1. **Data Sharing Agreements between Members of the Forest Collaborative**

**Overall objective:**
Sharing of conservation data between members of the Forest Collaborative. This would address concerns amongst the environmental groups that there is a lack of transparency concerning the location and extent of conserved lands on both private and crown lands managed by JDI. This would also address concerns by J.D. Irving, Limited that the company be better informed (through participating environmental groups) as to what special natural elements may occur on the lands over which they have control or manage.

**Methods:**
Create a data sharing/use agreement between all parties including the Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Centre so that a map product of areas of conservation interest may be created.

**Actions Steps:**

**JDI:** The first step is for JDI to draft an agreement for shapefiles for which there are no additional restrictions from other organizations. This includes: JDI Unique Areas, deer wintering areas, old spruce-fir habitat, watercourse buffers, inoperable areas, rare plant habitat, recreation points, 1 km buffer area along the Fundy coastline, JDI parcels, mill locations.

⇒ JDI has agreed to share their database with the AC CDC (and add the datasets of others) to establish a map product once a data use agreement has been ratified by all parties. A copy of a proposed agreement is attached to this document.

For data that requires NB DNR approval, such as the forest inventory and wetlands inventory, the environmental groups would like permission from JDI for DNR to share this data with environmental groups. A letter from JDI to DNR allowing data transfer to conservation organizations is required.

**NGOs:** Most of the data is available online (Two Countries, One Forest website) and has no major data sharing restrictions. It has also been compiled in the Nature Trust and NCC GIS databases and will be transferred to the AC CDC.
2. DEFINING CONSERVED LANDS TERMINOLOGY

Overall objective: Fostering a mutual understanding of the various levels of protection on JDI private and licensed Crown lands and the lands identified as ecologically important by conservation groups.

## Conserved Lands Table: JDI

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unique Area</td>
<td>Transient</td>
<td>Element-Dependent</td>
<td></td>
<td>32500</td>
<td>22037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deer Wintering Area</td>
<td>Transient</td>
<td>Yes- Partial</td>
<td></td>
<td>75492</td>
<td>38834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old spruce-fir habitat</td>
<td>Transient</td>
<td>Yes- Partial</td>
<td></td>
<td>65589</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watercourse buffers</td>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>Yes- Partial</td>
<td></td>
<td>193239</td>
<td>81118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inoperable/Inaccessible Areas *- estimate only</td>
<td>Transient</td>
<td>Yes, but unlikely due to very low wood volumes</td>
<td></td>
<td>28345</td>
<td>11249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rare Plant Habitat Program</td>
<td>Planning tool only</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buffer along the Fundy coastline</td>
<td>Within NB Unique Sites</td>
<td>Permanent</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>3829</td>
<td>3749</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vegetation Communities</td>
<td>Transient</td>
<td>Dependant</td>
<td></td>
<td>95335</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Reserves</td>
<td>Transient</td>
<td>Roads, if required</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>6718</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptive Reserves</td>
<td>Transient</td>
<td>Softwood Only</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1388</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unproductive Forest</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>106717</td>
<td>51870</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Villard Project (U de M)</td>
<td>M.A. Villard</td>
<td>Transient</td>
<td>No (5 yrs)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>556</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Land Management Definitions:

Unique Area:
Any area on crown or freehold land that has environmental, cultural or historical significance. Recommendations for inclusion come from a variety of internal and external sources.

**Deer Wintering Area:**
Specific habitats that contain a combination of cover and food that minimizes winter energy losses. As forests are dynamic, DWA habitat falls in and out of productivity. DWA management plans are created for 80 years into the future with modeling scenarios that run from “no intervention” to limited management.

**Riparian/Watercourse Buffers:**
Areas of vegetation between a harvest operation and adjacent natural watercourse. Harvesting may occur within a portion of the buffer zone as long as the buffer’s ability to fulfill its objective of water quality and habitat is not compromised. DNR strictly enforces cutting/operating limits on Crown land, while JDI has stringent guidelines that outline what can and can’t be done on freehold land. These guidelines meet or exceed the provincial regulations.

**Inaccessible/Inoperable:**
Stands that cannot be access by harvesting equipment such as those on steep slopes (sites that have greater than 45% slope), or areas that presently have unmerchantable volume that is not expected to become merchantable in our 80 year planning window.

**Rare Plant Habitat:**
JDI has a pre-screening process that helps to narrow down (spatially) where rare plants may reside in a risk map format. These are surveyed well in advance of any operations to discern whether there are S1-S3 plants on the block. Any area found to contain S1-S3 plants are placed in the Unique Areas Program database with special mgmt prescriptions developed.

**Vegetation Communities:**
Vegetation communities are defined at stand level using over-story tree species composition with a goal of maintaining a range of naturally occurring forest types and successional stages across Crown land.

**JDI Reserves (Black Brook District):**
I. Core Reserves: No harvest allowed, but road construction permitted, if necessary
II. Adaptive Reserves: Area available for softwood harvest only

**Conserved Lands Table: Environmental Groups**
Note: Management recommendations are site-specific. Area on JDI lands is unknown (see attached map)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Data Set</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Originator</th>
<th>Data sharing restrictions</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tier 1 Matrix Forest</td>
<td>The highest quality large areas of forest ecosystems. Forest blocks selected based on size, condition (fragmentation and higher)</td>
<td>NCC</td>
<td>none</td>
<td>2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blocks</td>
<td>Tier 2 Matrix Forest Blocks</td>
<td>Portfolio wetlands</td>
<td>Portfolio coastal systems</td>
<td>Portfolio steep slopes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>quality ecosystems) and quality of the surrounding context.</td>
<td>High quality large areas of forest ecosystems which met the Tier 1 criteria but were identified as secondary candidates by experts, because of current condition, feasibility or other factors.</td>
<td>Highest quality wetlands in New Brunswick based on size, condition and surrounding environment.</td>
<td>Highest quality coastal systems in New Brunswick based on size, condition and surrounding environment.</td>
<td>Highest quality steep slopes in New Brunswick based on size, condition and surrounding environment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
considered special habitat management areas by DNR (OSFH, DWA), steep areas, inoperable, concentrations of ESAs, critical wetlands.

3. MAPPING OF JDI MANAGED LANDS WITH AREAS OF CONSERVATION INTEREST

Overall objective:
Create a baseline of lands of conservation interest on JDI managed lands. This product will facilitate discussion regarding options, where advantageous or opportune, for strengthening legal protection of existing unique areas or extending ‘unique site’ or other designation to new areas.

Methods:
- Create a series of pdf zoomable maps displaying conserved lands that would span the province. JDI managed land should be outlined with separate colours for crown and freehold.
- Features plotted on the maps should include: unique areas, deer wintering areas, old spruce-fir habitat, watercourses buffers, inoperable areas, rare plant habitat as well as those sites of conservation interest by other members of the working group. If not already undertaken, labels should be added to any datasets that may require a closer look into the details of individual sites.

The initial 23 datasets will consist of:
8 conservation data layers (mostly NCC’s Conservation Blueprint): Tier 1 MFB, Tier 2 MFB, portfolio wetlands, portfolio coastal systems, portfolio summits, portfolio steep slopes, portfolio cliffs, Last of the Wild, WWF-identified sites
8 JDI conserved lands layers: Unique Areas, Deer wintering area, old spruce-fir habitat, watercourse buffers, inoperable areas, core reserves, adaptive reserves, unproductive forest.
7 protected lands layers: NTNB properties, NCC properties, provincial parks, federal parks, crown land, protected natural areas, protected watersheds.

Action Steps:
- The Atlantic Canada Conservation Data Center has provided a quote on mapping exercise.
- The group must find a source of funding for AC CDC. JDI has been approached as a possible source
- ENGOs must get permission from DNR to use portfolio coastal ecosystems layer in project.
- ENGOs and JDI must prepare for data transfer to CDC.