

accessible timber. This is unobjectionable if one shares the goal of a developed local woods industry with good employment, but problematic when competing demands on the forest arise.

There are differences among foresters in values and management styles. These come from variations in experience on the job and in the provincial bureaucracy. Personality differences, and whether or not the forester is native to his district, also count (Richardson, et al. 1996). Forestry management policy has changed in recent years, with the latest perspective being "forest ecosystem management" (Northern Pen 1995). Newfoundland is a signatory to progressive agreements such as Canada's National Forest Strategy (Canadian Council of Forest Ministers 1995), but practicing foresters in the field find it difficult to change. "I have a job getting my mind around that," one forester confided to us about the new approach. Foresters thus also operate in a time lag, between what is presented by television and government documents and what they try to achieve in the woods.

One change which has complicated the foresters' job is the obligation to include more public input in preparation of forest management plans. Many more public meetings are held and advisory committees are formed than ten years ago. These events may be poorly attended or quite dramatic large affairs, depending on whether some forest issue has recently achieved crisis status. "Working with local groups was certainly a challenge," one forester reported, "...members found it hard to stay on topic...changes suggested were outside the mandate of the committee..." (Gibbons 1996:13). It appears that the structure of public input to forest management planning still leaves much to be desired from all parties' perspectives. The Newfoundland Forest Service recognizes that foresters were not trained in public relations and "becoming more sensitive to the needs of non-timber users" will be "a formidable challenge...requiring help from other experts and some training (Flight and Peters 1992:95). Budgetary restrictions have severely limited district foresters' public education efforts. Another complication in the foresters' job now is the legal requirement to collect and respond to input from other natural resource managers such as Canadian Fish and Wildlife, Canadian Fisheries and Oceans, and provincial offices of Crown Lands, Environmental Affairs, Municipal Affairs, and others. "I'd rather deal with the public than the bureaucrats," a forester grumbled.

Conclusions

Our independent investigation of the residents' concern that overcutting will destroy the forest suggests that the forest is not in imminent danger of destruction. The period of "overcutting," by Forestry's standards, at least, is over. Regeneration from clearcuts is uneven, but, supplemented by silviculture in the last fifteen years, it is better in the north than in most areas of Newfoundland. Though dedicated to generating work in the woods for a depressed region during a depressed time, the foresters are nevertheless trying to shift from a "timber supply management" policy which cares for the