

Results-based Plan 2013-14

Ministry of Natural Resources

ISSN # 1718-6897

Ce document est disponible en français

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MINISTRY OVERVIEW

Ministry Vision, Mission and Mandate

The Ministry of Natural Resources is the steward of Ontario's provincial parks, forests, fisheries, wildlife, mineral aggregates, petroleum resources and the Crown land and waters that make up 87 per cent of the province.

The ministry envisions a healthy environment that is naturally diverse and supports a high quality of life for the people of Ontario through sustainable development. The ministry's mission is to conserve biodiversity and manage our natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way to ensure that they are available for the enjoyment and use of future generations.

The following are the ministry's core activities:

Biodiversity Management

- Provide provincial leadership and oversight in the conservation of Ontario's biodiversity. This includes the management of fish and wildlife resources; species at risk; fish culture, stocking and aquaculture; resource monitoring, assessment and allocation; research, fish health and control of pathogens; conservation officer delivery of natural resource and public safety law enforcement; and enhancing fishing and hunting opportunities. This mandate area has significant linkages with all other areas of the ministry.

Natural Heritage and Protected Area Management

- Provide leadership and delivery in the management and protection of natural heritage in Ontario. This includes identifying significant natural heritage features and landscapes and determining effective ways to protect them, including the establishment of provincial parks and conservation reserves; policy to influence the development of municipal official plans and bylaws; identification and confirmation of areas of natural and scientific interest; planning and management of natural heritage systems; providing sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities and education on natural heritage; delivery of the Ontario Parks program, including provincial parks operations and providing tourism opportunities; and research.

Crown Land, Water, and Non-Renewable Resource Management

- Provide leadership and delivery in the management of Crown lands, water resources, and non-renewable resources. This includes being accountable for the sale, disposition and stewardship of the Crown lands in Ontario and ensuring their use is sustainable; for the management of water resources through flood, low water, and drought management, including the protection of the Great Lakes; for the management and regulation of surveys and the surveying profession within the

province; and for the protection and extraction of aggregate, oil, gas and salt resources in Ontario.

Renewable Energy

- Support the provincial commitment to renewable energy and facilitate the availability of Crown land for renewable energy projects, including water, wind, solar and biomass.

Forestry

- Provide leadership and oversight to support the sustainable use of forests for a healthy forest products sector and thriving forest-dependent communities. Management of Ontario's forests includes policy and program development; intergovernmental co-operation on national forestry initiatives; ensuring a healthy, viable forest industry in Ontario, and fostering a competitive business environment by promoting jobs and investment in the forestry sector; Crown forest management planning, renewal and protection from pests; and monitoring, auditing, information management and public reporting.

Emergency and Forest Fire Management

- Provide leadership and program delivery for the protection of people, property and communities threatened by forest fires, floods and other natural resource emergencies. This includes planning and delivery of MNR's emergency management program, and aviation services for the Ontario government.

Land and Resources Information and Information Technology Cluster

- Provide leadership and program delivery in the development and application of information management and information technology for six client ministries: Natural Resources; Aboriginal Affairs; Agriculture and Food; Rural Affairs; Environment; and Northern Development and Mines. Ensure the delivery of an integrated Information Technology infrastructure to facilitate and streamline government operations through electronic service delivery and enhance government service through e-business and e-government.

Ministry Administration

- Provide leadership for corporate strategic business planning and management, including fiscal controllership, sustainable infrastructure management, strategic human resources planning and management, organizational performance, supply chain management, legal counsel, communications and other administrative services in support of the ministry's activities. These functions support the ministry so that it can effectively deliver on results, priorities and core programs while remaining within its financial and human resource allocation.

Key Priorities and Results

The Ministry of Natural Resources is moving forward with its Transformation Plan announced in the 2012 Ontario Budget. The ministry is reviewing all its processes and programs in order to focus more closely on its core mandate of natural resource management, modernize services for individuals and the public, achieve financial and operational sustainability, and contribute to the government's plan to balance the budget by 2017-18.

The ministry's Transformation Plan ensures that the ministry is able to deliver on its core priorities and legislative responsibilities. It achieves this through:

1. Policy and legislative reform - streamlining and automating approvals processes so that:
 - businesses and individuals can access services faster and more efficiently; and
 - staff will be able to work more efficiently and spend time and energy where it will have the greatest impact.
2. Operational service delivery transformation – taking a broader landscape approach to natural resource management and delivering more services at a regional level.
3. Strategic partnership and stewardship modernization – realigning strategic partnerships and transfer payments to focus more closely on core priorities and business needs.
4. Science and information rationalization – redesigning and realigning the delivery of science and information functions.

The ministry's corporate priorities for 2013-14 are:

- Continue to modernize the ministry's business, to review its programs and services to become more efficient and sustainable, and to implement a new organizational structure for the ministry.
- Far North Planning: implement a long-term plan for environmentally sustainable economic development while protecting the boreal region in the Far North.
- Continue to work with forestry companies, environmental organizations, First Nations and community representatives to enhance the economic, social and environmental benefits of Crown forest resources.
- Continue the leadership and advancement of an invasive species program, an aggregates program, and a sustainable Ontario Parks program.
- Support the government's agenda, including the Ring of Fire, working with Aboriginal peoples and First Nations, and Green Energy.
- Continue to provide leadership for the review of government use of herbicide 2,4,5-T, including the fact-finding panel and Provincial coordinating office.
- Achieve organizational excellence through effective leadership, engaged staff, building a greener workplace, and a diverse and inclusive, healthy and safe organization.

In pursuing these goals and priorities, the ministry will contribute to the achievement of the government's key commitments, priorities and results.

Meeting Government Commitments

The government has a plan to balance the budget by 2017-18. As part of this plan, it is undertaking initiatives to transform the delivery of public services while ensuring Ontarians receive the best value for their tax dollars. The ministry will undertake transformation initiatives to modernize its role in natural resource management, support economic growth and job creation, and achieve financial and operational sustainability. The government is working toward a more prosperous Ontario by promoting jobs and investment, by seeking to grow the green economy, and by enhancing the province's business climate.

The Ministry of Natural Resources is doing its part to support economic development through sustainable resource management activities. The ministry is promoting jobs and investment in the forestry sector through its efforts to make the first Local Forest Management Corporation operational and through continued work to implement enhanced Sustainable Forest Licences across the province. Work is also continuing to finalize 10 to 15 supply agreements and to help promote wood use and potential investment by ensuring unused wood is publicized in the Available Wood Reports.

The ministry is also working with the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of the Environment to implement the Green Energy Act and facilitate increased energy generation from wind, water, bio-energy and other opportunities. It is also providing outdoor recreation opportunities and seasonal jobs, which promotes tourism and stimulates demand for related businesses. The ministry is working with the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines to ensure the province capitalizes on the economic opportunity represented by the Ring of Fire, an area in Ontario's Far North that contains many globally significant deposits of chromite, a key ingredient in stainless steel, as well as numerous deposits of nickel, copper and platinum. It will also continue to support the creation of faster, smarter and streamlined government-to-business services that make Ontario more attractive for business development while protecting the public interest.

The government is committed to ensuring a greener Ontario by protecting air, water and green space, and protecting Ontarians from natural resource emergencies. In pursuing its goal of a healthy natural environment for Ontarians, the ministry is contributing to the government's climate change strategy by planting 50 million new trees and ensuring sustainable forest practices. The ministry is also putting Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy into action. The ministry is implementing the Endangered Species Act, which provides protection for our most vulnerable species and has made us a leader in North America in species protection. It will support the Standing Committee on General Government's review of the Aggregate Resources Act in an effort to strengthen the Act. The ministry is leading the government's response to the past use of the herbicide 2,4,5-T by ministries and agencies in Ontario, and the Independent Fact-Finding Panel is

scheduled to release its report simultaneously to the Minister of Natural Resources and the public in the spring of 2013. The ministry is coordinating and enhancing efforts to protect natural heritage lands in southern Ontario. The ministry will continue to promote stewardship across Ontario.

The ministry continues to develop a water management framework to clarify its role relative to other ministries dealing with water. The ministry's water mandate includes administering the Conservation Authorities Act and the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act; providing technical and policy advice on water budgeting, surface water monitoring, natural hazards and regulation of water levels on the Great Lakes and inland waters; and supporting the development of a proposed Great Lakes Protection Act for Ontario.

To make Ontarians safer in their communities, the ministry will continue to protect people, property and communities from natural resource emergencies. The ministry works to make Ontarians safe from natural resource hazards, such as forest fires and floods. The ministry also works to control invasive species, rabies and fish- and wildlife-borne diseases, to clean up hazardous lands such as Mid-Canada radar sites, and to rehabilitate abandoned oil and gas wells.

The government is committed to a stronger, more positive relationship with First Nations. The ministry will continue to implement Far North land use planning, working closely with the ministries of Northern Development and Mines and Aboriginal Affairs, First Nation and northern communities, resource industries and environmental groups. It will continue to work with First Nations to develop community based land use plans in the Far North that clarify both where land is set aside for protection and where development can occur that will enable the region's resources to contribute to a more prosperous, healthy and sustainable future for its people, the communities and the entire province.

Diagram 1: Ministry Contribution to Government Priorities and Key Results

Government Priorities	Economy	Environment	A Stronger Relationship with Ontario First Nations
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Competitive business environment – jobs and investment Grow the Green Economy Enhance Ontario’s Business Climate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preservation of air, water, green space and wilderness Ontarians are safe in their communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An improved quality of life and expanded economic opportunities for all Aboriginal peoples
Strategies / Deliverables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth for Ontario Communities Effective implementation of Green Energy Act, working with ministries of Energy and Environment Outdoor recreation opportunities and seasonal jobs; increased demand for related businesses Modernize services for individuals and businesses and streamline and automate approvals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced healthy natural environment for Ontarians Climate change mitigation and adaptation Stewardship, partnerships and community involvement Protected public health and environmental safety to protect our citizens Protection of areas of cultural and ecological value in the Far North 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmentally sustainable development that benefits First Nations Strategic action and work with Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Aboriginal partners to enhance participation and ensure greater benefits to Aboriginal people from natural resource development opportunities
Major Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Standing Committee on General Government’s Review of Aggregate Resources Act Implement Far North land use planning to enable the realization of the economic potential of the Far North Promote jobs and investment in the forestry sector by getting first Local Forest Management Corporation operational and continuing work to implement enhanced Sustainable Forest Licences across the province. Facilitate increased energy generation from wind, water and bio-energy Plan, manage and promote Ontario Provincial Parks as well as angling and hunting activities, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities Implement youth employment programs Work with Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ring of Fire Secretariat to ensure that Ontario capitalizes on the economic opportunity represented by the Ring of Fire Support faster, smarter and streamlined government-to-business/public services and reduce regulatory burden 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support Standing Committee on General Government’s Review of Aggregate Resources Act Contribute to government climate change strategy, including tree planting Through sustainable forest practices, ensure forests continue to sequester carbon Implement Endangered Species Act; protect caribou habitat Promote and enhance the protection of natural heritage lands in southern Ontario and promote natural resource valuation Implement Ontario’s Biodiversity Strategy, 2011 Administer Conservation Authorities Act and Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act; provide technical and policy advice on water budgeting, surface water monitoring, natural hazards and regulation of water levels on Great Lakes and inland lakes Deliver professional enforcement operations including outreach, inspection and investigative services to protect provincial resources Promote stewardship across Ontario Control of invasive species, rabies, and fish- and wildlife-borne diseases; work with the federal government through invasive species centre in Sault Ste. Marie to help coordinate provincial, national, and international efforts on invasive species Emergency management of fire, flood, drought, erosion, and landslides Remediate Mid-Canada radar line sites Lead the government’s response to the past use of the herbicide 2,4,5-T by ministries and agencies in Ontario 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement Far North land use planning, working jointly with First Nations Negotiate sustainable commercial fishing agreements with First Nations communities Support the efforts of the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs in working with Aboriginal peoples and First Nations to build a stronger, more positive relationship

Ministry Programs Biodiversity Management

The Ministry of Natural Resources will continue to work with the Ontario Biodiversity Council to assist with the implementation of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011.

The ministry, together with 15 other ministries, is implementing "Biodiversity: It's in Our Nature", which confirms the government's commitment to biodiversity conservation and outlines the actions that Ontario government ministries will take to achieve the vision and goals of Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy.

The Ontario government has recognized the importance of biodiversity and, through the Ontario Public Service Biodiversity Network, will continue to take steps to conserve it, contributing to a strong, healthy and prosperous future for our province and generations to come.

In light of changes made to the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act and associated regulations, the ministry continues to make progress towards policy modernization and transformation to help ensure timely customer service and by taking a risk-based approach to help focus efforts on core business.

This action helps ensure the province's fish and wildlife resources are protected and available for the use of all Ontarians - today, tomorrow and in the future. Modernization efforts will focus on streamlining approval processes and enhancing landscape-based fisheries and wildlife management. This includes consulting on new opportunities to improve customer service through automating approval processes, and taking a landscape-based approach to wildlife population objectives and harvest management strategies.

Ontario will continue to collaborate with other jurisdictions nationally and internationally to address wildlife health, including threats from diseases like White-nose Syndrome in bats and Chronic Wasting Disease in deer.

Implementation of the Endangered Species Act also continues to be a key priority of the ministry. The ministry is simplifying the rules for landowners, municipalities and businesses under the act, while maintaining its place as a North American leader in species protection, by streamlining its approach to species at risk protection through standardized rules and an online registry for certain low-risk activities.

The ministry will continue to publish recovery strategies, develop government response statements, and propose habitat regulations, to meet legislative requirements and support the recovery of species at risk.

In addition, the ministry continues to take a risk-based approach in the development of policies that protect, conserve and aim to recover species at risk in Ontario, which includes the implementation of the Caribou Conservation Plan. Management plans for Species of Special Concern, such as the bald eagle, will also be prepared.

Invasive species pose a significant threat to Ontario's biodiversity and affect our natural environment, society and economy. The government is pursuing a number of projects and partnerships to control invasive species on the land and in our waters.

The ministry will implement the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan. The plan provides a cross-ministry provincial management framework to better address threats posed by invasive species. The objectives of the plan focus on prevention, early detection, and rapid response to new invaders, and effective management of existing invaders when eradication is not possible.

In addition, the ministry:

- monitors forest health and works with the federal government and other partners to manage pests and invasive plants that threaten our forests;
- acts to eradicate aquatic invasive species that infect Ontario's water bodies, including Water Soldier in the Trent River and Water Chestnut in Voyageur Provincial Park;
- works together with partners and other governments to monitor for invasive species which pose a threat in neighbouring jurisdictions, including the presence of Asian carp in the United States; and,
- has a partnership with the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters that delivers extensive programs to raise awareness of invasive species and how to prevent their spread.

The ministry, together with the federal government, established the Invasive Species Centre at the Great Lakes Forestry Centre in Sault Ste. Marie. The Centre promotes co-operation, collaboration and efficiencies in invasive species management and helps coordinate provincial, national and international efforts to address the spread of invasive species and the negative effects they can have on the health of Ontario's ecosystems and economy.

The ministry will work with the Ministry of the Environment and other ministries to respond and adapt to climate change, while building a cleaner, greener and healthier Ontario. This includes implementing specific actions from Ontario's Climate Change Action Plan 2007, and Climate Ready: Ontario's Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2014. As part of the plan, the ministry is working with partners to plant 50 million new trees in order to sequester 6.6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. The ministry is on track to plant the 14 millionth tree in 2013-14.

Under the Ecological Framework for Recreational Fisheries Management in Ontario, Fisheries Management Zone advisory councils have been set up in 13 out of 20 zones. The councils are supporting fisheries management planning initiatives across the province. Two Fisheries Management Zone plans have been completed, and two more plans will be completed this year. It is anticipated that draft plans will be brought forward for consultation in three or four more Fisheries Management Zones.

The second five-year cycle of the broad-scale fisheries monitoring program begins in 2013-14. Reporting on the results of monitoring efforts from the first five-year cycle will be a priority. Particular emphasis will be placed on initiating or completing fisheries management plans in the area of the Algonquin Land Claim.

The ministry has successfully launched Fish-ON Line, a web-based application anglers can use to find information on Ontario's vast fisheries resource. This site has information on more than 13,000 lakes in the province, including fish species information, angling regulations, fish stocking records, fishing access points and lake characteristics. The ministry also released a mobile version of this application in 2012, and will continue to enhance and add information to the application, such as a searchable lake-by-lake database of fisheries regulations.

In response to ecological concerns associated with live bait in Ontario, the ministry will continue consulting on its review and renewal of Ontario's approach to the harvest and use of live bait. The goals of the review are to reduce the ecological risk associated with this activity, appropriately value the resource, and streamline the approach for businesses.

The ministry continues to work with the federal government to understand changes to the federal Fisheries Act and to coordinate activities associated with the management of fisheries and aquaculture through a number of committees designed to ensure clear roles and responsibilities associated with the delivery of these programs and, where possible, develop partnership initiatives. The ministry also works with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency to ensure the safety of food fish and prevent the spread of diseases such as Viral Hemorrhagic Septicaemia in certain species of fish, and Chronic Wasting disease in cervids, such as deer.

The delivery of science and information business enhances the ministry's understanding of Ontario's natural resources, and ensures its information base is reliable and accessible. Although the way that science and information functions are delivered within the ministry is expected to change during the implementation of the ministry's Transformation Plan, the ministry will continue to deliver the core science and information functions of science and applied research, resource monitoring and reporting, mapping and geographic surveying, and information management.

The ministry will continue to be vigilant in controlling rabies and other fish- and wildlife-borne diseases. Although the raccoon rabies strain has been eliminated from Ontario, monitoring and baiting along the New York border to help prevent any new cases will continue. To control Ontario fox strain rabies, the ministry will continue its vaccine bait distribution program using Ontario's rabies vaccine, ONRAB[®].

The ministry is leading the government's response to the past use of the herbicide 2,4,5-T by ministries and agencies in Ontario. The Independent Fact-Finding Panel that was established to review the historic use of the herbicide is expected to submit a report simultaneously to the Minister of Natural Resources and the public in the spring of 2013.

The ministry will continue to manage Ontario's commercial and recreational fisheries to ensure they provide sustainable ecological and economic benefits. The ministry will continue its review and consultations on new ways to market and generate revenue for the fish and wildlife special purpose account to support fish and wildlife programs. Fish culture stations will provide approximately eight million fish for stocking purposes.

The ministry continues to deliver professional law enforcement to protect Ontario's natural resources for present and future generations. This year, the ministry will develop a compliance framework to support modernization of policy and approvals.

Natural Heritage and Protected Area Management

The Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act and related regulations are being implemented, and serve to enhance the protection and ecological integrity of Ontario's provincial parks and conservation reserves.

A new version of Ontario's Protected Areas Planning Manual has been finalized and will be released to the public.

Stewardship will continue to be promoted across the province. Through resource stewardship, the ministry safeguards the public interest in Ontario's resources and acts as the steward of our natural legacy.

The ministry is finalizing 13 park management plans. The management planning process will continue for the Whitefeather Dedicated Protected Areas, and for additional provincial parks and conservation reserves.

The ministry will carry out management plan amendments for two provincial parks and one conservation reserve. Complete management direction examinations will also be finalized for several parks and conservation reserves.

The ministry is proposing to regulate three new provincial parks, and the boundaries of eight provincial parks and two conservation reserves will be amended. The ministry will continue to make progress on confirming potential Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest.

The ministry will continue to work jointly with First Nations on Far North land use planning under the Far North Act. Through community based land use planning, and supported by mapping, science and information, First Nations and Ontario are clarifying where development can occur and where land is set aside for protection. This will help achieve a key objective of the Far North Act: to protect at least 225,000 square kilometres of the Far North boreal region. The ministry will also work closely with First Nations, the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, environmental groups, northern communities and resource industries to implement the Far North Act, including developing policies, regulations, and a Far North Land Use Strategy to support planning in the Far North.

The ministry, through the Niagara Escarpment Commission, helps provide for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment, and ensures only such development occurs as is compatible with that natural environment.

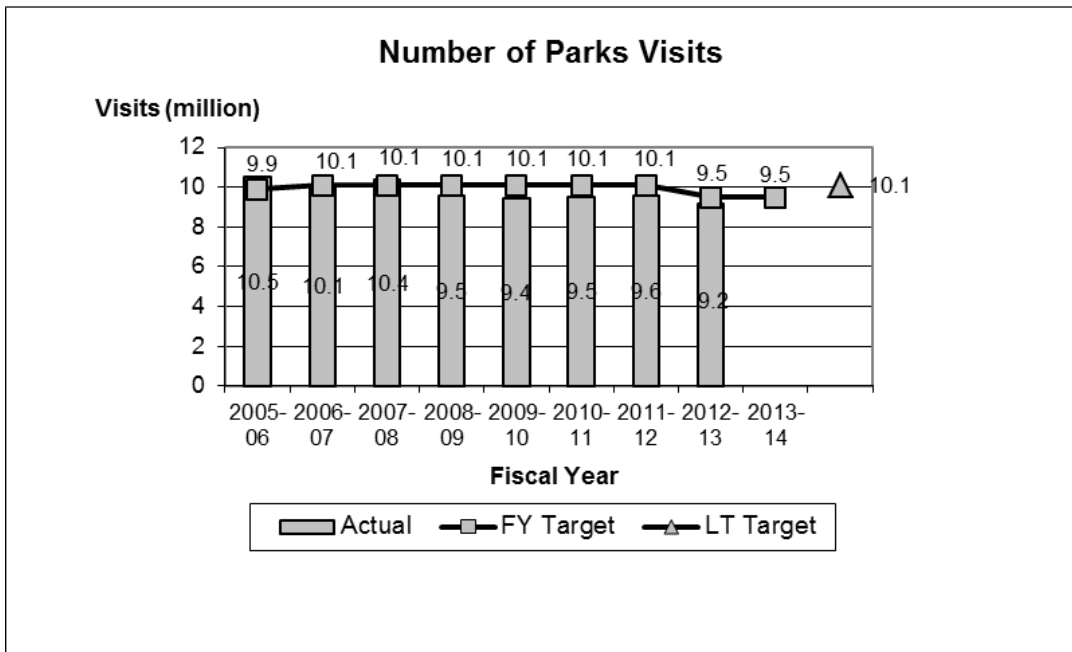
In 2013-14, the ministry will be engaged in preparations with the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, other ministries and the Niagara Escarpment Commission, for the review of the Greenbelt Plan, Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and Niagara Escarpment Plan. This review must start in 2015.

The ministry will continue to support the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing in reviewing and finalizing the Provincial Policy Statement. The Provincial Policy Statement provides direction on provincial interests related to municipal land use planning, including natural heritage.

Ontario Parks is hoping to achieve about 9.5 million visits to Ontario Parks in 2013-14. Ontario Parks will work with municipal partners and other stakeholders to operate certain northern parks as pilots, including expanded seasonal lease and marketing opportunities. The ministry will take any lessons learned from the pilots being implemented and apply them to other potential partnerships for future operating seasons.

The ministry will invest in priority infrastructure upgrades in several parks this year to improve safety and customer service. The ministry will also pursue other parks sustainability initiatives, such as: roofed accommodation, expansion of the Learn to Camp program and the introduction of Learn to Fish, and enhanced partnerships.

Parks visits averaged 9.5 million visits per year from 2008-09 to 2011-12. Park visitation was down about 402,000 visitors in 2012-13 compared to 2011-12. This reduction is due to adjustments in the method used to calculate visitation, as well as decreased use in the fall season. Total park visitation in 2012-13 was 9,193,538, which is lower than the previous four-year average.



Crown Land, Water and Non-Renewable Resource Management

Important components of the ministry’s water mandate include administering the Conservation Authorities Act and the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, providing technical and policy advice about water budgeting, surface water monitoring, natural hazards and the regulation of water levels on the Great Lakes and inland waters through dam management and operations. The ministry also has the lead for ensuring healthy aquatic ecosystems.

The ministry will provide resource management policy and program leadership and advice on a number of government and partner initiatives, such as:

- modernizing provincial approval requirements under the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, including reducing overlap and duplication between regulatory processes with other provincial ministries;
- providing policy and program oversight for the Conservation Authorities Act;
- supporting bi-national Great Lakes initiatives, such as implementing the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement, and by representing Ontario’s interests on the Agreement’s Regional Body;

- supporting renegotiation and implementation of the Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem, while continuing to conserve and protect the Great Lakes through funding for projects across the basin;
- working with the International Joint Commission to ensure that Ontario's interests are addressed as it considers new approaches to managing water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River and the Upper Great Lakes, and develop adaptive management strategies to help address climate uncertainty; and,
- supporting the development of a proposed Great Lakes Protection Act for Ontario, and implementation of Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy 2012 and the Great Lakes Guardian Community Fund.

The ministry will support the Standing Committee on General Government's review of the Aggregate Resources Act by bringing forward responsive, timely, evidence-based solutions and options for government consideration.

The ministry will continue its work on the remediation of the Mid-Canada Line radar sites under a cost-sharing agreement with the federal government by implementing year five of the six-year project. The focus will be on eight sites within Polar Bear Provincial Park working with Attawapiskat First Nation and Weenusk First Nation in Peawanuck.

The ministry will continue to support the Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ring of Fire Secretariat through community based land use planning with First Nations in the Ring of Fire area in order to capitalize on the economic opportunity represented by the Ring of Fire. The ministry will continue to provide input to environmental assessments, participate in the development of a long-term environmental monitoring framework, and undertake Aboriginal consultation.

The ministry will continue to provide leadership and program delivery in the development and application of geographic information for natural resource management and decision-making, such as the protection of the boreal forest in Ontario's Far North and preservation of natural heritage in southern Ontario.

The ministry, in collaboration with municipalities, the private sector and a variety of environmental non-government organizations, also plans to acquire new orthophotography (aerial photographs geometrically corrected to a uniform scale) in southern Ontario for an area of approximately 35,000 square kilometers.

The ministry will also contribute to the government's Information and Information Technology initiative by making land information available through a suitable infrastructure.

Renewable Energy

The ministry will continue to work with the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of the Environment to implement the Green Energy Act and to facilitate increased energy generation from wind, water, bio-energy and other opportunities. It will implement a strategic policy approach on how Crown land is used to support provincial renewable energy targets. The ministry will also continue to work with industry, stakeholders, communities and the public to foster environmentally sound renewable energy development, while advancing science and research, and facilitating community economic benefits.

Forestry

The ministry will continue to provide leadership and oversight in the sustainable management of Ontario's Crown forests, ensure a healthy, viable forest industry in Ontario, and foster a competitive business environment. Efforts will be made to continue improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the forestry program to account for changing social, economic and environmental conditions.

The ministry will work toward enhancing the competitiveness of the forest industry. It will promote jobs and investment in the forestry sector through its efforts to make the first Local Forest Management Corporation – known as Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation - operational, and through continued work to implement enhanced Sustainable Forest Licences across the province. The goal is to have the corporation fully operational by the end of fiscal year 2013-14, with Forest Resource Licences issued or transferred to the corporation for the entire management area. Enhanced Sustainable Forest Licence discussions are expected to be finalized on three forest management units in 2013-14 with discussions continuing on at least 10 other management units.

Work will also continue toward finalizing approvals for 10 to 15 supply agreements and ensuring unused wood is publicized in the Available Wood Reports to help promote wood use and potential investment.

The ministry is working with the Ministry of the Environment on proposals to streamline forest management planning and approval requirements.

The ministry will report to the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario on progress made to address the recommendations made by the Office of the Auditor General during the audit of the forest management program in 2011.

The ministry will continue to enhance its focus on forest renewal efforts through a number of initiatives, including ongoing improvements to the operation of the Forest Renewal and Forestry Futures Trusts in maintaining the sustainability of Ontario's Crown forests. With the involvement of practitioners, the ministry is also developing a revised Silviculture Guide which will be available for public review in the fall.

Three audits will be undertaken by independent third-party auditors, and the ministry will continue efforts to modernize the Independent Forest Audit process. The ministry intends to make available for public review, and to finalize, the draft Forest Management Guide for Boreal Landscapes, which provides direction on ecosystem-based management approaches for forest managers.

The ministry will continue to promote the Ontario Wood brand with plans to have 150 licensees by the end of the fiscal year and to have launched a number of social media tools to help consumers become aware of the diversity and breadth of wood products that come from Ontario. In partnership with other stakeholders and government, we will continue to pursue innovative solutions to challenges facing the industry, such as access to skilled labour, and access to foreign and domestic markets. The ministry will also continue to deliver and administer the Provincial Forest Access Roads Funding Program.

Emergency and Forest Fire Management

The ministry will manage the protection of people, property and communities from forest fires, floods and other natural-resource emergencies. It will continue the planning and delivery of the ministry's emergency management program and the provision of aviation services for the Ontario government.

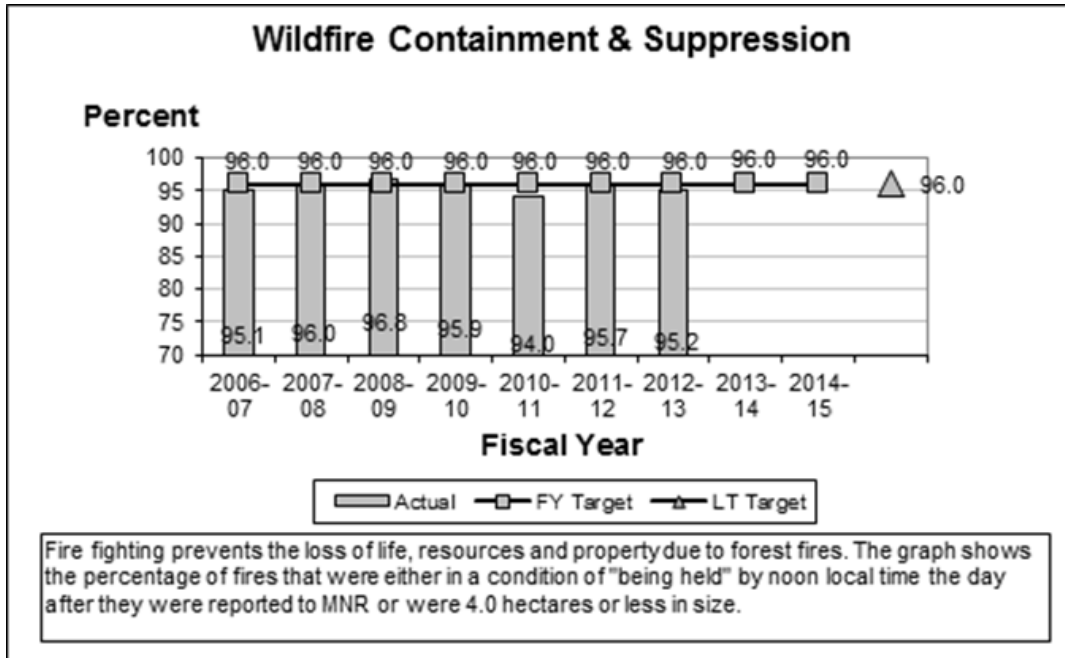
The ministry will continue to implement an emergency management program meeting the requirements of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act while advancing the program to a comprehensive level. The ministry will continue to work closely with Emergency Management Ontario, other ministries, other provinces, First Nations, communities, agencies and the Federal government to ensure a coordinated and effective response to emergencies within Ontario.

The new Flight Training Centre for CL-415 heavy water bombers is completed and pilot training will begin in 2013-14. A new Forward Attack Base at Crocker Lake will be operational for the 2013 fire season.

The ministry will begin construction of a new Fire Attack Base in Armstrong in 2013-14, and facility improvements are planned for Sudbury, Haliburton and Thunder Bay. A new EC-130 helicopter will be acquired to maintain the aviation fleet. The acquisition of Mobile Incident Command Basecamp Trailer units by the fire program will be phased in over the next three years.

A discussion paper on proposed changes to the Ontario Fire Management Strategy will be finalized and public engagement on revisions will be initiated through an Environmental Registry posting. There will be additional consultation, and a draft revised Forest Fire Management Strategy will be completed by the end of the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Ministry Wildfire Containment and Suppression has been above 94 per cent since 2003-04. Wildfire Containment and Suppression shows the percentage of fires that were under control by noon local time the day after they were reported to the ministry or held to four hectares or less in size.



Land and Resources Information and Information Technology (I&IT) Cluster

The mandate of the Land and Resources I&IT Cluster is to provide and manage strategic services in the lifecycle management of its six client ministries' information management and information technology (IM&IT) assets, and to offer and manage the delivery of a comprehensive set of IM&IT products and services to the ministries. The cluster serves the following ministries, which work collaboratively with LRC to achieve this mandate: Natural Resources; Aboriginal Affairs; Agriculture and Food; Rural Affairs; Environment; and Northern Development and Mines.

The cluster:

- supports the ministries' mandates and their transformation initiatives;
- seeks opportunities across the ministries to streamline and leverage solutions and services to maximize business value;
- provides business solutions that deliver results;
- executes responsibilities with a focus on maintaining and/or increasing overall service levels at the overall lowest possible per unit costs for IM&IT products or services;
- seeks continuous improvement opportunities as part of its modernization agenda and journey to service best practices and excellence;
- leverages and optimizes the use of both human and capital resources;

- ensures that its activities support the cluster and take into consideration the overall IM&IT direction set out by the Office of the Corporate Chief Information Officer (OCCIO) and other recognized corporate IM&IT governance bodies; and
- provides stewardship of the IM&IT assets.

Corporate Management

The ministry's administration program provides the corporate focus to advance the OPS modern controllership agenda. The program:

- supports the ministry so that it can effectively deliver on results, priorities and core programs while remaining within its financial and human resource allocation;
- leads enhanced accountability in MNR through strengthened internal controls such as effective application of Directives, Delegation of Authority and cost containment strategies;
- leads controllership initiatives to support compliance with government Directives related to Transfer Payments, Special Purpose Accounts, Procurements and Agencies, Boards and Commissions;
- leads organizational excellence through leadership renewal, engaged staff and an inclusive, diverse, healthy and safe workplace;
- develops strategies and guidelines that support innovation and actions to green ministry operations, aligned with government direction and MNR's role as a conservation organization; and
- leads the corporate strategic business planning and reporting to support government decision-making.

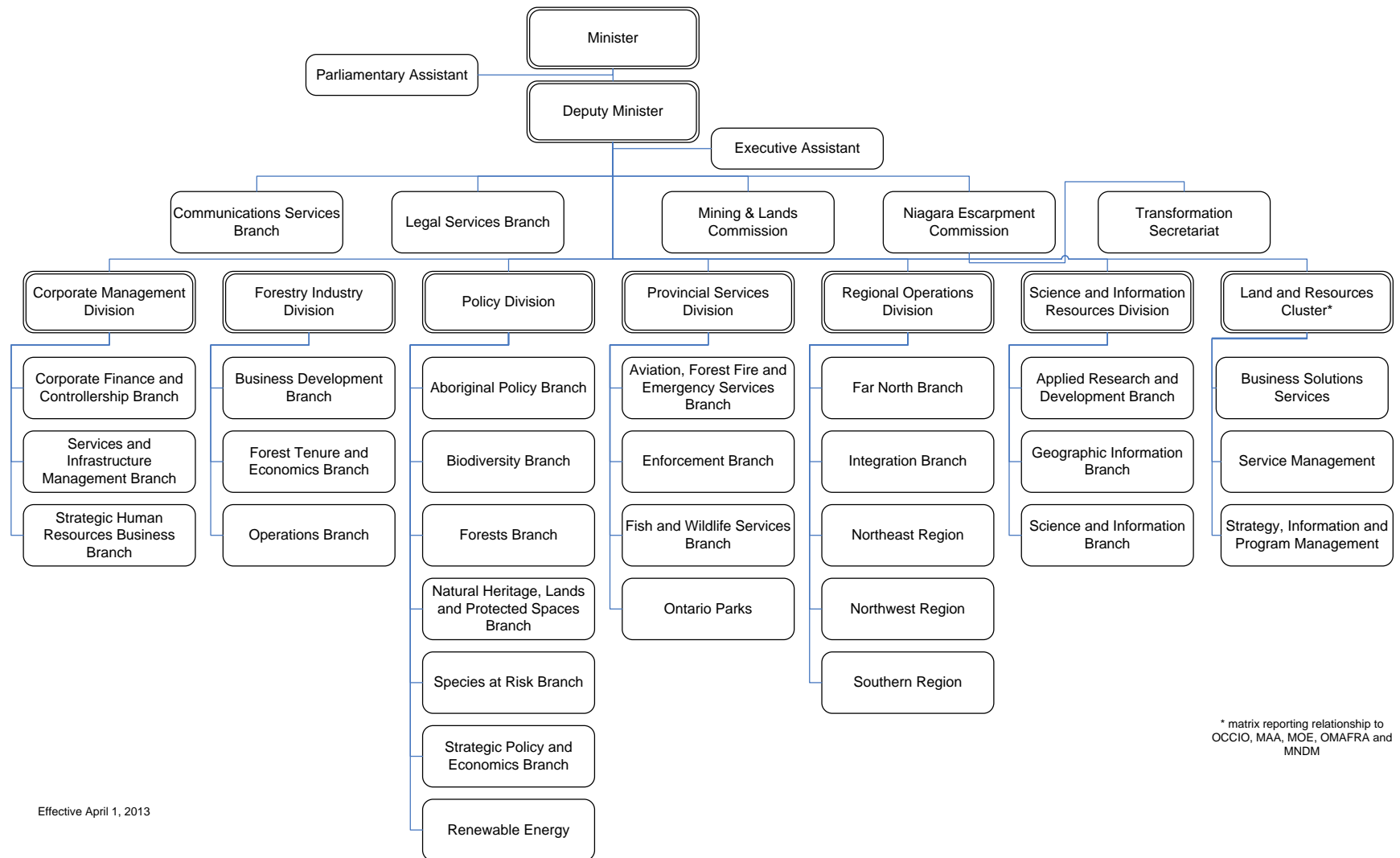
Table 1: Key Performance Measures and Achievements

Performance Measures	2010-11 Achievement	2011-12 Achievement	2012-13 Achievement	2013-14 Target
Rate of compliance with resource laws and regulations*	94.6%	94.2%	94.4%	93%
Wildfire containment and suppression	94.0%	95.7%	95.2%	96%
Number of acres and total percentage of Ontario's land and water area formally identified for a level of protection equivalent to regulation	5,669,687 acres or 2.1%	5,670,687 acres or 2.1%	Measure discontinued/replaced	Measure discontinued/replaced
Number of acres and total percentage of Ontario's land area protected by regulation as Provincial Park or Conservation Reserve (new)	n/a	n/a	24,111,583 acres or 9.3%	24,119,220 acres or 9.3%
Percentage of Independent Forest Audits recommending Sustainable Forest Licence extension (without conditions)	100%	63%	Measure discontinued/replaced	Measure discontinued/replaced
Percentage of Independent Forest Audits that Identify Forest Management Practices as Being in Compliance (without critical exceptions) (new)	n/a	73%	79%	85%
Crown Timber Harvest Rate of Recovery (new)	n/a	13.9 million m ³	12.0 million m ³	15.8 million m ³

Performance Measures	2010-11 Achievement	2011-12 Achievement	2012-13 Achievement	2013-14 Target
Forest Sector Prosperity Fund Leverage Ratio (new)	n/a	7:1	10:1	9:1
Number of Crown Land Renewable Energy Projects Requiring MNR Authorizations (review, permits, tenure)**	58 (Baseline)	58	56	47
Number of Private Land Renewable Energy Projects Requiring Review, Confirmation Letter, and Comments for Renewable Energy Approval or Class Environmental Assessment*	143 (Baseline)	143	290	148

* This measure is currently under review. A modified compliance measure with revised out-year targets will be introduced in 2014-15.

** Estimates represent projects currently contracted under the Feed-in Tariff (FIT) program, as well as other procurement types; Renewable Energy Standard Offer Program, Renewable Energy Supply I, II and III and Combined Heat and Power III, and known redevelopment and OPG projects. Estimates do not reflect projects in-operation, cancelled/withdrawn/rejected or applications to FIT 2.1. Additional workload will be quantified in out-year targets in future RbP submissions, as required.

Ministry Organization Chart


* matrix reporting relationship to OCCIO, MAA, MOE, OMAFRA and MNDM

Effective April 1, 2013

Legislation

Aggregate Resources Act

- Regulates the operation of pits and quarries in designated parts of Ontario and the disposition of Crown-owned aggregate.

Algonquin Forest Authority Act

- Establishes a Crown corporation known as the Algonquin Forestry Authority to harvest Crown timber in Algonquin Provincial Park and public lands adjacent to the park, to sell the logs and also to carry out other such activities as authorized by the Minister of Natural Resources.

An Act for the Settlement of Certain Questions between Governments of Canada and Ontario Respecting Indian Reserve Lands (1891)

- Permitted the Ontario government to enter into an agreement with the government of Canada to settle certain questions relating to the provision of Indian reserve land in the area that was the subject of the Northwest Angle Treaty (Treaty No. 3).

An Act to Confirm the Title of the Government of Canada to Certain Lands and Indian Lands (1915)

- Act by which the Ontario government transferred to the government of Canada certain lands to be set apart as Indian reserve lands in the area that was the subject of the Northwest Angle Treaty (Treaty No. 3).

Arboreal Emblem Act

- Adopts the Eastern White Pine as the arboreal emblem of Ontario.

Avian Emblem Act, 1994

- Adopts the common loon as the avian emblem of Ontario.

Beds of Navigable Waters Act

- Legislation relating to title in the beds of navigable waters.

Conservation Authorities Act

- Provides for the establishment of conservation authorities for the purpose of establishing and undertaking programs designed to further the conservation,

restoration, development and management of natural resources in their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation Land Act

- Provides for the establishment of grant programs to promote the recognition, encouragement and support of the stewardship or conservation of certain lands, and for the making of easements for conservation.

Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994

- Provides for the sustainability of Crown forests and the management of Crown forests to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of present and future generations of Ontario.

Duffins Rouge Agricultural Preserve Act, 2005

- Amended the Conservation Land Act to expand the scope of conservation easements.

Endangered Species Act, 2007

- This act came into effect on June 30, 2008. Provides for protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats through science-based listing, automatic protection of species and their habitat, mandatory requirements for recovery strategies and management plans and government accountability through reporting requirements.

Far North Act, 2010

- Provides for the development of community based land use plans initiated by First Nations designating permitted land uses.

Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997

- Provides for the conservation and management of wildlife and fish resources, including the protection of game wildlife and specially protected wildlife as defined in the act.

Fish Inspection Act

- Authorizes inspection of fish storage and processing establishments. Regulations under the act provide standards for quality and labelling of canned and frozen fish, as well as operating and equipment requirements for establishments.

Fisheries Act (Canada) – Ontario Fishery Regulations

- The Ontario Fishery Regulations made under this act relate to open seasons for angling and commercial fishing and the licences required.

Fisheries Development Act (Canada)

- Allows the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to undertake projects to enhance fishery resources in order to develop the commercial fisheries of Canada.

Fisheries Loans Act

- Provides for loans to persons carrying on the business of commercial fishing or any other business dependent on fishing in waters where fishing has been prohibited due to contaminated fish caused by polluted waters.

Forest Fires Prevention Act

- Prohibits activities that cause or promote forest fires, and allows the ministry to put in place restrictions, such as restricted fire zones and restricted travel zones during fire emergencies, to help prevent forest fires.

Forestry Act

- Under this Act, the Minister enters into agreements with landowners, such as municipalities and conservation authorities, to manage forest lands. The Minister may also establish programs for the encouragement of forestry.

Forestry Workers Lien for Wages Act

- Provides a lien and an enforcement procedure for forestry workers to ensure payment of wages.

Freshwater Fish Marketing Act (Ontario)

- Complements the Freshwater Fish Marketing Act (Canada). Through these acts and the federal-provincial agreement, the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, established under the federal act, is the sole purchaser of commercial fish in a defined area in northwestern Ontario.

Gas and Oil Leases Act

- Sets out the procedure for declaring a gas or oil lease void.

Heritage Hunting and Fishing Act, 2002

- Recognizes the right to hunt and fish recreationally in accordance with Ontario laws and created the Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission to provide advice to the Minister of Natural Resources on fish and wildlife related initiatives.

Indian Lands Act, 1924

- Passed by the Legislature of Ontario and the Parliament of Canada to deal with certain questions relating to the administration and control of Indian reserve land, surrendered Indian reserve land in Ontario and mineral rights on reserve.

Indian Lands Agreement (1986) Confirmation Act, 2010

- Confirms the 1986 Indian Lands Agreement between the governments of Canada and Ontario which authorizes the parties and any Indian band to enter into specific agreements relating to such matters as those dealt with under the Indian Lands Act, 1924, disposition of lands or natural resources, minerals and hydro powers.

Industrial and Mining Lands Compensation Act

- Provides for agreements between the owner or operator of a mine and the owner or lessee of any land for payment of compensation for any damage or injury resulting, or likely to result, to the land or to its use and enjoyment from the operation of the mine.

Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act, 2003

- Provides for the protection of the ecological integrity of the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park and ensures that the policies governing the park will protect its natural and cultural values, maintain its traditional uses and provide the opportunity for recreational activities that are compatible with the natural heritage values and semi-wilderness character of the park.

Lake of the Woods Control Board Act, 1922

- Complementary to a Federal Act of 1921. Deals with the regulation of the water levels of the Winnipeg River, the English River, Lac Seul and Lake St. Joseph.

Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act

- Provides for the use of the water of lakes and rivers and regulates improvements in them and gives the Minister discretionary powers relating to the repair, reconstruction and removal of dams, maintenance of water levels, and regulation of use of waters or works.

Migratory Birds Convention Act (Canada) – Ontario Regulations

- Open seasons for migratory birds are set under this act.

Mineral Emblem Act

- Adopts the amethyst as the mineral emblem of the Province of Ontario.

Mining Act (s. 100, 101, 102)

- Part IV of the act deals with exploration licences for oil and gas, leases for production of oil and gas and storage leases for the temporary storage of hydrocarbons in underground formations. The Minister of Natural Resources administers sections 100 to 102 (oil, gas, underground storage and salt solution mining).

Ministry of Natural Resources Act

- Created the Ministry of Natural Resources by amalgamating the former Department of Lands and Forests and Department of Mines and Northern Affairs. (A separate Ministry of Northern Development and Mines was established in 1985.) The act provides for the appointment of a Mining and Lands Commissioner and advisory committees.

Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act

- Establishes the Niagara Escarpment Plan and Commission and provides for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment where only compatible development occurs.

North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve Act, 1962-63

- Establishes the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve, provides for the planning and development of the reserve and the appointment of a committee to advise the Minister.

Oil, Gas and Salt Resources Act

- Sets out requirements for various aspects of oil and natural gas exploration, drilling and production and provides for the making of regulations respecting oil and gas conservation and the safe operation of drilling and production facilities.

Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act

- This Act allows for changes to the forest tenure and pricing system in Ontario, including the establishment of local forest management corporations (Crown

agencies) to manage Crown forests and oversee the competitive sale of Crown forest resources in a given area.

Ontario Geographic Names Board Act

- Provides for the establishment of a Geographic Names Board for Ontario having the duty to gather information respecting the names of places and geographical features, make recommendations, collaborate with the Geographical Names Board of Canada, and provide information to government departments.

Ottawa River Water Powers Act, 1943

- Ratifies and confirms an agreement between Ontario and the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario with Quebec and the Quebec Streams Commission respecting the development of water power on the Ottawa River.

Professional Foresters Act, 2000

- Regulates the practice of professional forestry in Ontario.

Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006

- Provides for the establishment of provincial parks and conservation reserves and their management. Parks may be classified as a natural environment park, a nature reserve park, a wilderness park, a recreational park, a waterways park or a historical park.

Public Lands Act

- Provides for the disposition and management of Crown land, the administration of roads on Crown land, the administration and control of the construction and maintenance of dams, and the granting of water powers and privileges.

Seine River Diversion Act, 1952

- Confirms the partial diversion of the Seine River and authorizes the completion and operation of the diversion by Steep Rock Iron Mines Limited.

Steep Rock Iron Ore Development Act, 1949

- Authorizes a water power lease and various agreements between Ontario, the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, the Ontario-Minnesota Pulp and Paper Company and Steep Rock Iron Mines Limited respecting supply of power, maintenance and operation of certain dams and of the Seine diversion, and dam construction.

Surveyors Act

- Establishes the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors, regulates the practice of professional land surveying, and prescribes the rules governing membership and conduct.

Surveys Act

- Prescribes the methods and monuments to be used in performing surveys of land.

Wild Rice Harvesting Act

- Governs the harvesting of rice on Crown land.

Wilderness Areas Act

- Provides for the preservation of areas having some unique features.

Agencies, Boards and Commissions

The Agencies, Boards and Commissions that report to or have appointments made by the Ministry of Natural Resources are listed below with a brief summary. A classified agency, though established by the government, is not considered part of the ministry. However, the government appoints the majority of its members, assigns responsibility to perform a public function and holds the agency to account.

Algonquin Forestry Authority (Classified Agency)

The Algonquin Forestry Authority is responsible for forest management, including timber harvesting, in Algonquin Park. The Authority sorts, sells and delivers harvested logs to regional mills. It also may advise on, undertake and carry out forestry, land-management and other programs and projects as the Minister may authorize.

Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario (Classified Agency)

The Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario is responsible for assessing and classifying species that may be at risk in Ontario.

Council of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors

The Council of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors regulates the practice of professional land surveying and governs the profession in accordance with the Surveyors Act, its regulations and bylaws.

Council of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association

The Ontario Professional Foresters Association regulates the practice of forestry, and governs its members in accordance with the Professional Foresters Act, its regulations and by-laws. The governing council manages, administers and oversees the functioning of the association.

Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission (Classified Agency)

Established under the Heritage Hunting and Fishing Act, the Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission makes recommendations to the minister on ways to encourage people to value our fish and wildlife resources, promote more participation in conservation and other programs, and to search out new fish- and wildlife-related opportunities.

Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Management Advisory Board (Classified Agency)

The Board was established under the Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Act and provides advice to the minister on the planning and management of the park.

Lake of the Woods Control Board

The Lake of the Woods Control Board regulates the water levels in the Lake of the Woods, Lac Seul and in the Winnipeg and English Rivers between the lake outlets and their confluence.

Nawiinginiima Forest Management Corporation (Classified Agency)

The Corporation is responsible for sustainable forest management, and the marketing and selling of wood supplies to both existing forest industry customers and new entrants.

Niagara Escarpment Commission (Classified Agency)

The Niagara Escarpment Commission administers the Niagara Escarpment Plan through promoting the objectives of the plan; processing and making decisions on development permit applications and making recommendations on plan amendments.

Ontario Geographic Names Board (Classified Agency)

The Ontario Geographic Names Board manages and defines the treatment of official geographic names of places and geographical features in Ontario.

Ontario Moose-Bear Allocation Advisory Committee (Classified Agency)

The Ontario Moose-Bear Allocation Advisory Committee advises the minister on the allocation of moose among tourist outfitters and on the issues arising from the allocation of black bear management areas of tourist operators.

Ontario Parks Board of Directors (Classified Agency)

The Directors of the Ontario Parks Board provide advice on planning, management and development of the provincial park system.

Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board

The Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board is a partnership among Canada, Quebec and Ontario to formulate and review policies that will lead to integrated management of the reservoirs in the Ottawa River basin.

Rabies Advisory Committee (Classified Agency)

The Rabies Advisory Committee advises on the scientific steps necessary for developing a successful rabies research and response program, which includes developing suitable vaccines and systems for vaccinating wild animal populations.

Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee (Classified Agency)

The Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee provides advice on matters related to implementation of the species at risk program, other than matters addressed by the Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario.

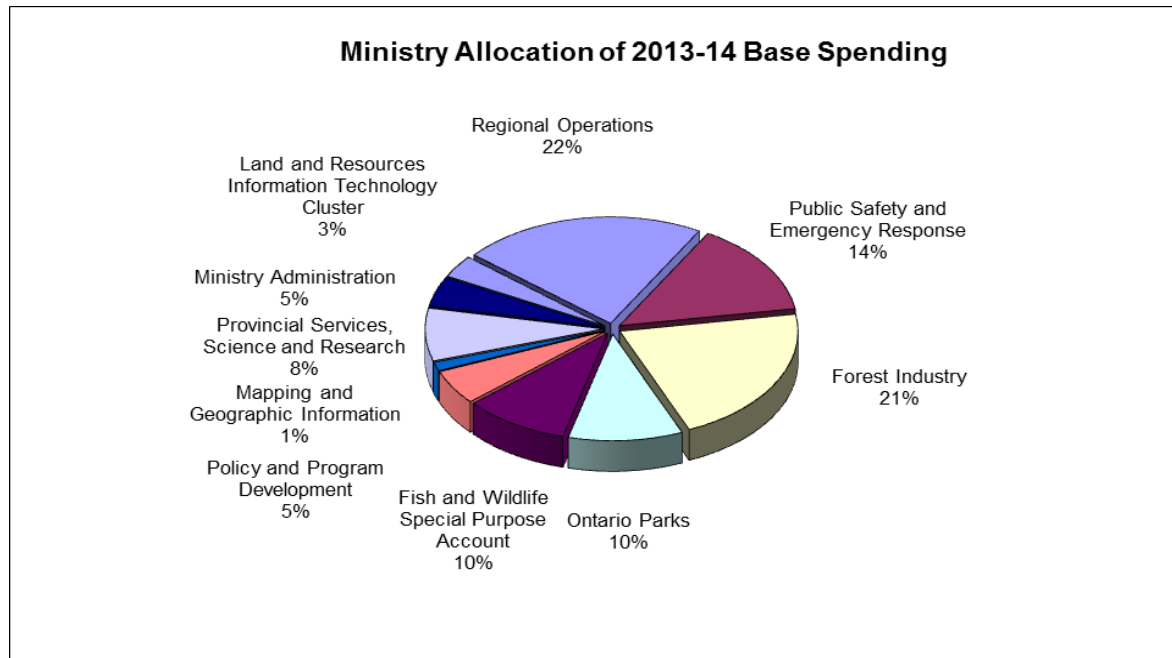
Table 2: Expenditure and Revenue Data for Agencies, Boards, Commissions

Name	2013-14 Estimates		2012-13 Interim Actuals		2011-12 Actuals	
	Expenditure \$	Revenue \$	Expenditure \$	Revenue \$	Expenditure \$	Revenue \$
Algonquin Forestry Authority	22,770,600	22,846,300	19,280,000	18,648,000	20,043,207	20,212,097
Committee on the Status of Species at Risk in Ontario	30,000	0	35,173	0	15,717	0
Council of the Association of Ontario Land Surveyors	20,000	0	14,233	0	22,927	0
Council of the Ontario Professional Foresters Association	20,000	0	16,660	0	20,113	0
Fish and Wildlife Heritage Commission	45,000	0	28,931	0	44,052	0
Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (agreement has ended)	0	0	0	0	511	1,300
Kawartha Highlands Signature Site Park Management Advisory Board	2,000	0	1,500	0	3,850	0
Lake of the Woods Control Board	7,000	6,000,000	6,500	5,000,000	6,500	5,000,000
Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation	2,031,371	4,072,530	20,000	230,000	0	0
Niagara Escarpment Commission	2,403,506	100	2,309,863	32	2,302,673	75
Ontario Geographic Names Board	10,000	0	6,443	0	7,933	0
Ontario Moose-Bear Allocation Advisory Committee	25,000	0	9,536	0	13,258	0
Ontario Parks Board of Directors	16,500	0	10,245	0	16,000	0
Ottawa River Regulation Planning Board	50,000	15,000,000	39,682	12,796,175	36,926	14,887,624
Rabies Advisory Committee	2,500	0	1,500	0	2,500	0
Species at Risk Program Advisory Committee	10,000	0	1,602	0	5,993	0
Wildlife Rehabilitation Advisory Committee (committee disbanded)	0	0	0	0	2,236	0

Note: Expenditure and revenue reported in this table are also reported as part of the Ministry's overall expenditure and revenue.

MINISTRY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The following graph depicts the Ministry's planned 2013-14 expenditures by activity.



Note: numbers may not add due to rounding

Table 3: Ministry Planned Operating Expenditures by Activity 2013-14¹

Activity Name	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M)
Regional Operations	\$162.5
Public Safety and Emergency Response	\$103.7
Forest Industry	\$155.4
Ontario Parks	\$76.0
Fish and Wildlife Special Purpose Account	\$70.0
Policy and Program Development	\$38.6
Mapping and Geographic Information	\$9.6
Provincial Services, Science and Research	\$58.6
Ministry Administration	\$33.5
Land and Resources Information Technology Cluster (spends \$84.9 million and recovers \$60.1 million for a net balance of \$24.8)	\$24.8
Total Planned Expenditures by Activity	\$732.8

Table 4: Ministry Planned Total Expenditures 2013-14

	Ministry Planned Expenditures (\$M)
Operating	\$732.8
Capital	\$53.5
TOTAL	\$786.3

¹ Numbers may not add correctly due to rounding.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Table 5: Operating and Capital Summary by Vote

The Ministry envisions a healthy environment that is naturally diverse and supports a high quality of life for the people of Ontario through sustainable development.

The Ministry's mission is to manage our natural resources in an ecologically sustainable way to ensure that they are available for the enjoyment and use of future generations.

Ecological sustainability focuses on safeguarding the province's natural capital and nature's capacity to renew itself. It is directed towards resource management practices that protect and maintain nature's capacity to renew itself and generate sufficient natural "interest" to meet Ontarians' present and future needs.

	Estimates 2013-14 \$	Change from 2012-13 Estimates \$	%	Estimates 2012-13 * \$	Interim Actuals 2012-13 * \$	Actuals 2011-12 * \$
OPERATING AND CAPITAL EXPENSE						
Ministry Administration	33,467,800	258,500	0.8	33,209,300	32,881,100	34,564,788
Natural Resource Management	398,998,000	12,411,400	3.2	386,586,600	399,652,500	400,166,458
Public Protection	105,296,800	2,879,400	2.8	102,417,400	189,014,000	240,366,447
Land and Resources Information & Information Technology Cluster	24,840,200	(200,000)	(0.8)	25,040,200	25,040,200	25,039,200
Less: Special Warrants	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Operating and Capital Expense to be Voted	562,602,800	15,349,300	2.8	547,253,500	646,587,800	700,136,893
Special Warrants	--	--	--	--	--	--
Statutory Appropriations	15,125,214	(2,804,200)	(15.6)	17,929,414	17,939,414	13,159,045
Ministry Total Operating & Capital Expense	577,728,014	12,545,100	2.2	565,182,914	664,527,214	713,295,938
Operating Expense Adjustment - Fish & Wildlife Special Purpose Account	70,000,000	(289,000)	(0.4)	70,289,000	72,184,500	67,556,431
Operating Expense Adjustment - Ontario Parks Special Purpose Account	65,063,000	1,000,000	1.6	64,063,000	68,947,700	68,313,000
Consolidation Adjustment - Algonquin Forest Authority	22,245,400	271,000	1.2	21,974,400	17,838,700	14,986,000
Consolidation Adjustment - Forest Renewal Trust	51,245,100	7,979,700	18.4	43,265,400	45,352,000	44,678,000
Operating Expense Adjustment - Section 15 Recoveries	--	--	--	--	--	12,711,700
Total Including Consolidation & Other Adjustments	786,281,514	21,506,800	2.8	764,774,714	868,850,114	921,541,069
OPERATING AND CAPITAL ASSETS						
Natural Resource Management	15,971,100	(4,939,000)	(23.6)	20,910,100	21,610,300	27,729,184
Public Protection	33,702,300	9,558,900	39.6	24,143,400	21,907,800	9,229,264
Land and Resources Information & Information Technology Cluster	--	(181,500)	(100.0)	181,500	181,500	270,770
Less: Special Warrants	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Operating and Capital Assets to be Voted	49,673,400	4,438,400	9.8	45,235,000	43,699,600	37,229,218
Special Warrants	--	--	--	--	--	--
Statutory Appropriations	--	--	--	--	--	--
Total Assets	49,673,400	4,438,400	9.8	45,235,000	43,699,600	37,229,218

* Estimates for the previous fiscal year are re-stated to reflect any changes in ministry organization and/or program structure. Interim actuals reflect the numbers presented in the 2013 Ontario Budget.

APPENDIX

2012-13 Annual Report

The ministry is moving forward with its Transformation Plan announced in the 2012 Ontario Budget. The ministry has made significant changes in 2012-13 in implementing its plan. It has:

- amended seven pieces of legislation that will enable the ministry to streamline and automate its permitting and approvals processes;
- consulted on a framework for approvals modernization and a broader landscape approach to natural resource management;
- modernized the Bear Wise program by moving from an active management model to one that focuses on personal responsibility;
- modernized the Ontario Stewardship Program by creating new partnership specialist positions that will work across wider geographic areas with more partners on projects that focus more clearly on the ministry's core priorities;
- changed service levels and operating status at seven provincial parks, entering into agreements with local municipalities to continue to operate three provincial parks (Fushimi Lake, René Brunelle, Ivanhoe Lake) on a pilot basis, and streamlined Ontario Parks administration;
- eliminated the overnight component of the Ontario Ranger Program and implemented a modernized, day-based Ontario Stewardship Youth Ranger Program;
- eliminated the Enforcement Branch's Provincial Training Unit and standardized delivery of training;
- discontinued the issuance of Outdoors Card renewal notices and taken advantage of more efficient processes, such as social media;
- announced the new, post-transformation, functional organizational structure for the ministry, including realigning Science and Information Resources Division's functions into operational divisions and consolidating the branches in the Policy Division;
- moved forward with regional service delivery changes in the Regional Operations Division; and
- engaged in more strategic partnerships and transfer payments, with a focus on partnerships aligned to ministry priorities and business needs and establishing clear expectations and accountabilities.

Biodiversity Management

The ministry led the development of and released "[Biodiversity: It's in Our Nature.](#)" This is an ambitious implementation plan that sets out the actions the government will undertake to contribute to the vision and goals outlined in [Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy 2011](#), released by the [Ontario Biodiversity Council in 2011](#). This plan will

enable the province, together with our partners, to better work toward halting biodiversity loss and advancing recovery.

In 2012-13, the ministry continued to work with Trees Ontario to plant 50 million trees in southern Ontario; a total of 11.3 million trees had been planted by Trees Ontario as of March 31, 2013.

The ministry continued to implement the Endangered Species Act. It published 17 more recovery strategies in 2012-2013, for a total of 66 strategies completed since the act came into force in June 2008. In response to the published recovery strategies, the ministry also completed an additional six government response statements, bringing the total number of species with a completed response statement to 47. During 2012-2013 the ministry completed habitat regulations for 11 additional species at risk, bringing the total number of species that receive habitat protection through regulation to 22.

The ministry developed and consulted on a suite of regulatory proposals to streamline the implementation of the Endangered Species Act, and continued to move forward on the implementation of the Caribou Conservation Plan.

The ministry provided \$4.5 million to projects that helped to protect and recover species at risk and their habitats. Through the Species at Risk Stewardship Fund, \$3.5 million in funding was distributed to 108 projects through grants with numerous organizations. Through the Species at Risk Farm Incentive Program, \$710,000 was distributed to just over 140 stewardship projects on privately owned agriculture lands that support the protection and recovery of species at risk and their habitats. Additionally, \$279,000 was distributed to 21 projects through the Species at Risk Research Fund.

The ministry released the Ontario Invasive Species Strategic Plan. The plan will improve Ontario's ability to address the threat of invasive species, and guide us and our partners on priority areas for action.

The ministry updated the Ontario Wetland Evaluation System manuals for Northern and Southern Ontario. The system provides a consistent method of assessing wetland functions and their values to society. This tool also enables the province to rank the relative value of wetlands for land use planning purposes.

Ontario's hunting heritage was enhanced through additional hunting opportunities. Under the policy guidance of the Elk Management Plan, the ministry successfully implemented the first modern-day elk hunt in Ontario in 2011. The ministry will continue to manage elk to ensure long-term sustainability of the population. The province's falconry program was also enhanced by allowing falconers to take raptors from the wild for use in falconry.

Education efforts were enhanced in a number of areas, including an updated public website featuring useful information on preventing and managing human-wildlife conflicts with a variety of species, big game species management, and harvest statistics. Trapper education standards were also updated and trapper education instructors were retrained using the new standards.

Wildlife disease detection and monitoring continued to be enhanced for White-nose Syndrome in bats. In partnership with the Canadian Cooperative Wildlife Health Centre, the ministry undertook surveillance to detect White-nose Syndrome and supported national efforts to implement Canada's White-nose Syndrome Management Plan.

The ministry continued to implement the ecological framework for recreational fisheries management in Ontario, which includes new zones, managing on a broader landscape scale, enhanced public involvement in the decision-making process and regular monitoring and reporting.

Fisheries Management Zone advisory councils are operational in 13 zones. Surveys on fish communities, invasive species, aquatic habitat and water quality have been carried out on 746 lakes across Ontario.

The ministry delivered the fifth year of the province-wide broad-scale fisheries monitoring program. This completes the first five-year cycle of a program designed to report on the status of all Fisheries Management Zones.

Fish ON-Line, a web-based application that anglers can use to find information on Ontario's vast fisheries resource, continues to be a tremendous success. The Fish ON-Line webpage received nearly 120,000 page views in the 2012 fiscal year. In addition, a number of enhancements were made to the application, including development of a version for mobile devices released in April 2012, the addition of fishing access points, and improved functionality of the application.

Support continued for the Lake Ontario Atlantic Salmon Restoration Program, an effort to bring back wild populations of Atlantic salmon to Lake Ontario. Construction work was completed on the Normandale Fish Culture Station.

The ministry reached an agreement with the Saugeen Ojibway Nation on commercial fishing in Georgian Bay and Lake Huron. This five-year agreement marks the end of three years of negotiations.

The ministry completed a science review of 40 years of fishery data that concluded the Lake Nipissing walleye population is in a stressed condition, with fishing-related mortality being a critical factor in the decline. An advisory committee of interested stakeholders and First Nations worked to outline a suite of options that would support walleye population recovery. Using best available science and advice from the committee, the ministry changed the sport fishing regulations on the lake effective

January 1, 2013. It reduced the creel limit for walleye from four to two for a regular sport fishing licence and from two to one for a conservation licence, and kept in place a protected slot limit requiring anglers to release walleye between 40 and 60 cm in size.

The ministry continued its successful rabies management programs in 2012. Research focused on the continued implementation and development of the oral rabies vaccine known as ONRAB[®], which was used in its seventh year of field trials. As a result of success in controlling rabies in the province, approximately 432,900 ultra-lite baits containing ONRAB[®] were required this year, down from over one million when the program began. The baits were dropped by aircraft and distributed by hand. Ontario has now been free of the raccoon rabies strain since 2005, and the unprecedented low of only two cases of terrestrial rabies in the province in 2011 was repeated in 2012, with only two additional cases found. This marks the lowest number of cases of Ontario fox strain rabies in the province since rabies became established in Ontario in 1958.

The ministry coordinated information searches across the Ontario Public Service, including within the Archives of Ontario, and all known records related to 2,4,5-T were shared with the Independent Fact-Finding Panel on herbicide 2,4,5-T.

The ministry continued to deliver professional enforcement operations including outreach, inspection and investigation services to protect provincial resources.

Natural Heritage and Protected Area Management

In 2012-13, Ontario's system of parks and protected areas was expanded by 17,813 hectares. The ministry added 706 hectares to seven existing provincial parks, and established one new 17,107 hectare conservation reserve – North Georgian Bay Shoreline and Islands Conservation Reserve. The ministry also secured 1,023 hectares of land for future additions to two provincial parks. Progress was made on confirming 48 candidate Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, as well as boundary modifications to 29 confirmed Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest.

Management plans for six provincial parks, as well as one management plan amendment, were completed. A management statement for two conservation reserves was also approved. The ministry continued to make progress on management planning for the Whitefeather Forest Dedicated Protected Areas, and additional planning processes for provincial parks and conservation reserves. Management direction examinations were completed for several provincial parks and conservation reserves.

Guidelines to support protected area management planning were released to the public. Revisions to Ontario's Protected Areas Planning Manual were initiated to reflect modernized legislation and guideline direction.

Under the Far North Act, community based land use plans developed and approved with First Nations clarify where development can occur and where land is set aside for protection in the Far North of Ontario. Five First Nation communities have approved community based land use plans in place, and another community, Deer Lake First Nation, signed terms of reference to begin planning with Ontario. Two First Nation communities are close to finalizing their terms of reference with Ontario and 24 others have started to work with the ministry on the initial steps of preparing community based land use plans. This includes the mapping of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge. Topographic, land cover and disturbance mapping of sufficient scale and quality for land use planning has been produced and mapping products have been provided to First Nation communities. Initial discussions on establishing a “Joint Body” under the Far North Act were held with a cross-section of First Nation Chiefs and community members. Further discussions will take place in order to build a better awareness and understanding at the community level. The Environmental Bill of Rights now applies to the Far North Act as well as regulations under the act, a change made in conjunction with the Ministry of the Environment and one that was recommended by the Environmental Commissioner of Ontario.

The ministry amended Ontario Regulation 828/90 under the *Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act* to modernize and streamline the delivery and approval process for Development Permits in the Niagara Escarpment area of development control. The amendment excludes additional classes of routine development from the requirement to obtain a development permit under the act where those classes of development are either subject to overlapping regulatory approvals, or have been seen to have little or no environmental impact within the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area. This amendment has resulted in increased efficiencies for the Niagara Escarpment Commission while ensuring the Niagara Escarpment environment remains protected.

Crown Land, Water and Non-Renewable Resource Management

Crown lands make up about 87 per cent, or 937,000 square kilometres, of the province’s land mass. The ministry responded to numerous requests for use and access to Crown lands for a wide variety of economic, recreational and social activities, and ensured that any authorized activities were conducted in a manner consistent with the ministry’s policies and planning direction. The ministry managed approximately 11,000 tenants, which provide sustainable revenue to the Crown. It also monitored Crown lands to protect them against unauthorized occupation.

Further to the government’s commitment in the fall of 2011 to review the Aggregate Resources Act, the Standing Committee on General Government commenced their review of the Act. The ministry supported the review by presenting an overview of aggregates management in Ontario and coordinating responses to 15 requests for information from the Legislative researcher and the Committee. It is anticipated that the Committee will report to the House its observations and recommendations on how to strengthen the act in 2013-2014.

The ministry developed and implemented a new policy for the licensing of private gas wells to ensure these wells meet basic operating standards, or that they are properly and safely decommissioned. To encourage landowners to licence their wells, a five-year incentive program was initiated in September, the effective date of this policy.

Under the Abandoned Works Program, the ministry safely and successfully decommissioned 40 abandoned petroleum wells located on private land in southern Ontario.

The ministry is leading an \$85-million six-year project with local First Nation communities to clean up 16 abandoned radar sites that are part of the Mid-Canada Line dating back to the Cold War. In 2012-13, the ministry, with the help of several contractors, completed the clean-up of Site 500 (Winisk), north of Peawanuck, which is the largest of all the Ontario sites. Preparation work for the clean-up of Site 415 and the surrounding Doppler sites in Polar Bear Provincial Park, including environmental assessment approval, has also occurred.

In 2012-13, the ministry supported mineral development in the Ring of Fire by providing resources dedicated to the Ring of Fire project, led by Ministry of Northern Development and Mines and the Ring of Fire Secretariat. The ministry initiated land use planning, provided input to environmental assessment processes, participated in multi-ministry committees and initiated aboriginal consultation on early permits related to the Ring of Fire.

The ministry contributed to the negotiation, release and public consultation on a Preliminary Draft Agreement-in-Principle for the Algonquin Comprehensive Land Claim. The Government of Canada, the Ontario government - led by the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs - and the Algonquins of Ontario have been negotiating the claim for over 20 years. The draft agreement-in-principle, a significant achievement, was released in December 2012. It proposes a settlement package that includes: \$300 million; the transfer of 117,500 acres of Crown land; measures to ensure conservation of fish and wildlife resources; and a role for the Algonquins in park management planning. As part of a subsequent tripartite consultation process, 2,200 people attended public information sessions in eight locations and ministry staff held more than 100 meetings with stakeholders affected directly and indirectly. Negotiations are expected to conclude in late 2013 with an Agreement-in-Principle that reflects the input received through the public consultation process.

Renewable Energy

The ministry worked with the Ministry of Energy and the Ministry of the Environment to implement the Green Energy Act and to support renewable energy development opportunities and natural heritage on private and Crown lands. The ministry also worked with the Ontario Power Authority to align the renewable energy application process on Crown land with Ontario's Feed-in Tariff program.

The ministry worked closely with the Ministry of the Environment to develop regulatory amendments and update MNR's Natural Heritage Assessment Guide, to assist in streamlining the overall renewable energy approval process. The ministry issued 72 Natural Heritage Assessment confirmation letters under the Green Energy Act and supported the Ministry of the Environment at various renewable-energy-related Environmental Review Tribunal hearings.

The ministry released a draft Renewable Energy on Crown Land Policy to the Environmental Registry for 120 days of public comment and hosted summer/autumn 2012 consultation sessions with industry, environmental non-government organizations and other stakeholders, which included regional engagement sessions for Aboriginal communities and their representatives.

The ministry conducted research and completed or supported science reports related to bird and bat monitoring, offshore wind power, with a focus on fisheries and coastal processes, and the socio-economic impacts of renewable energy development on Crown land, including waterpower development and the Greenwich wind project. The ministry also collaborated with industry and other government agencies on best management practices guides, including a Waterpower Facility Construction Best Management Practices Guide.

Forestry

Nine Independent Forest Audits were completed in 2012 and action plans are being developed in response. The State of Ontario's Forests report was tabled in the Legislature and made publicly available on the ministry's website.

The ministry submitted proposed amendments to its Environmental Assessment Act approval for forest management to the Ministry of the Environment to help streamline the forest management planning process.

The largest wood supply competition ever held in North America was completed in 2011, and the ministry continues to implement the results. From the total 41 Supply Agreement offers that were made, 21 have been resolved either through significant negotiations with successful proponents or have been withdrawn and will not proceed to supply agreements. An additional 15 proponents are in various stages of completion. Wood supplies that have been freed up from withdrawn wood supply offers are reported in the ministry's Available Wood Reports published monthly on its public website. The reports inform interested parties about new economic development opportunities in Ontario's forest industry. In addition, a new supply agreement to support the significant investment of Aditya Birla for the AV Terrace Bay Inc. restart was completed and submitted for the final stage of government approval.

Responsibility for managing a number of forests, previously managed by Sustainable Forest Licence holders, has been returned to the Crown since 2011. Through a number of initiatives, including issuing Forest Resource Licences to Aboriginal

companies in the North, the ministry has ensured that tree harvesting and associated economic benefits can continue.

The ministry continues to work toward enhancing the competitiveness of the forest industry. The first Local Forest Management Corporation (Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation) was created by regulation. The Board and an Interim General Manager have been appointed to guide ongoing implementation. There has also been progress in the transition to enhanced Sustainable Forest Licences. Discussions leading to the creation of enhanced Sustainable Forest Licences have been initiated on up to 15 forest management units.

The Ontario Wood Brand continues to develop and now has 63 manufacturers and associated stakeholders licensed to use the brand. With the support of partners, the ministry has produced a number of products that will help consumers to identify locally made wood products in the market.

The Wood Promotion Program has supported efforts to allow the use of wood in buildings up to six-storeys tall, promoted a range of forest sector career opportunities for young people, provided export assistance tools to Ontario wood products producers and assisted companies with obtaining chain of custody certification.

Emergency and Forest Fire Management

In 2012, the ministry recorded 1,611 forest fires affecting a total area burned of approximately 151,200 hectares. This ranks the 2012 season in the top third for number of fires and area burned since the ministry began keeping records in 1917.

Forest fires near the communities of Timmins and Kirkland Lake (Timmins #9 and Kirkland Lake #8) caused the evacuations of approximately 900 residents. There were also property losses, and highway and road closures, with industrial operations also affected. Timmins #9, at a size of 39,524 hectares, was the largest fire to occur in the northeast region of Ontario in more than 50 years.

In late July and early August, a partial evacuation of Sandy Lake First Nation took place due to health concerns from forest fire smoke. Approximately 640 vulnerable persons were evacuated to Thunder Bay and Fort Frances. The ministry worked with Emergency Management Ontario and the local First Nation Chief to coordinate the evacuation of residents of the community.

For the 2012 forest fire season, Ontario received about 3,400 person-days of assistance from other Canadian provinces and territories through the Canadian Mutual Aid Resource Sharing agreement and from the United States through the Great lakes Forest Fire Compact. In mid-August, the ministry was able to provide assistance to British Columbia with equipment and fire fighters.

In 2012-13, the ministry completed construction on the Flight Training Centre for CL-415 heavy water bombers, as well as a new Forward Attack Base in Crocker Lake. Multi-year construction of a new Fire Management Headquarters in Sioux Lookout was started in 2012-13.

An early spring in 2012 and a late spring in 2013 meant a quiet 2012-13 spring flood season for the ministry. However, a number of flooding events not related to snow melt did occur during the year. Significant rainfall in May resulted in flooding in the City of Thunder Bay, with considerable impact on infrastructure and many road washouts in outlying areas. In late October, another large rainfall event resulted in numerous road washouts, including Highway 17 in the Wawa area. The ministry supported the partial evacuation of Michipicoten First Nation by helicopter. It took several days for the highway to be reopened.

In response to emerging challenges, such as shifts in climate and forest conditions and expanding economic activity in the Far North, the ministry initiated a review of the Forest Fire Management Strategy for Ontario to ensure the continued delivery of an effective and efficient forest fire management program. Work began on a discussion paper on proposed changes to the strategy.

Corporate Management

The ministry provided more than 2,300 jobs in support of natural resource management to young people across the province through six youth employment programs. Participating youth helped to support biodiversity, combat climate change and protect our forests, wetlands, fish, wildlife and natural spaces for future generations.

Table 1: Ministry Expenditures

	Ministry Interim Actual Expenditures (\$M) 2012-13
Operating	\$805.5
Capital	\$63.4
Staff Strength (as of March 31, 2013)	3658.39

WHO TO CALL

Questions or comments about the ministry's Results-based Plan are welcomed.
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Further information about the ministry and its programs can be found on the ministry's website at ontario.ca/mnr (www.mnr.gov.on.ca/en).