125 million
Grant Forest Products	Timmins	Oriented strandboard mill reconstruction	\$ 60 million

Chart 1
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Recent Major Capital Investments

Name	Location	Type	Capital Investment
	Timmins	Expansion of oriented strandboard mill	\$ 31 million
	Englehart	Expansion of oriented strandboard mill	\$ 24 million
Jager Strandboard Ltd.	Limer	New oriented strandboard mill	\$120 million
Norampac	Red Lake	Expansion and upgrade of linerboard mill	\$ 55 million
Tembec	Cochrane	Modernization of softwood sawmill	\$ 15 million
Temple Inland Corporation	Pembroke	New medium density fibreboard plant	\$160 million
Trus Joist Weyerhaeuser	Kenora	New engineered lumber plant	\$260 million
Voyageur Panel	Barwick	Oriented strandboard plant	\$170 million
Weyerhaeuser	Dryden	Air improvement program	\$ 75 million
	Ear Falls	New softwood lumber sawmill	\$ 65 million

Source: http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/Business/Forests/2ColumnSubPage/STEL02_167493.html

In Ontario, there are more than 68 million hectares of forested land. Of this area, 90 percent is owned by the province of Ontario and referred to as “Crown forest”. About 31 percent of the Crown forest is classified as production forest and is managed for a broad range of uses and benefits, including timber production.

Through MNR's forest management planning process, forest managers plan to ensure that the forests of Ontario will remain healthy in the future, and sustainable benefits are provided for the province, such as timber and other commercial products, recreation opportunities, and wildlife habitat.

Although the management of Crown forests in Ontario is the responsibility of the provincial government, this responsibility is shared with forest products companies or groups of companies and communities.

Source: <http://ontariosforests.mnr.gov.on.ca>

Updated: September 2007

THE FORESTS OF NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Forest Name	Manager and Address	Telephone
Armstrong Forest	Resident Mill Manager Norampac Inc. Box 480, Red Rock ON P0T 2T0	807.886.2211
Black Sturgeon Forest	Vice President, Ontario & Nova Scotia Woodlands Operations Bowater Canadian Forest Products Inc. 2001 Neebing Ave. Thunder Bay ON P7E 6S3	807.475.2317
Brightsand Forest	Vice President, Ontario & Nova Scotia Woodlands Operations Bowater Canadian Forest Products Inc. 2001 Neebing Ave. Thunder Bay ON P7E 6S3	807.475.2317
Caribou Forest	Vice President, Ontario & Nova Scotia Woodlands Operations Bowater Canadian Forest Products Inc. 2001 Neebing Ave. Thunder Bay ON P7E 6S3	807.475.2317
Crossroute Forest	Woodlands Manager Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada 145 Third St., Fort Frances ON P9A 3N2	807.274.5311
Dog River-Matawin Forest	Vice President, Ontario & Nova Scotia Woodlands Operations Bowater Canadian Forest Products Inc. 2001 Neebing Ave. Thunder Bay ON P7E 6S3	807.475.2317
Dryden Forest	General Manager Dryden Forest Management Inc. 28A Earl St., Dryden ON P8N1X5	807.223.7216
English River Forest	Vice President, Ontario & Nova Scotia Woodlands Operations Bowater Canadian Forest Products Inc. 2001 Neebing Ave. Thunder Bay ON P7E 6S3	807.475.2317
Kenogami Forest	Director – Forest Management Kimberly-Clark Inc. 100 Birchcrest Road, Longlac, ON P0T 2A0	807.876.4000
Kenora Forest	Forestlands Manager	807..223.8801

Forest Name	Manager and Address	Telephone
	Weyerhaeuser Company Limited Bag 4004, 175 West River Road Dryden ON P8N 3J7	
Lac Seul Forest	Woodlands Manager McKenzie Forest Products Inc. Box 428, Sioux Lookout, ON P8T 1A5	807.582.3271
Lakehead Forest	General Manager Greenmantle Forest Inc. RR#1, 25 th Sideroad, Thunder Bay ON P7C 4T9	807.939.3100
Lake Nipigon Forest	Resident Mill Manager Norampac Inc.807.345.0571 Box 480, Red Rock ON P0T 2T0	807.886.2211
Ogoki Forest	Vice President, Fibre Supply Long Lake Forest Products Ltd. Box 29037, McIntyre Centre Thunder Bay ON P7B 6P9	807.345.0571
Pic River Ojibway Forest	Vice President, Fibre Supply Great West Timber Ltd. Box 29037, McIntyre Centre Thunder Bay ON P7B 6P9	807.345.02571
Red Lake Forest	General Manager Red Lake Forest Management Company Limited Box 1338, Red Lake ON P0V 2M0	807.727.1132
Sapawe River Forest	Vice President, Fibre Supply Atikokan Forest Products Ltd. Box 29037, McIntyre Centre Thunder Bay ON P7B 6P9	807.345.0571
Spruce River Forest	Woodlands Manager Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada Box 10160, Thunder Bay ON P7B 6T7	807.625.7372
Trout Forest	Forestlands Manager Weyerhaeuser Company Limited Bag 4004, 175 West River Road Dryden ON P8N 3J7	807.223.8801
Wabigoon Forest	Forestlands Manager	807.223.8801

Forest Name	Manager and Address	Telephone
	Weyerhaeuser Company Limited Bag 4004, 175 West River Road Dryden ON P8N 3J7	
Whiskey Jack Forest	Woodlands Manager Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada Box 5000, Kenora ON P9N 3Y1	807.476.3050

Source: Ministry of Natural Resources – The Forest Industry of Northwestern Ontario: Economic Significance and New Investment Opportunities June 2004
 Update: October 17, 2004

FOR List of Forest Resource Processing Facilities (Mills) in Ontario please visit the Ministry of Natural Resources site at:

[HTTP://WWW.MNR.GOV.ON.CA/EN/BUSINESS/FORESTS/1COLUMNSUBPAGE/STEL02_167708.HTML](http://www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en/business/forests/1COLUMNSUBPAGE/STEL02_167708.HTML)

CANADA'S TOP 10 SOFTWOOD LUMBER PRODUCERS 2008 ¹ (Million bf)					
Rank 2007	2008	Company	No. of Mills	Production (Million bf)	
				2007	2008
2	1	West Fraser	12	3,530	3,390
1	2	Canfor	15	4,112	3,299
4	3	Tolko*	10	1,950	2,100
3	4	AbitibiBowater	23	2,375	1,522
5	5	Tembec	13	1,301	934
6	6	Weyerhaeuser (Canada) ²	3	1,204	800
8	7	Western Forest Products	7	789	768
7	8	Buchanan Lumber *	7	1,000	650
11	9	Domtar	11	583	614
9	10	J.D. Irving	6	640	535
Total Top 10			107	17,484	14,612
Total Canada				29,953	23,813
% of Canada				58.4%	61.4%

Notes: Includes lumber produced only at primary sawmills & excludes U.S. production

¹ Arithmetic average; no adjustment for downtime

² Production includes custom cut volumes

* 2008 Estimate Source: WOOD MARKETS www.woodmarkets.com

CANADA'S TOP 20 SOFTWOOD LUMBER PRODUCERS - 2006

Rank 2003	Rank 2004	Rank 2005	Rank 2006	Company	Number of Mills	Production (Million bf)
1	1	1	1	* Canfor (Slocan)	15	4460
2	2	2	2	* West Fraser Timber	17	3797
9	8	3	3	* Tolko	10	2421
4	3	4	4	Abitibi-Consolidated	21	1942
6	5	6	5	Tembec	13	1730
3	4	5	6	Weyerhaeuser Canada	8	1550
8	7	8	7	Buchanan Lumber	7	1200
10	10	7	8	Domtar	9	1125
15	14	12	9	Western (Doman)	10	1000
12	12	9	10	Bowater	7	867
16	15	11	11	Pope & Talbot	4	768
14	13	13	12	Interfor	4	722
11	11	10	13	JD Irving	8	663
23	20	15	14	Dunkley	1	500
20	18	18	15	Millar Western	2	415
19	16	16	16	Kruger	4	355
21	17	17	17	Barrette Entreprises	2	352
22	22	20	18	Arbec - Uniforet	2	320
18	19	21	19	Carrier Lumber	3	288
24	21	19	20	Winton Global - The Pas	1	280
Total Top 20					148	24,755
Total Canada ¹						33,592
Top 20% of Canada						73.70%

Notes: Includes lumber produced only at primary sawmills and excludes US production. ¹ Estimates. Arithmetic Average; no adjustment for downtime

Source: Wood Markets Group, Vancouver BC
 Updated: September 2007