



JP Holdco Inc.

JP HOLDCO INC.: TOOLS TO IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF SUGAR MAPLE

JP HOLDCO Inc. is a forest company from northwestern New Brunswick. In the spirit of continuous improvement, their team has repeatedly consulted with NHRI over the years. The enterprise manages over 3,000 hectares of forest in the Madawaska region of northwestern New Brunswick. The team manages their woodlots and operates their own harvest equipment and crews. They also own and manage a very considerable maple syrup production operation. Basically, a great example of mixed forests management in the Acadian Forest.

Last summer, NHRI's team collaborated with the JP Holdco Inc. to help understand how to improve the health of their sugar maple stands using NHRI tools and Centre ACER's sugar maple health diagnostic approach. Centre ACER's guide was developed in 2012 under the direction of [Carine Annecou](#), a Forest Engineer who specializes in the field of sugar maples and a long-time collaborator of NHRI. Carine delivered hands-on training on applying the diagnostic approach to NHRI and JP HOLDCO Inc. staff. Centre ACER's diagnostic approach is a multicriteria evaluation which considers for 1) vigor of dominant sugar maples, 2) state of regeneration, 3) degree of soil fertility, and 4) stand characteristics. To evaluate soil fertility, soil samples were taken and sent for laboratory analyses.

PROMISING PARTNERSHIP

Tools to improve management of Sugar maple



NHRI's [Silviculture Prescription System \(SPS\)](#) tool was also applied during the field inventory performed by NHRI's forester and forest technician. Another NHRI tool applied to this project is the vigor index prediction model, developed by NHRI's Geomatics Specialist. This random forest, Sentinel-2 satellite images-based model informs on stem vigor based on NHRI's [tree classification using determination keys for Risk](#).

Findings and recommendations were disseminated and discussed with the company's team. Undoubtedly, this project proved beneficial for all parties involved. JP HOLDCO Inc. gained valuable recommendations and applicable tools to accomplish their goal of improving the health of their sugar maple stands while NHRI expanded its' skills set in evaluating the health of sugar maples. NHRI is committed to continuous improvement and to delivering useful and impactful services and tools for forest sector SME's.

This project is important for the forestry sector since improving sugar maple stands is crucial to the future health and productivity of our hardwood and mixed forests.



Article by Kamille Lemieux, GIS Analyst and Technical Support, NHRI.

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