

# Proportion of Provincial Annual Cut



The harvest volume schedule is the maximum timber volume that can be sustainably harvested each year.

## Why it matters

A sustainable forest products industry depends on a sustainable timber harvest. To determine sustainability, the actual volume of timber harvested must be compared to the available volume. The available volume is referred to as the annual allowable cut (AAC), which is the maximum timber volume that can be sustainably harvested each year.

Sustainable harvest levels are determined using forest models over a 200-year timeframe, or about two harvest rotations. Keeping the annual harvest level under or equal to the annual allowable cut is one of the principles of sustainable forest management.

Some of the considerations used when determining the annual allowable cut include:

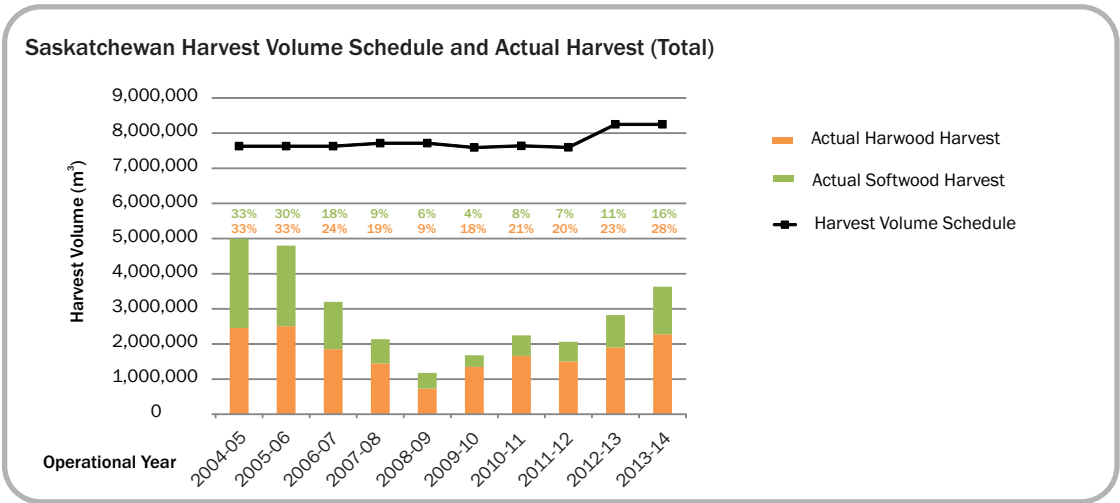
- how forests change over time;
- the rate of growth and yields of commercial tree species;
- the impact of fire and other natural elements in boreal forests;
- forest land dedicated to other uses that prevent or limit harvesting;
- harvest practices that are operationally feasible;
- the success of forest regeneration efforts; and
- consultations with the public about the importance of forest values to be maintained.

## What is happening

The available volume of timber in Saskatchewan has remained relatively constant over the past 10 years. Between seven and eight million cubic metres of timber has been allowed to be harvested each year, during this period. Calculations are made for each individual timber supply area. The amount of wood actually removed depends on a number of factors, including quality, transportation costs and the availability of needed infrastructure.

The annual timber harvest in Saskatchewan has been far less than what's allowable in recent years. These low harvest levels are the result of depressed prices and the global recession. Recently, actual harvest levels have been increasing, as our forest sector rebounds. For 2015-2016, Saskatchewan's total harvest volume was 3.67 million cubic metres.

Harvest rates are currently sustainably managed. To ensure forests are well managed, the ministry has controls at local and regional levels. One example is where management is in place with white spruce and other species found close to existing mills. Demand for white spruce and for timber close to mills can lead to unsustainable harvest rates. These issues come into play when determining harvest rates for the future.



## What we are doing

Standards are reviewed as part of the development of the 20-year forest management plans. These plans are being developed under the Saskatchewan Environmental Code. Reviews are done to ensure that sustainable harvest levels are consistent with long-term management objectives.