



Why we did this audit:

- Forests are a big part of life in Nova Scotia and have a big impact on our economy
- The Department manages and protects forests

Overall conclusions:

- Good development of long-term strategic plan, better monitoring of implementation and progress reporting needed
- Not monitoring licensed operators effectively
- Decision of where and when to monitor should be based on risks
- Department agreed with all four recommendations

What we found in our audit:

- Nova Scotians and industry experts consulted when developing long-term strategy
- An action plan is in place if there is a spruce budworm infestation
- Research done on emerging markets in forestry
- Province working with other governments to advance innovation in forestry
- No measures to assess progress toward completion of strategic plan
- Public strategy updates did not address all 21 actions (focused on actions completed or those with significant progress)
- No monitoring of actual versus estimated harvest quantities
- Operators paid for silviculture work without verifying work done
- Inconsistent inspection practices across the province require a risk assessment to determine best approach