

**Kenora Management Unit
2001 – 2021
Kenora Forest Management Plan Summary**

Table of Contents

<u>List of Figures</u>	2
(a) <u>Index to the Environmental Assessment Components of the Forest Management Plan</u>	3
(b) <u>Map of the Kenora Management Unit</u>	4
(c) <u>Description of the forest</u>	4
(d) <u>Description of management responsibilities</u>	5
(e) <u>Report of the Local Citizens Committee</u>	11
(f) <u>Summary of the Selected Management Alternative</u>	14
(g) <u>Description of Silvicultural Prescriptions</u>	29
(h) <u>Summary of Issues Encountered and Addressed</u>	30
(i) <u>Names of the Kenora District Manager, Plan Author and Local Citizens Committee</u>	40
(j) <u>Schedule for Remaining Public Consultation</u>	41
(k) <u>Comment Sheet Kenora Forest Management Plan</u>	42
(l) <u>Statement of Issue Resolution Process</u>	43
(m) <u>Statement of “Bump-up” Request</u>	43

List of Figures

Figure 1	District and Regional Setting Within The Province of Ontario	9
Figure 2	Working Circles of the Kenora Management Unit	10
Figure 3	Historic Fire Disturbance Pattern in Hill’s Site Region 4S	16
Figure 4	Historic Fire Disturbance Pattern in Hill’s Site Region 5S	16
Figure 5	Age Class Distribution for the Benchmark Future Forest Condition	18
Figure 6	Age Class Distribution for the Benchmark Future Forest Condition	18
Figure 7	Hill’s Site Region 4S PrDom and PrwMx Available Area Over Time	21
Figure 8	Hill’s Site Region 5S PrDom and PrwMx Available Area Over Time	21
Figure 9	Highs and Lows for Natural Variation – Wildlife All Working Circles	25
Figure 10	Target Silvicultural Treatment Area	28
Figure 11	Comparison of Available Harvest Area Over Time	29

(a) Index to the Environmental Assessment Components of the Forest Management Plan

Environmental Assessment Component	<i>Kenora Management Unit Forest Management Plan 2001 - 2021</i>	
	Plan Section	Page
Background Information	2.2	Management Unit Description Part A 32
	2.6.2	Supplementary Documentation
		(a) Implementation manuals used Supplementary Documentation A
		(b) Values maps Supplementary Documentation B
		(c) Information on other forest resources Supplementary Documentation C
		(d) Forest Resource Inventory update sources Supplementary Documentation D
		(e) Native Background Information Report Supplementary Documentation E
Description of Environment Affected	2.2	Management Unit Description Part A 32
	2.4.2	Selection of Areas of Operations Part A 145
	2.6.2	Supplementary Documentation Part A 201
		(a) Implementation manuals used Supplementary Documentation A
		(b) Values maps Supplementary Documentation B
		(c) Information on other forest resources Supplementary Documentation C
		(d) Forest Resource Inventory update sources Supplementary Documentation D
Description of the Selection of Operations and the Alternatives which were considered.	2.3	Strategic Direction and Determination of Sustainability Part A 77
	2.4.2	Selection of Areas of Operations Part A 145
	2.4.3	Prescriptions for Operations Part A 155
	2.4.5	Access Roads Part A 175
	2.6.2	Supplementary Documentation Part A 201
		(h) Road Planning Supplementary Documentation H
		(i) Area of concern planning Supplementary Documentation I
Description of the expected effects on the environment and proposed mitigation measures.	2.3	Strategic Direction and Determination of Sustainability Part A 77
	2.4.3.1	Prescriptions for Areas of Concern Part A 156
	2.4.5	Access Roads Part A 175
	2.6.2	Supplementary Documentation Part A 201
		(i) Area of concern planning Supplementary Documentation I
Description of Proposed Monitoring	2.4.3.1	Prescriptions for Areas of Concern Part A 156
	2.4.5	Access Roads Part A 175
	2.5	Monitoring and Assessment Part A 196
	2.6.2	Supplementary Documentation Part A 201
		(i) Area of concern planning Supplementary Documentation I
Description of Public Consultation and a summary of the results.	2.6.2	Supplementary Documentation Part A 201
		(k) Public consultation summary Supplementary Documentation K
		(l) Report of the Kenora Local Citizens Committee Supplementary Documentation L
		(m) Issues addressed Supplementary Documentation M
		(n) Issue resolution documentation Supplementary Documentation N
		(o) Required alterations from plan review Supplementary Documentation O
Any Other Environmental Assessment Matters		

(b) Map of the Kenora Management Unit including proposed secondary road locations

Please see the attached 1:200,000 scale map titled Five-Year Allocation and Renewal Block Map (2001 - 2006). This map contains the areas of harvest, renewal and tending operations and the locations of proposed secondary roads for the five-year term of the plan.

(c) Description of the forest

The Kenora Management Unit (KMU) is situated within the Kenora administrative district of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The KMU surrounds the communities of Kenora, Minaki, Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls. In size, it has a total area of 1,205,023 ha. Of this, 500,710 ha. is managed Crown productive forest land, the balance is non-forested land (water, private land) and non-productive forest land (muskeg, rock).

The KMU falls within two forest regions. The Boreal Forest Region is found in the north of the KMU, north of the City of Kenora and the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region to the south. Shallow glacial till soils over bedrock dominate the landscape of the KMU with localized areas of water deposited clays and silts. The boreal forest is represented by early fire successional tree species such as jack pine, black spruce, and poplar. Red pine and white pine occur in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest Region in addition to the boreal forest species.

The area has long history of logging. As early as the 1880's, logging and sawmilling became a part of the local economy supporting the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR). Gold mining during that period also created a demand for mine timbers. Sawmilling became well established in the area and continues to this day, with five sawmills operating in the Kenora area. The 1920's saw the establishment of the first paper mill in Kenora. The paper mill continues to be part of the local economy. Recently, a hardwood processing facility has been announced for Kenora. The seven mills all derive at least a portion of their wood supply from the KMU.

At the same time as the forests of the Kenora area were beginning to provide opportunities for the wood dependent mill operations, the abundant lakes and rivers of the area began to attract people for their recreational value. Lake of the Woods and area is renowned for its fishing, hunting and beautiful scenery. Early facilities were primarily private hotels and lodges, later giving way to family owned camps or cottages and present day tourism facilities.

Today, there are 12 First Nations communities which are located within the KMU. As well, there are more than 8,000 seasonal camps and permanent homes beyond the municipal boundaries, of Kenora, Minaki, Sioux Narrows, Nestor Falls and 134 main base lodges and outpost camps.

The area's wildlife is diverse. Wildlife species include moose, deer, black bear, woodland caribou, timber wolves, a recently re-introduced herd of elk, birds and smaller mammals. Of a special note is the largest population of nesting bald eagles (535 nests on the KMU) as well as the largest colony of white pelicans in Ontario.

The many competing interests require a fully integrated approach to resource management planning. To accommodate these varied interests, the KMU has been subdivided into four operating areas. For forestry purposes, these areas are referred to as Working Circles (WC). These WC designations recognize forest conditions, socioeconomic expectations, wildlife, and access, which make each of these areas unique, requiring special attention to forest management planning and forest operations.

This FMP has been developed in such a manner as to relate how the resources of the KMU and the forest practices will maintain healthy diverse forest ecosystems while providing a sustainable wood supply to local communities.

(d) Description of management responsibilities for the Kenora Management Unit and description of forest industry supplied

The KMU (644) is situated in the Kenora administrative district of the Ministry of Natural Resources, Northwest Region. **Figure 1** shows the Kenora District boundary in relation to the Northwest Region and provincial boundaries. **Figure 2** shows the KMU boundaries in relation to the Kenora District boundary.

The KMU encompasses approximately 60% of the Kenora administrative district. The Manitoba-Ontario border forms the west boundary of the KMU and the Red Lake-Kenora District boundary forms the northern boundary. The unit boundary to the southeast is the Fort Frances District boundary. The Dryden District boundary and the Abitibi-Consolidated Inc. Whiskey Jack Forest bound the KMU boundary to the east. The present management unit boundaries were established on April 1, 1996. There have been no boundary changes since that time.

Figure 2 shows the four WC's. These WC designations recognize forest conditions, socioeconomic expectations, wildlife, and access, which make each of these areas unique, requiring special attention to forest management planning and forest operations.

WC One is located north of the English River System. Access into this WC is limited. The Werner Lake access road was originally constructed for mining purposes during the 1940's. It provides access from Manitoba into the central west area of WC One, but does not connect with any of the existing KMU road networks. One secondary forest access road is proposed for this term to access the overmature timber west of Sydney Lake. Access into and within this WC will require expensive road systems.

This area is composed of scattered mature forest blocks situated within large areas of wildfire depletion, which occurred during the decade of the 1980's. It is home to scattered populations of woodland caribou.

WC Two encompasses an area bound by the Umfreville Lake to the north, the Canadian National Railway tracks to the south, the Manitoba-Ontario boundary to the west, and the Sand Lake system to the east.

In 1983 the Province of Ontario negotiated an agreement with the Islington Band, now known as Wabaseemoong Independent First Nations. The designation of WC Two acknowledges that agreement and provides opportunities from forestlands to the First Nations community. One such opportunity is the commitment by MNR to license an annual harvest of a minimum of 7,200 m³ from this area.

WC Three encompasses the islands of Lake of the Woods and mainland area. It extends to the English River and WC Two in the north; the community of Nestor Falls and Lake of the Woods to the south; the Dryden and Fort Frances MNR administrative district boundaries to the east; and the Manitoba-Ontario boundary to the west. Included in this WC are the islands of the Lake of the Woods. Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (July 1999) has designated the islands of Lake of the Woods and a portion of the Western Peninsula as a conservation reserve. Big Island has not been included in this conservation reserve and is included in the managed forest land base.

This WC has 56% of the forestlands within the KMU. The majority of the communities and the more highly populated areas of the KMU occur in this WC. The majority of past forest operations have occurred in this WC. Forest access throughout the area is good and is best described as a mature road network. Provincial highways and forest access roads provide access throughout the WC. Two secondary forest access roads are proposed for construction during the term of this plan.

WC Four is the Aulneau Peninsula of Lake of the Woods. The Aulneau Peninsula is joined to the mainland at only one point, Turtle Portage, which is a narrow isthmus (approximately 30 metres wide). The Aulneau Peninsula was a manmade island, for the period from 1964-1998, a result of a channel having been created at Turtle Portage in 1964. This channel has been blocked up and filled because of the detrimental impact on water quality in Whitefish Bay.

The Aulneau Peninsula, because of its' remote character, has had limited logging activities dating back to the late 1930's. Wood was winter logged and boomed to Kenora during the summer. Forest operations ended in 1983 when the paper mill ceased their booming operations. The harvest blocks were small, which provided excellent habitat for moose. During the 1990's, the population of moose has been one of the highest in Ontario.

The Aulneau Peninsula is unique in its land use designation. It has been designated an Enhanced Management Area for wildlife, by Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (July 1999).

Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (July 1999) provides the following land use intent: *“This area is to be accessed only via winter roads with wildlife habitat management supported by forest management activities. The draft wildlife management plan will be reviewed and brought up to current standards. The enhancement of wildlife populations and habitat and the associated enhancement of wildlife related opportunities, will be the priority of the wildlife plan”*.

WC Four remains a portion of the managed forest land base for the KMU and is considered part of the managed forest land base. Habitat manipulation will be driven by the Aulneau Peninsula Enhanced Wildlife Management Plan. This plan will provide direction for forest management activities. A wildlife plan is presently being prepared for the Aulneau Peninsula. There are no harvest allocations or access plans proposed at this time. Once the wildlife plan is approved, the FMP will be amended to include forest allocations for harvest, renewal operations and seasonal access.

The KMU is accessed by the following major road systems:

1. Highway 17 through Kenora to the Manitoba border.
2. Highway 596 and 641 northwest of Kenora to Minaki.
3. Whitedog Caribou Falls Road (Hwy. 525) north of Minaki to Caribou Falls Dam.
4. Highway 658 to Redditt, north of Kenora.
5. The English River Road north of Redditt to Separation Lake Narrows crossing (English River bridge).
6. Highway 71 southeast of Kenora through Sioux Narrows and Nestor Falls.
7. Maybrun Road east of Sioux Narrows.
8. Cameron Lake Road southeast of Sioux Narrows.
9. Trilake Road east of Nestor Falls.
10. Highway 671 northeast of Kenora.
11. Cygnet Lake Road northwest of Minaki.

The Ministry of Natural Resources, with a planning team representative from Trus Joist, is preparing this 2001–2021 FMP. MNR continues to have full responsibility for forest management activities on the KMU.

In 1999 the Province of Ontario awarded Trus Joist the opportunity to construct a hardwood facility and to manage the KMU. In the interim the Kenora District staff of the Ministry of Natural Resources continues to be the forest manager on the KMU. Trus Joist is negotiating a Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) to assume forest management responsibilities on the KMU.

A total of 17 forest resource licensees (FRL) presently have harvest allocations for the KMU. The harvesting operations vary in size, and represent the historical development of

past licensing commitments on the KMU. Forest operations on the KMU, for most of the operators, were initially a supplemental form of employment. This eventually gave way to a consolidation of the smaller licensees to fewer but larger operators, capable of conducting year round operations dependent on expensive road networks. Of the seventeen licensees, three First Nations communities hold FRL's and conduct forest operations. As part of its forest management responsibilities, Trus Joist will negotiate a licensing relationship with the current licensees.

To meet present annual wood supply volume commitments from the KMU to the following mills.

- Abitibi-Consolidated Paper Mills in Kenora and Fort Frances: 90,000 m³ (S,P,F)
- Kenora Forest Products Ltd. Sawmill: 25,000 m³ (S,P,F)
- Trus Joist Weyerhaeuser Hardwood Mill: 146,000 m³ (Po, Bw)
- Trilake Sawmill, Kenora: 11,000 m³ (S,P,F)
- Burt Forest Products Sawmill, Sioux Narrows: 4,200 m³ (S,P,F)
- E&G Sawmill, Kenora: 2000 m³ (S,P,F)
- Wilson Sawmill, Jones: 750 m³ (S,P,F)

To make available 3,750 m³. of fuelwood annually.

To make available 7,221 m³ of timber annually to Wabaseemong First Nations.

Figure 1 District and Regional Setting Within The Province of Ontario

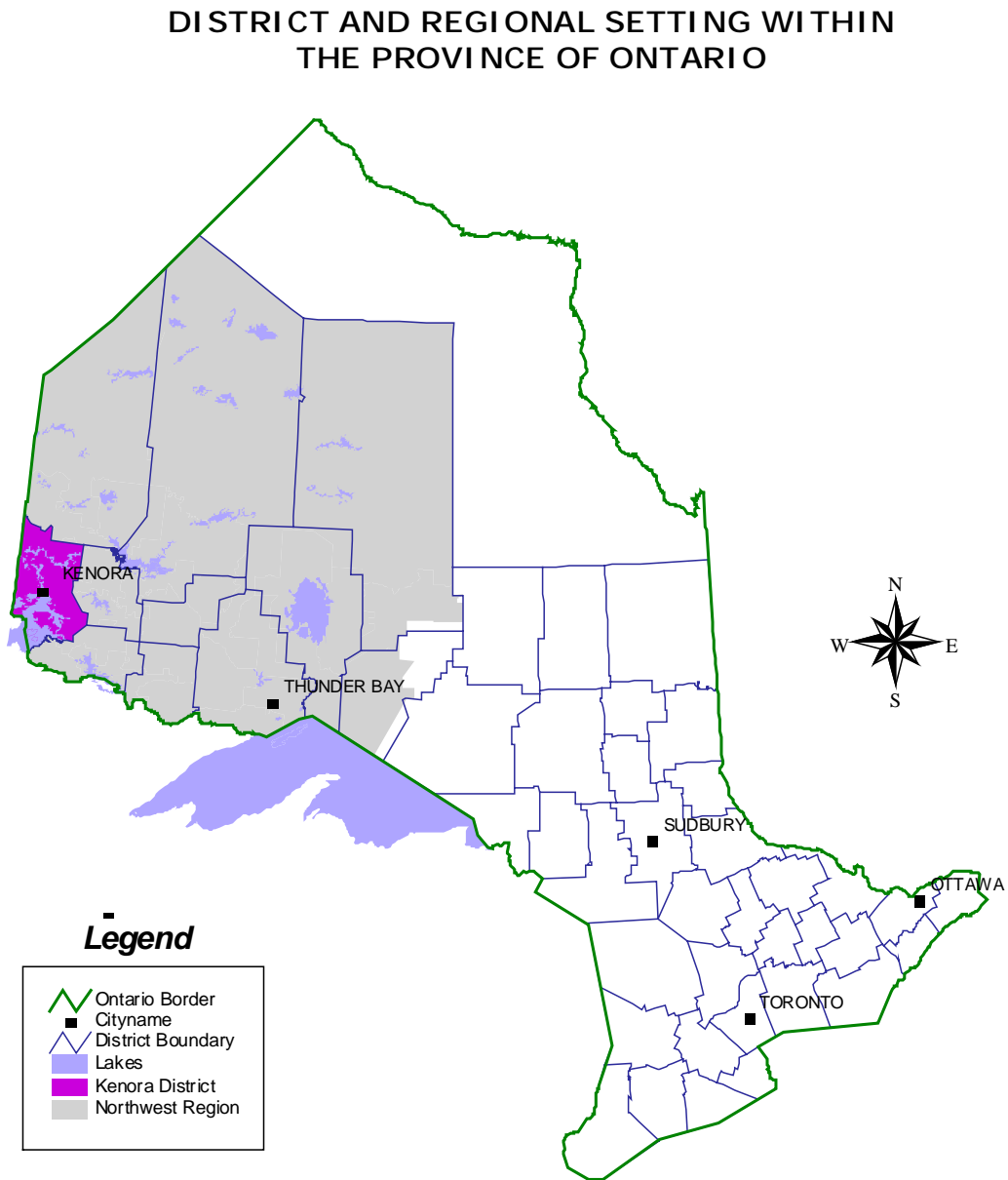
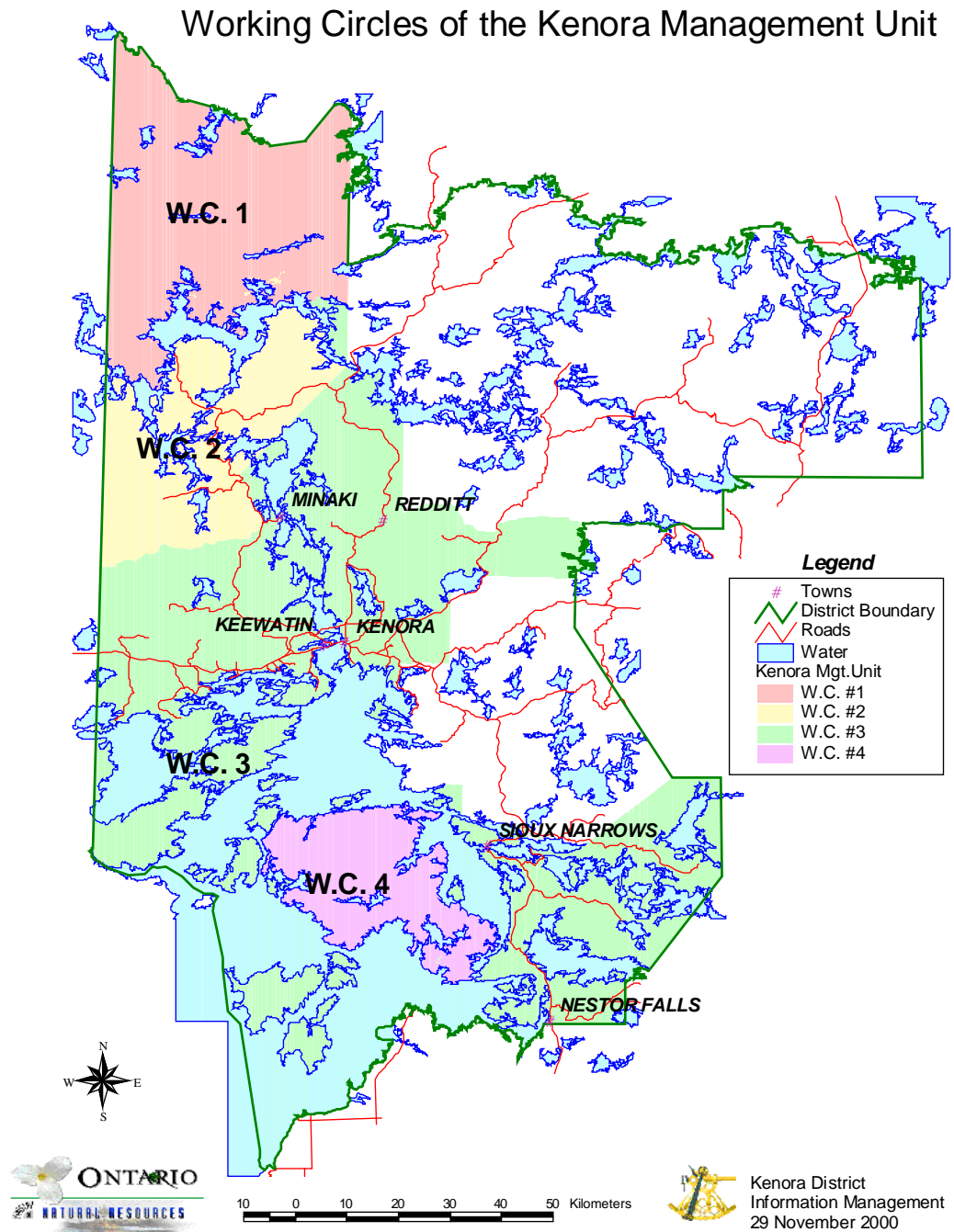


Figure 2 Working Circles of the Kenora Management Unit



(e) Report of the Local Citizens Committee

The annual report by the Kenora District Local Citizens Committee (LCC) is in compliance with the specified terms and references of the Forest Management Planning Manual for Ontario's Crown Forests, 1996 (FMPM).

Activities

Field trips to a boreal forest and a transitional forest, sponsored by Abitibi-Consolidated Inc. and the Ministry of Natural Resources, respectively, were designed to introduce the Committee to some of the operational activities involved in forestry. Considering the varied backgrounds of the individuals on the committee, this was a valuable introduction to forest management practices by those involved in forest management planning. The field trips illustrate the importance of site type to forest planning. Varied sites were chosen to show that planting method and species selection varied with the type and depth of soil, and that some natural regeneration in planted areas is non-intrusive while other natural regeneration is intrusive and requires control. Two silvicultural methods, shelterwood and clear-cut, were shown and explained. Other aspects of forest planning included trips to a heron rookery, an elk restoration area and stream crossings. The committee felt the discussions on the field trips should be more detailed regarding the forest concepts involved, and to include the successful and the not so successful outcomes.

A two part workshop on helping people on the committee to work better together as a team, and aid in their strategic planning process, was presented by Gary Philips from Northwest Training and Development. This was an extremely valuable workshop for the committee.

Monthly Committee meetings were held, at which members were informed of the developmental activities of the Kenora Forest Planning Team and given opportunities to comment and ask questions. Discussions on the topics presented were limited, in most cases, because of the length and technical nature of the presentations. More simplification and more discussion time would improve Committee participation.

Both open houses were previewed and attended by members of the Committee. The Committee was disappointed at the low public attendance and felt that the time, effort and expense was hardly justified.

Problems

The problem of recruiting a broader cross section of public representation to the LCC by direct personal and organization contact and newspaper ads proved unsuccessful. The discussions and decisions in committee would be more effective with a broader input.

The North Sydney Pilot Project, a remote tourism group concerned with forest operations in this remote tourist area, requested information/contact regarding the planned

operations in the area south of Woodland Caribou Park. This was a missed opportunity to investigate new approaches in integrating these two forestland user groups in forest management planning.

Issues

The road abandonment policy contained within the FMPM manual, and its affect on the public and industries other than the forest industry, is of concern to the LCC. The FMPM manual dictates how forests in Ontario are to be managed. It requires the forest managers, e.g. forest companies, to make decisions on the abandonment of roads no longer required for their management activities. Key to the decision is the requirement to determine if and when water crossings on these roads are required to be removed. In the event a water crossing is to be removed, what impact does that have on the other users of these roads who have become dependant on there use?

Number values are assigned to various factors used in selecting the primary preferred management alternative from the list of management alternatives. Since the Kenora area is renown for remote tourism, the Committee was concerned with how evaluations were assigned to such factors as remote tourism.

The burning of slash as a means of removal is a poor environmental practice, as it adds components harmful to the air environment and does not redistribute the nutrients to the areas from which they were removed. Alternative methods of redistribution of slash would be a sound ecological practice.

Committee Effectiveness

On a number of occasions, members of the Committee felt unable to become effectively involved in the planning process because of the complexity and technical nature of the process and a lack of familiarity with forestry in general. To be more involved, the LCC felt that topics presented should be in laymen's terms and shorter in length to allow for more discussion and question time.

Recommendations

The emphasis on process in creating the plan may be a limiting factor to achieving its full potential. Realizing that process is necessary to uniform planning, the concentration on it may be at the cost of other important features, especially public involvement. The time constraints imposed by the process restricts the time available for public consultation, especially with those that may be most affected by the plan. The following is a suggested format that could result in creating more time to consult with and educate the public on aspects of forest management.

The poor turnout by the public at the Open Houses indicates failure in this aspect of the plan. The Open Houses could be eliminated and replaced with a notice indicating the start of the forest management plan (for a particular forest) and an invitation to public input.

The public could come at any time (by appointment) to inquire or comment on the progress of the plan at its present stage of development. When key stages are reached in the plan's development, notices would be placed to indicate the stage of development and to invite the public to participate. The selection of the preferred management alternative, cut block and road allocation mapping, and the preliminary draft, could be key stages. This would free up time and money to contact, meet and solve the concerns of individuals identified as most directly affected by the plan. In this way, the forest planners would show a concern for those most affected, would be able to consult with and amicably solve their concerns, and educate the public on some of the aspects of forestry.

Forest management cannot be all things to every interested party but avenues should be investigated to involve and educate the public, not just interest groups, in the real value of and happenings to the forest. The time constraints of the process do not allow for the members of the planning team to consult with persons that may be affected by the plan and present explanations and solutions to these conflicts. This direct contact with individuals achieves a higher degree of public participation, and increases the public's knowledge and interest in the forest. Allowances for this approach and activity should be made in the FMPM manual.

Data recorded from past forest disturbances, e.g., fire and insect infestations, are factored into the working model used for forest management planning purposes. Data on to-days bio-effects on the forests, such as: ozone depletion; increasing UV radiation; global warming; acid rain; and, the use of pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers, requires research and collection for future modeling. It is important to maintain a continuous database of all occurrences and activities that may be affecting to-days forests, in order to manage, maintain and plan for future healthy forests.

As a member of the LCC, my introduction to the committee was to be given the Forest Management Planning Manual. This was a daunting introduction. (It states on page 2, "for use by professional foresters".) If the committee members are to have input into the planning process, a laymen's version outlining the forest management planning process would be less daunting and more useful.

The committee appreciates the co-operative relationship the Planning Team displayed with the Local Citizens Committee.

One of our members, Carl Ridd, while subscribing to all of the items of this report, wishes to add the following, and the majority of the LCC agree that it should be added as an appendix to the report:

1. In general, we are greatly impressed by the science that lies behind the forest management regimes and by the implementation of that science in forest management.
2. Forest management in its modern form is a very recent, changing and complex science, and there is still much debate among experts as to the conclusions that

can be drawn from the relatively meager data we possess. (Part of the problem is that both globally and locally data is scarce or patchy.) Concepts such as sustainability, biodiversity are everywhere affirmed, but there is a difference of opinion as to whether our practices are assuring these necessities or putting them at risk. In particular the issue of clearcutting is much debated. Arguments that sound convincing can be mustered on both sides of such debates.

3. There may be difficulties in basing conclusions upon models (computer driven predictions), the most obvious being the "GIGO" phenomenon (garbage in garbage out) i.e. if the assumptions that govern your input are erroneous, your predictions will also be erroneous.) Nevertheless this is all we've got.
4. Humans and societies organize their thinking about things by constructing "paradigms" (comprehensive mental pictures organizing patterns, blueprints, and images.) In the year 2000 most of our paradigms are "industrial" in character (materialistic, objective, linear) but in every science, including forestry, they are rapidly becoming more "ecosystem based" (subtle, interdisciplinary, imaginative, feed-back loops.) We need to speed up this change in how we think.

Note: I disagree that the context of this appendix be a part of the report.
Curtis Sprague
Bill Mills

(f) Summary of the Selected Management Alternative

The selected Management Alternative Four as described analyzed and reviewed in the forest management plan, was deemed as the most desirable of the six alternatives considered. Management Alternative Four met the wood supply commitments of the local wood processing facilities that included pulp mills, local sawmills and a future laminated strandboard lumber mill. The wood supply commitments formed a partial or total mill wood supply based on the Ministry of Natural Resources Northwest Regional wood supply commitment matrix.

Regeneration and future forest sustainability was achieved with the level of funds received from forest harvest operations, in contrast with other alternatives that required more financial input.

A significant component of all plan alternatives was the need to outline how wood supply, forest cover, ecological processes, wildlife, forest and community sustainability would be affected by alternative actions. The following is a summary of the plan objectives and targets:

Kenora Forest Management Plan Objectives and Targets

Crown Forest Diversity

1. Natural Landscape Patterns Objective

Objective: To simulate landscape disturbance patterns characteristic of the site region in which the KMU occurs (4S and 5S).

Target: To quantify the proportions of the managed forest landscape such that harvest areas would simulate wildfire disturbances.

Historically, the area defined as Hill's Site Region 4S has a fire frequency distribution as described in [Figure 3](#) (Forest Management Guidelines for the Emulation of Fire Disturbance Patterns – Analysis Results, MNR, 1997).

Historically, the area defined as **Hill's Site Region 5S** has a fire frequency distribution as described in [Figure 4](#).

Strategies: By designing clearcut harvest areas, to simulate the size and distribution of small to moderately large wild fires, blowdowns and other natural events.

By analyzing management unit landscape patterns using a variety of computer based analytical tools to aid in the distribution and placement of future harvest areas to simulate natural landscape disturbance patterns.

Figure 3 Historic Fire Disturbance Pattern in Hill's Site Region 4S

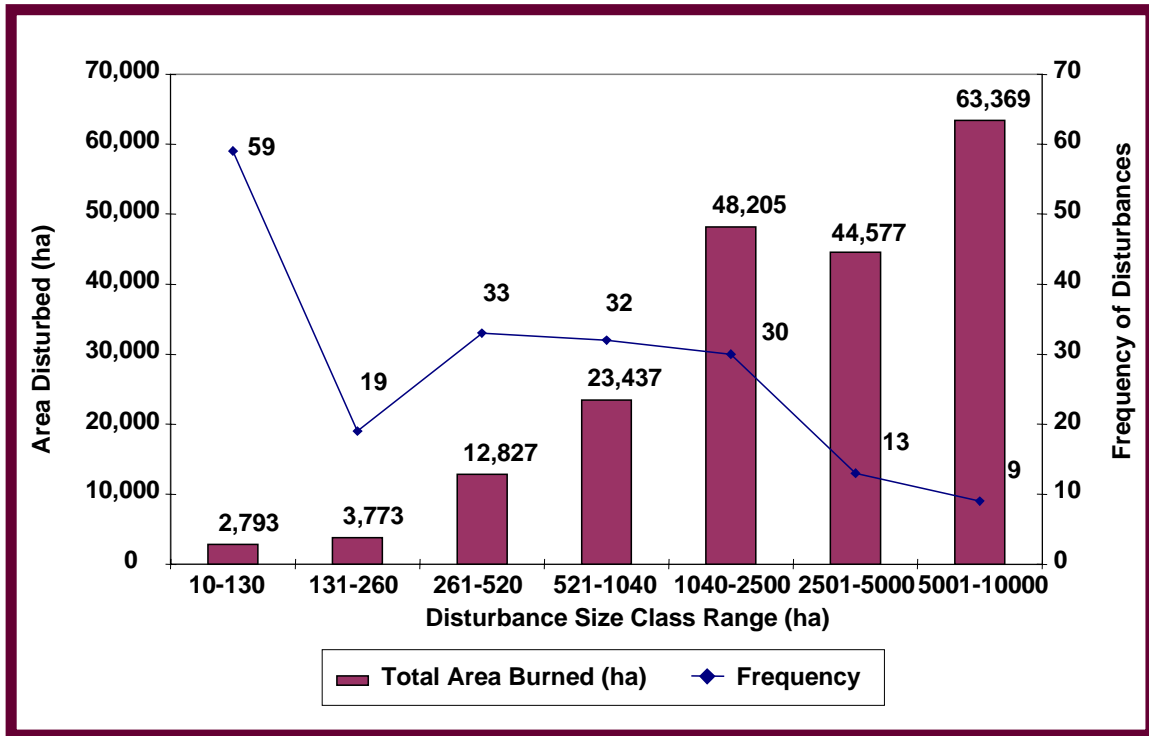
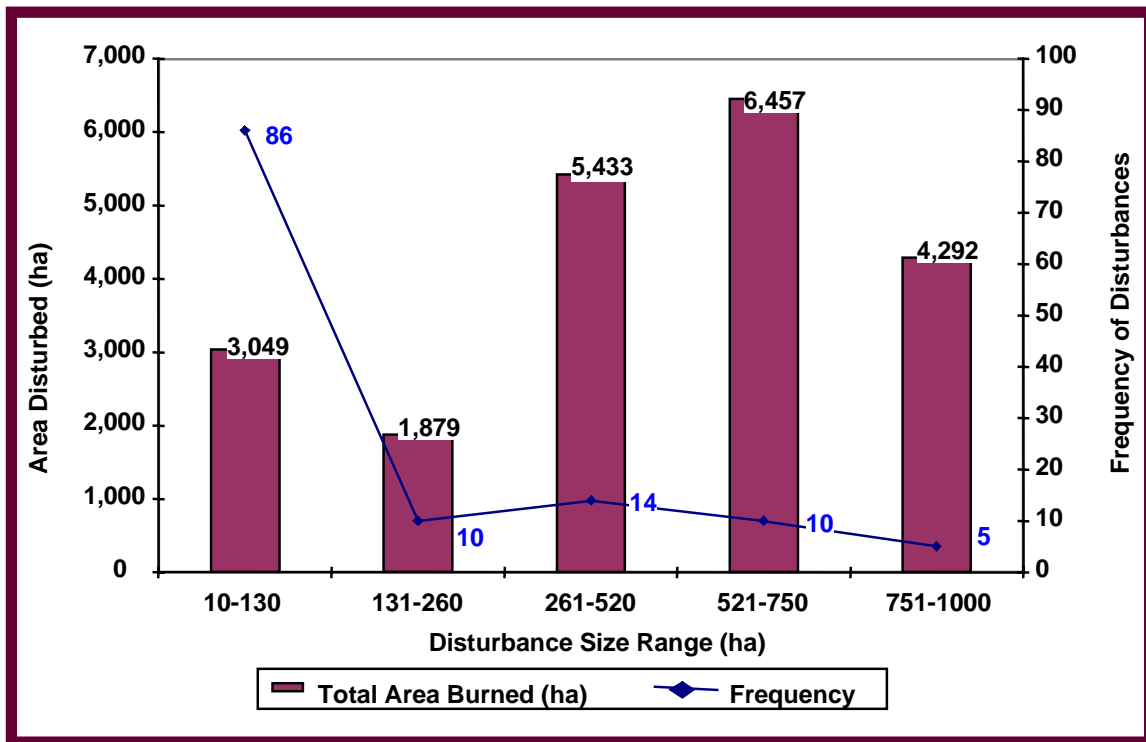


Figure 4 Historic Fire Disturbance Pattern in Hill's Site Region 5S



2. Diversity Of Forest Structure (Age Class Distribution) Objective

Objective: To maintain, renew, and/or enhance forest structure such that there is a variation in forest unit and age classes, and having a varying distribution of diameter classes representative of the natural forest condition.

Target: To move towards the age class distribution as described by the null (natural) forest condition for Hills Site Regions 4S and 5S.

Strategies: By developing harvesting regimes that will, over time, develop a forest age class structure that moves towards the “natural forest” condition as described by the null alternative for the KMU.

By practicing sound silvicultural strategies to ensure that effective harvesting, renewal, tending and maintenance activities which assist in the achievement of a forest age class and structure such that it simulates the natural forest condition.

By practicing appropriate forest tending to maintain and/or develop forest age class conditions that will meet the needs of wood supply, wildlife habitat and remain resilient to environmental influences (i.e. insects, wind damage, snow damage, disease resistance).

Figure 5 Age Class Distribution for the Benchmark Future Forest Condition in Hill's Site Region 4S (Term 13)

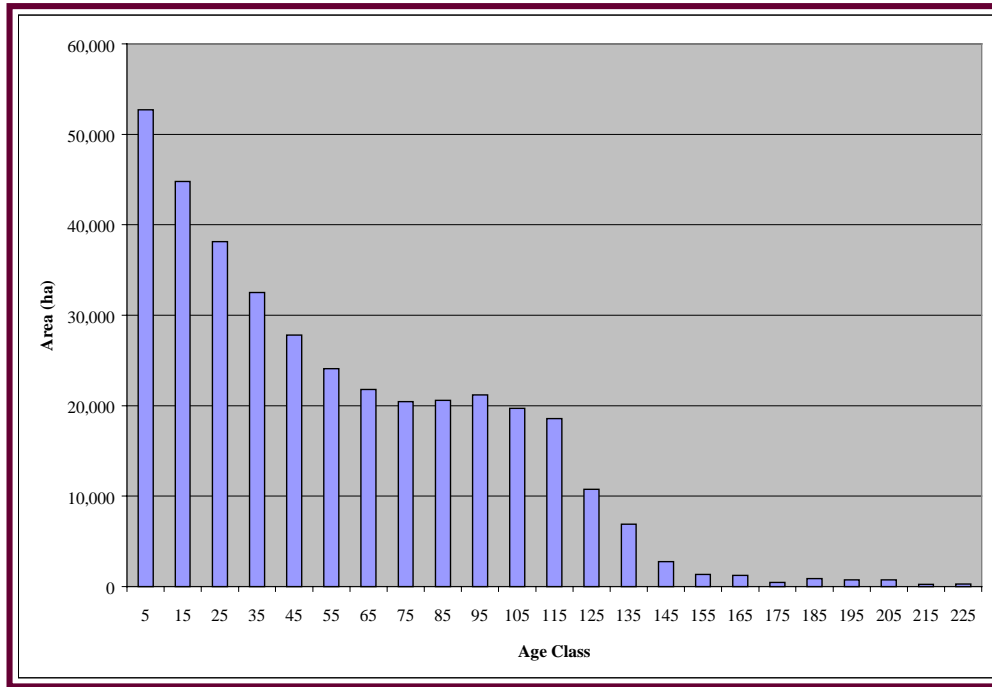
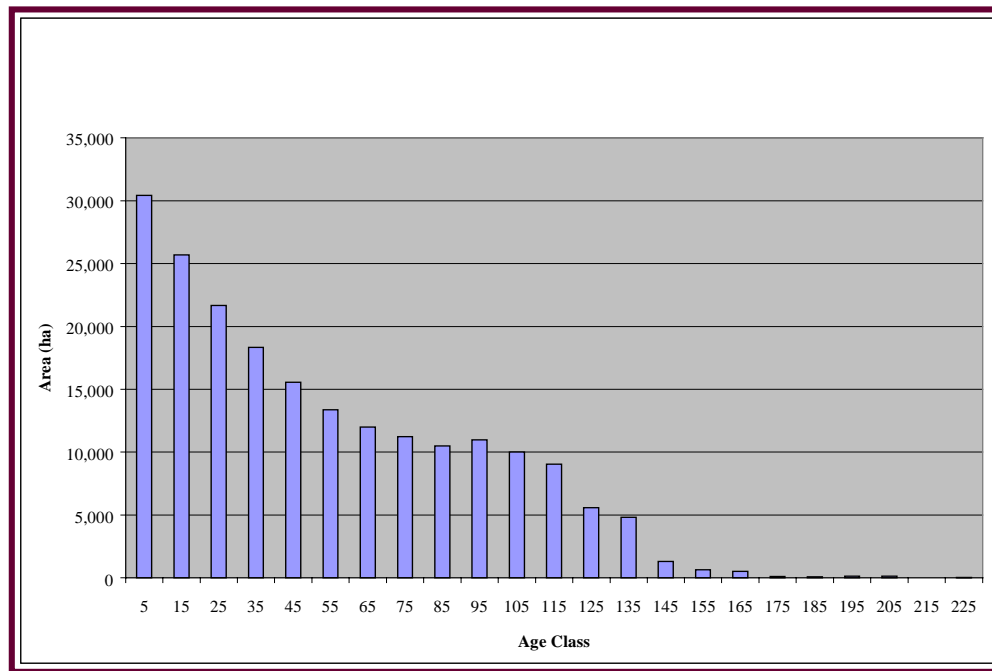


Figure 6 Age Class Distribution for the Benchmark Future Forest Condition in Hill's Site Region 5S (Term 13)



3. Forest Ecosystem Objective:

Objective: To identify, enhance, and maintain forest ecosystems (forest species composition) on a sustainable basis.

Targets: To simulate the forest composition (forest unit) as described by the null (natural) forest conditions as described by Hills' Site Regions 4S and 5S.

Strategies: By utilizing SFMM to explore the range of managed forest possibilities to simulate the area growing within each of the forest units of the null (natural) forest condition that is deemed to be sustainable.

By providing a representative, relative balance of forest units within the KMU.

By providing a distribution and abundance of forest tree species and associated plant communities (ecosites which include vertical and horizontal forest structure) that are representative on the natural landscape and described by the null (natural) forest condition.

By practicing sound silvicultural strategies to ensure that effective harvesting, renewal, tending and maintenance which will contribute to the age class, growing stock and structural stand characteristics required to simulate natural ecosystem processes.

4. Red and White Pine Objective

Objective: To maintain and enhance red pine and white pine forest ecosystems,(PrDom and PrPwMx forest units) including old growth stands, to ensure they are present on the landscape now and into the future, while permitting a sustainable harvest of red pine and white pine.

Targets: To maintain minimally, 24 ha.'s in Hill's Site Region 4S, and 1,802 ha's in Hill's Site Region 5S in the PrDom (red pine) forest unit, as described by the null (natural) forest condition. Historically, the 1966 FRI had reported 1661 ha's of the Red Pine Forest Unit (PrDom) as present on the land base in site regions 4S and 5S (Figure 7 and Figure 8).

To maintain minimally, 397 ha's in Hill's Site Region 4S, and 10,664 ha's in Hill's Site Region 5S in the PrPwMx (red and white pine) forest unit, as described by the null (natural) forest condition. Historically, the 1966 FRI had reported 4,921 ha's of the red and white pine forest unit (PrPwMx) as present on the landscape in Site Regions 4S and 5S.

To identify and preserve representative stands of PrPwMx which exhibit old growth characteristics.

Strategies: By implementing the “Old Growth Forest Policy” for the conservation of red and white pine forest ecosystems through the following strategies.

By updating the Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) to ensure all the red pine and white pine WG’s and individual species components are current to assist in the management of these ecosystems.

By reviewing past FRI inventories to gain insight into the historical presence of red pine and white pine on the landscape.

By preserving representative stands of red pine and white pine which exhibit old growth characteristics and allowing these stands to evolve subject to natural ecological processes. (Protected Areas, identified in the Old Growth Report, NWST, Technical Report TR-96, March 1996).

By restoring, through the re-establishment of red and white pine in areas of the KMU, where soil and site conditions are favorable, and where in all probability, these species were once a significant component of the ecosystem.

By maintaining, through the collection of field data on red and white pine plantations and naturally regenerated sites, to determine the level of future stand improvement work required.

By directing stand improvement activities (shelter wood management, stand tending, vegetative management) to established red and white pine stands and plantations.

By continuing the planting of red and white pine on appropriate ecosites and in the understory of white pine shelterwood that do not achieve free to grow standards to ensure the maintenance of these forest units.

By continuing a seed collection program for red and white pine.

Figure 7 Hill’s Site Region 4S PrDom and PrwMx Available Area Over Time (Working Circles One and Two)

Plan Period	PrDom	PrwMx
2001-2010	17	14
2011-2020	17	54
2021-2030	17	90
2031-2040	18	127
2041-2050	18	163
2051-2060	18	197
2061-2070	19	230
2071-2080	20	262
2081-2090	21	291
2091-2100	22	318
2101-2110	21	346
2111-2120	22	372
2121-2130	24	397
2131-2140	25	421
2141-2150	26	444
2151-2160	22	466

Figure 8 Hill’s Site Region 5S PrDom and PrwMx Available Area Over Time (Working Circles Three and Four)

Plan Period	PrDom	PrwMx
2001-2010	1,033	10,610
2011-2020	1,501	11,431
2021-2030	1,538	11,450
2031-2040	1,575	11,481
2041-2050	1,599	11,471
2051-2060	1,636	11,440
2061-2070	1,673	11,357
2071-2080	1,705	11,223
2081-2090	1,740	11,142
2091-2100	1,724	11,050
2101-2110	1,760	10,957
2111-2120	1,786	10,810
2121-2130	1,802	10,664
2031-2140	1,832	10,539
2141-2150	1,862	10,401
2151-2160	1,891	10,311

5. Rare Plant Species and Communities Objective

Objective: To maintain representative areas of plant communities, such as Black Ash (*Fraxinus nigra* Marsh.), where they presently exist on the landscape.

Target: To maintain minimally, 242 ha. of the OthHd FU (predominately black ash) in site region 4S, and 2639 ha. of the OthHd forest unit in site regions 5S.

Strategies: By identifying, with the aid of the FRI, where forest stands of black ash greater than 5 ha. exist on the KMU.

By conserving stands of black ash to ensure their sustainability on the KMU.

By practicing the selection silvicultural system to ensure the long-term sustainability of these plant communities.

Socio-Economic Benefits – Wood Supply and Community Well Being

6. Sustainable Wood Supply Objective

Objective: To provide a sustainable wood supply to the forest industry and local community.

Target: To minimally provide, on an annual basis, current Ministerial recognized mill commitments of 132,950 m³ of conifer, 146,000 m³ of hardwood from the KMU to wood processing facilities, 3,750 m³ (all species) for fuelwood and 7,221 m³ (all species) to Wabaseemoong Independent First Nations from the KMU.

Additionally, to consider a target of 60,000 m³ of conifer (spruce, pine, fir) to be offered to Abitibi-Consolidated Inc. should forest operations proceed in Working Circles One and Four.

To meet present annual wood supply volume commitments from the KMU to the following mills.

- Abitibi-Consolidated Paper Mills in Kenora and Fort Frances: 90,000 m³ (S,P,F)
- Kenora Forest Products Ltd. Sawmill, Kenora: 25,000 m³ (S,P,F)
- Trus Joist Weyerhaeuser Hardwood Mill, Kenora: 146,000 m³ (Po, Bw)
- Devlin Timber Company (1992) Limited, sawmill, Kenora: 11,000 m³ (S,P,F)
- Dave Burt General Contractor Ltd., sawmill, Sioux Narrows: 4,200 m³ (S,P,F)

- I E&G Custom Sawing Ltd., sawmill, Kenora: 2000 m³ (S,P,F)
- I Wilson's Rocky Lake Camp Ltd., sawmill, Jones: 750 m³ (S,P,F)

To make available 3,750 m³. of fuelwood annually.

Total mill commitment: Conifer 132,950 m³, hardwood 146,000 m³.

Strategies: By promoting the optimal utilization of available wood.

By maintaining the four working circle management system for the KMU as it recognizes the unique administrative and operational constraints. This was recognized by the Audit Team as a "best practice" as it contributed to forest sustainability by ensuring an appropriate allocation and harvest of forest resources.

By utilizing SFMM to explore the ability of a range of managed forest scenarios/options and their associated available harvest areas to minimize wood flow fluctuations between planning periods.

By spatially dispersing the harvest blocks across the entire KMU to address seasonal wood requirements, road conditions, product requirements and simulate the patterns of natural forest disturbance.

By directing road access to areas of mature and overmature timber.

By directing forest operations to areas of damaged timber (from insects, burn, blowdown) to facilitate forest salvage operations.

By improving wood utilization from forest operations.

By sorting conifer sawlogs from pulpwood, and hardwood veneer from non-veneer products to maximize wood product value.

By maintaining site productivity for timber production (in recognition of shallow site management practices) through the application of sound forest management practices.

By spacing over stocked stands to maximize growth and yield and improve product quality.

By identifying areas suitable for the harvesting of fuel wood in proximity to populate areas.

7. Wabaseemong Memorandum of Understanding Objective

Objective: To provide harvesting opportunities to Wabaseemong Independent First Nations as defined in the 1983 Memorandum of Understanding between Islington Band #29 and the Province of Ontario.

Target: To provide Wabaseemong Independent First Nations with a sustainable wood supply of 7,221 m³ of timber (composed of all tree species), as a minimum, from Working Circle Two.

Strategies: By allocating timber in Working Circle Two up to the prescribed sustainable levels as determined by the FMP.

By encouraging input and participation in forest management planning through the Native Consultation Process.

Provision of Forest Cover – Values Dependent on Crown Forests

8. Animal Habitat Diversity Objective

Objective: To ensure that forest cover provides the range of habitats needed for the wildlife species selected for management within the KMU.

Target: To manage the species deemed as significant indicators of forest and wildlife health for the Northwest Region within the +/- 20% of the bounds of natural variation as determined by the null (natural) forest condition.

To maintain and enhance wildlife habitat on the Aulneau Peninsula as directed by the Aulneau Enhanced Wildlife Management Plan.

Strategies: By applying the appropriate wildlife habitat policies and guidelines.

By manipulating the forest cover, composition, and structure to meet the wildlife requirements of the null (natural) forest condition.

By applying suitable silvicultural strategies that will create the necessary seral stages of forest composition required by the selected wildlife species.

Selected Wildlife Species:

American kestrel	American redstart	Boreal chickadee
Boreal red-backed vole	Woodland caribou	Connecticut warbler
Golden crowned kinglet	Great Gray Owl	Marten
Moose	Northern flying squirrel	
Pileated woodpecker	Snowshoe hare	Spruce grouse
Swainson's thrush	White-tailed deer	
White-throated Sparrow		

Figure 9 Highs and Lows for Natural Variation – Wildlife All Working Circles

	Plan Term	Maximum Value	Max Value + 20%	Plan Term	Minimum Value	Min Value - 20%	
AMKE	2011	10,698	12,838	2151	7,278	5,823	AMKE
AMRE	2001	171,940	206,328	2151	81,998	65,599	AMRE
BOCH	2151	70,429	84,514	2041	55,769	44,615	BOCH
BRVO	2081	78,934	94,721	2001	63,126	50,501	BRVO
CARI	2151	162,699	195,238	2011	137,622	110,098	CARI
CARIw	2011	12,660	15,192	2051	9,277	7,421	CARIw
CONW	2001	24,914	29,897	2011	21,193	16,955	CONW
GCKI	2081	74,444	89,332	2001	40,606	32,485	GCKI
GGOW	2021	120,885	145,061	2051	95,296	76,237	GGOW
MART	2021	166,678	200,014	2001	130,977	104,782	MART
MOOS	2011	254,948	305,937	2151	200,218	160,174	MOOS
MOOSk	2041	171,170	205,404	2001	82,544	66,035	MOOSk
MOOSw	2151	255,431	306,517	2031	210,402	168,321	MOOSw
NFSQ	2021	153,544	184,253	2001	118,009	94,407	NFSQ
PIWO	2041	76,319	91,583	2001	19,235	15,388	PIWO
SNHA	2041	93,773	112,528	2001	12,278	9,822	SNHA
SPGR	2151	127,775	153,329	2061	104,201	83,361	SPGR
SWTH	2001	181,550	217,860	2151	104,347	83,477	SWTH
WTDE	2041	116,044	139,253	2001	46,309	37,047	WTDE
WTDEkw	2061	48,111	57,733	2001	28,310	22,648	WTDEkw
WTDEw	2011	135,656	162,787	2151	64,645	51,716	WTDEw
WTSP	2041	254,323	305,187	2001	133,135	106,508	WTSP

9. Featured Species Objective:

Objectives: To manage and maintain specific areas of forest cover to optimize the habitat required by the following provincially featured species of deer, moose, caribou, and marten.

To manage forest habitat critical for all other provincially and locally featured species identified in this FMP.

Targets:

Caribou-To maintain winter caribou habitat in Working Circle One at a minimum of 10% above the minimum level of habitat as determined by the bounds of natural variation in the null (natural) condition.

Deer - To maintain current levels of deer habitat in Working Circles Two and Three at levels as determined by the bounds of natural variation in the null (natural) forest condition.

To manipulate summer and fall deer habitat on the Aulneau Peninsula in the zone as designated for deer.

Moose – To maintain moose habitat above the mean in working circles 2,3, and 4 as determined by the bounds of natural variation in the null (natural) forest condition.

To maintain the forest land base in the moose zone of the Aulneau Peninsula in the following age class structures and trees species composition:

40-50% < 20 years of age
5-15% mature conifer > 20 years of age
30-45% upland deciduous
5-10% non-forested wetland

Marten – To maintain marten habitat levels across the KMU for 150 years at levels similar to those determined by the null (natural) forest condition.

To manage the zone where marten are featured to ensure “core” areas are continual available over time.

Strategies: By applying the appropriate wildlife habitat policies, guidelines and forest management prescriptions.

By manipulating the forest cover, composition and structure to meet the wildlife habitat requirements.

By applying suitable silvicultural strategies that will create forest characteristics required by featured species.

By delineating the KMU into wildlife zones to ensure the best long-term forest cover is provided to reflect where and which wildlife will be managed as featured species at the landscape level.

Silvicultural Objective

10. KMU Silvicultural Objective

Objective: To apply silvicultural practices that will maintain the long-term productivity of the forest through harvesting, renewal, protection, access and stand maintenance activities.

Targets: To utilize the most appropriate range of silvicultural treatments to meet the long-term sustainable flow of wood products from the KMU.

To utilize the most beneficial silvicultural groundrules (SGR's) that would be used to achieve specific plan objectives, while meeting the long-term wood supply commitments.

To use the silvicultural renewal program of the selected management alternative from SFMM model to guide future forest renewal and maintenance activities.

Strategies: By using sound management practices and science applications to achieve healthy, diverse, sustainable forest ecosystems.

By maintaining a monitoring and data collection program on all harvested areas to measure the silvicultural success and evaluate the planned treatment (FMP) versus the actual (AWS).

By conducting appropriate data collection to identify current and predicted forest conditions and assist in forest modelling.

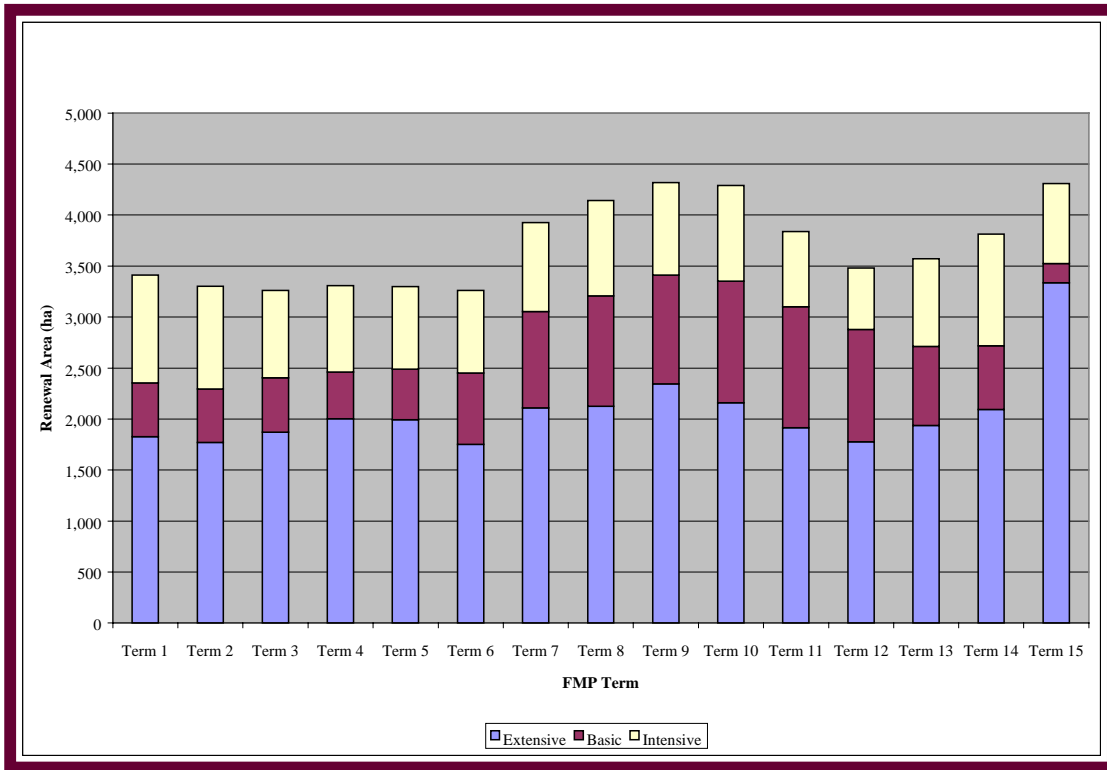
By developing appropriate silvicultural round rules (SGR's) and silvicultural treatment packages (STP's) to assist in meeting the over all objective for harvest, renewal and maintenance activities, as described by the MNR policies and guidelines.

By considering other forest management guidelines (i.e. marten, moose, deer, tourism) in the application of the SGR's to ensure the protection and enhancement of all forest values while continuing to harvest, renew, and maintain forest cover.

By managing forest units for a variety of timber products (i.e. pulp, poles sawlog, LSL, veneer).

By ensuring that road access to harvest/renewal blocks are maintained until harvested areas achieve a free growing condition as defined by the silvicultural ground rules.

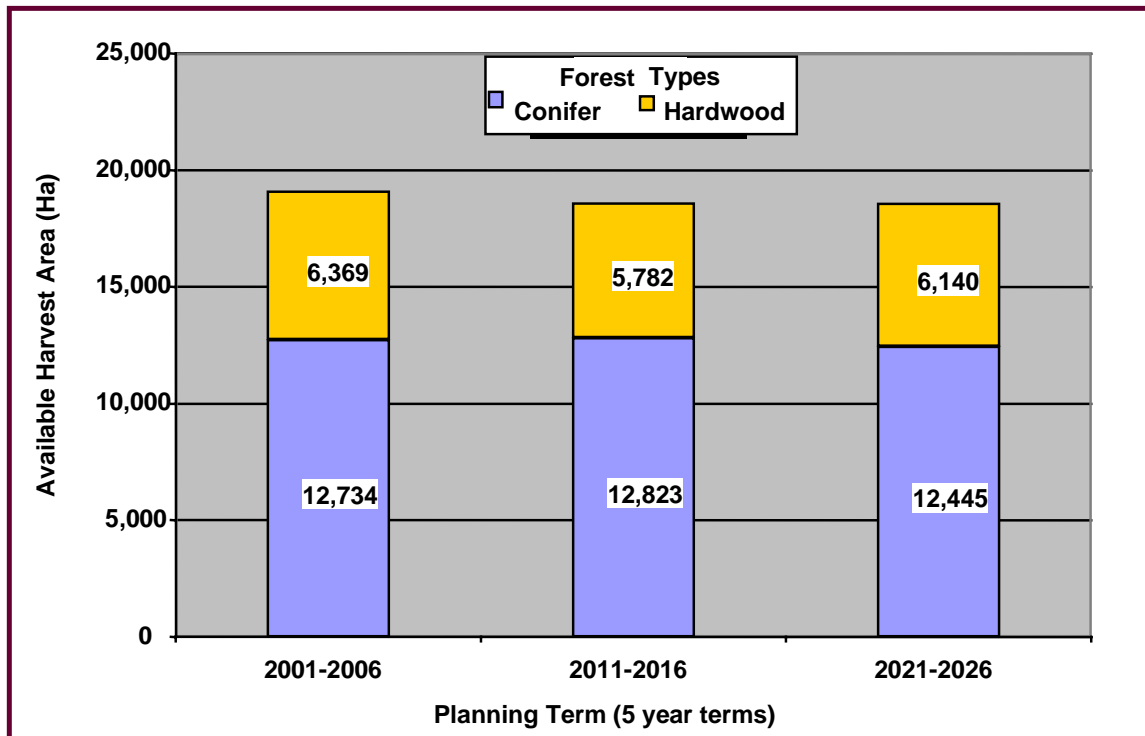
Figure 10 Target Silvicultural Treatment Area by 10 Year Term as Forecasted in SFMM



Available Harvest Area

The total AHA for the 2001-2006 term is 19,103 ha. which yields 1,709,256 m³. In the KMU FMP 72% of the AHA has been planned for harvest. The AHA produced decreases from 2001-2006 to the 2011-2016 (Figure 11). In contrast to 2001-2006 AHA, the total overall AHA for 2011-2016 planning term decreased to 18,605 ha. (a loss of 498 ha.) but the harvest volume increased to 1,713,463 m³ (an increase of 4,207 m³). This is a result of the allocation of more higher volume yielding area (age classes 81-100) and less over mature decaying stands (age classes greater than 120 years) being harvested in term three.

Figure 11 Comparison of Available Harvest Area Over Time



(g) Description of Silvicultural Prescriptions Used on the Kenora Management Unit

Silviculture is to forestry as agronomy is to agriculture in that it is concerned with the technology of crop production. “Silviculture has been variously defined as: The art of producing and treating a forest; the application of knowledge of silvics in the treatment of a forest; the theory and practice of controlling forest establishment, composition, structure and growth” (Spurr 1979). Silvicultural practices in this forest management plan consist of various treatments as expressed in the silvicultural ground rules, that will be applied to forest stands to maintain and enhance their use. In doing so, the expectation is to achieve the varied objectives of the management plan and ensure forest ecosystem sustainability.

The silvicultural ground rules specify the type of silvicultural systems and will influence the type of harvest, renewal, and tending treatments, which may be used to manage the forest cover on the KMU. The silvicultural ground rules also specify the level of regeneration standards, and the type of developing forest that is forecast to develop over time (future forest condition). As with any natural system, there is a range of acceptable treatments for the activities of harvest,

renewal and tending that can be undertaken at any time during the development of the stand. The level of development will be determined/influenced by many factors. Certainly the need to maintain the productivity of the forest cover, but also the recognition that other users of the forest (wildlife) have specific requirements. For the KMU 45% of the area harvested is renewed through artificial methods. The remaining 55% of area harvested is renewed through natural regeneration techniques.

Of the artificial treatments, planting of spruce and pine accounts for approximately 60% of the renewal program. Artificial seeding methods, for the renewal of jack pine, account for the remaining 40%.

Plantation tending, to ensure the success and future growth is conducted as necessary on an annual basis.

Each silvicultural treatment package (set of renewal prescriptions) for each forest unit site type combination in the silvicultural ground rules is represented by a yield curve. This yield curve is used to predict the development of the stand over time in terms of future yield and tree species relationship.

The broad silvicultural strategies have been identified as part of the plan objectives. During the analysis of alternatives and consideration for future wood supply and forest cover, the full range of silvicultural strategies has been considered. A comprehensive review of the outcomes of the effect of silviculture is reviewed in the section describing the development of management alternatives.

(h) Summary of Issues Encountered and Addressed

In the preparation of a FMP, it is important to review past management actions and to anticipate emerging issues.

There are a number of documents, which have assisted the planning team manager to assess past operations in order to identify those issues that need to be addressed in the development of the current FMP. The following reports were reviewed to identify issues:

Report of Past Forest Operations (RPFO) for the following terms:
Aulneau Crown Management Unit 1986 – 1991;
Minaki Crown Management Unit 1986 – 1991; and
KMU 1991 – 1996.

The RPFO guides the forest manager in understanding the significance of planned and unplanned events in relation to the objectives and targets set for the FMP. A copy of the most recent RPFO (1991– 1996) can be found in **Supplementary Documentation F**.

KMU Independent Forest Audit Report, January 10, 1999.

The audit report is another source of information to the successes and areas for improvement for the KMU. A copy of the audit can be found in Supplementary Documentation G.

The following is an overview of the significant issues identified in the above documents as well as those emergent issues identified by the planning team and how they been addressed in the development of the Kenora FMP 2001–2021.

Hardwood Utilization

Hardwood harvest targets have not been met on the KMU for the past 15 years due to a lack of markets. This lack of utilization (approximately 10% of the total available was utilized) has caused a number of forest management issues:

- I A significant volume of conifer is located in mixed wood stands. Without a market for hardwood it is not viable for many forest harvest operations to harvest these stands in terms of costs for road building and wood volumes available. Construction of forest access roads is not economically viable for the conifer component alone. In addition, it will greatly benefit follow-up silvicultural activities and costs to ensure the full utilization of both conifer and hardwood within these mixed wood stands.

In 1995, the Ministry of Natural Resources initiated a hardwood project to attract a hardwood processing facility to utilize the available hardwood on the KMU and a number of adjacent forest management units. While the initial efforts of establishing a hardwood facility met with difficulties, the Ministry recently (1999) awarded the hardwood opportunity to Trus Joist. A new engineered strand lumber (ESL) mill will be located and constructed in Kenora and is expected to become operational in 2002. The Kenora FMP has hardwood allocations to meet this wood supply demand. Utilization of these hardwood allocations will be critical to achieving conifer wood supply targets.

Conifer Utilization

Full levels of conifer utilization have not been achieved for the past two planning terms (1986 – 1996). The projected level of sustainable harvest of conifer was 190,000 m³ annually from all four WCs. The actual level of conifer harvest was on average 125,000 m³. A number of factors have contributed to the full conifer levels not being utilized. They include: costly road construction to access remote scattered mature timber and conifer tied up in mixed wood stands not being harvested.

The Kenora FMP has planned for conifer harvest level to meet wood supply commitments and is based on the assumption that a hardwood facility will be in operation and mixed wood stands will be economically viable and meet silvicultural requirements.

Age Class Imbalance

An age class imbalance, that is the forecast dip in conifer wood supply from the current 21 to 40 and 41-60 age classes, was considered during the development of the FMP. This issue was a key consideration in both SFMM modelling, as well as operational layouts, as the planning team addressed the ability of the KMU to meet wood supply demands over the long-term.

This issue has been addressed through the use of two strategies. The first strategy is to ensure that overmature wood is harvested in this plan term. The allocation of oldest wood first will minimize the wood supply pressure on younger age classes to meet minimum future wood supply commitments. The second strategy is to continue with significant investments in silvicultural work in the form of stand tending and maintenance to address longer term wood supply requirements.

Aulneau Peninsula

For the past two plan terms (1991-1996 and 1996-2001) no forest management activities have occurred on the Aulneau Peninsula (WC four). In the 1996 – 2001 FMP this area was deferred from the planning process in considerations of discussions between MNR and Treaty #3. The 1998 independent audit report identified that the absence of an approved Wildlife Plan for the Aulneau Peninsula has meant a lost opportunity for the provision of a wood supply. It was the recommendation of the audit team that MNR and the government of Ontario should expeditiously decide upon the land use status of the Aulneau Peninsula.

Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (July 1999) has confirmed the land use designation and intent for the Aulneau Peninsula. The Aulneau Peninsula (WC4) has been identified as an Enhanced Management Area (EMA) as a result of OLL. There is presently no resource management planning direction outlining the fundamentals as to how an enhanced management area will be managed. A wildlife management planning process for the Aulneau Peninsula has been initiated and is recognized by MNR as a pilot in establishing EMA planning processes within the province.

The Draft Aulneau Enhanced Wildlife Management Plan (Draft Aulneau Wildlife Plan) has identified objectives and strategies for managing wildlife habitat, with an emphasis on trying to optimize the quality of wildlife habitat. Logging has been identified as the preferred option in terms of the tool to manipulate habitats. Prescribed burns are also identified as a tool. Wood supply is thus likely to be available to the commercial forest products industry, but because of the priority

objective of habitat supply, wood flow will be a byproduct of habitat manipulation efforts.

The Kenora FMP has identified a sustainable available harvest area (AHA) and associated wood volume from WC four but no harvest blocks have been planned at this time. Until such time as the Draft Aulneau Wildlife Plan is approved, the specific volume of wood cannot be determined. Upon approval of the Draft Aulneau Wildlife Plan, it will be necessary to undertake a major amendment of the Kenora FMP to incorporate the overall resource management direction into the FMP as well as identify the allocation blocks required for habitat disturbance.

The Ministry continues to work towards completion of the Draft Aulneau Wildlife Plan. It is recognized that First Nations have a special relationship with the Aulneau Peninsula and the Ministry of Natural Resources is committed to work with them on finalizing the Draft Aulneau Wildlife Plan.

Other Forest Users / Values

Forest users and values must be considered during the preparation of FMP's. There are a significant number of other forest users and values present on the KMU which include:

- Twelve First Nations;
- 136 tourist establishments;
- 535 bald eagle nests;
- Over 40% of the KMU is water (% water of whole unit);
- Over 8,000 private properties outside municipal boundaries and First Nations communities; and
- Mining interests.

All of these forest users and values add to the complexity of forest management planning on the KMU. The above values and considerations have been addressed in a variety of means but most commonly by developing AOC prescriptions for specific values and modifying allocation layouts to avoid or mitigate the value. Agreements on reasonable approaches and consideration of values have been reached by completing site inspections, meeting with property owners and in some cases completing detailed analysis of views to protect values such as tourism.

Marten

The Forest Management Guidelines for the Provision of Marten Habitat (hereafter referred to as the marten guidelines) must be considered during the preparation of FMP's. Providing for marten habitat and ensuring that an adequate supply of habitat exists into the future will be difficult.

Owing to a combination of extensive, widespread wildfires in the 1970's and 1980's and the pattern of logging activities, the 10% minimum amount of capable marten habitat to be allocated in suitable marten core habitat does not exist within the KMU. Harvesting of forest units to meet wood supply commitments while still providing for suitable marten habitat will result in, at least in the short-term, only minimal improvements in the total amount of marten habitat available on the KMU in the near future. At this time not all of the potential marten core areas meet minimal standards for marten core habitat. A core habitat area is comprised of mixed coniferous/deciduous forest stands of a relatively uniform age, which is approximately 80 years old. Other requirements with respect to stocking density, canopy closure from conifers and connectivity to other forest stands also exist.

Suitable marten habitat is considered to be mature to over-mature coniferous forest. Capable marten habitat is any area that has the potential to produce now or in the future, suitable marten habitat.

In addition to the overall amount of suitable and capable amount of marten habitat available, managing the number of "core habitat areas" into the future could be a problem. On the KMU the disturbance (natural and human) pattern and topography does not lend itself readily to the production of large patches of mature conifer forests. Without large disturbances, forest managers will not be able to produce new cores to replace the existing cores.

Core habitat areas have been identified, but owing to the relatively low amount of suitable habitat within each core, no harvesting within any core area has been proposed in this FMP. Marten core habitat areas require an area between 30-50 kilometre². Areas of this size will need to be harvested over a relatively short period of time to create future core areas. New policy direction (often referred to as The Fire Simulation Guidelines (Draft)) have been released which could alleviate the concern about future marten core creation, but are not yet approved. For more details on the application of the marten guidelines on the KMU see **Supplementary Documentation Q**.

Access

While a large portion of the KMU is well accessed, the Aulneau Peninsula and the area west of Sydney Lake are two areas of the KMU that are not road accessible. Issues associated with access into these areas include: concern for recognizing the enhancement management area specifically for wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities on the Aulneau Peninsula; protecting remote tourism values; the degree of short-term and long-term accessibility for other forest users; and technical and economic challenges in locating and constructing water crossings or alternative access (e.g. winter roads, barging etc.).

The North Kenora Pilot Project Agreement provides direction for the Sydney Lake area. The Ontario's Living Legacy Land Use Strategy (July 1999) and the

Aulneau Peninsula Enhanced Wildlife Management Plan will provide direction for the Aulneau Peninsula.

Of special concern with respect to access, is the area associated with the Cygnet Road extension, including the South Scott and Jadel Creek roads. Forest activities will result in easy access to a formerly remote area where there are presently high populations of white-tailed deer and moose and where large numbers of migratory waterfowl stage in both the spring and fall. In addition the road network will cross the Scot River, providing direct access to North and South Scot Lakes, which have never been road accessed. Although forest operations (e.g., harvest block patterns and tertiary roads) have been carefully planned to mitigate potential negative impacts to terrestrial wildlife habitats (see the Road Section for more details), increased access in this area may result in higher than historical harvests by First Nations and licenced hunters and anglers. Conflicts between First Nations and licenced hunters could arise and the overall increased hunter harvests of wildlife could be detrimental to the local fish and wildlife populations.

Restricted Travel Roads

There are three (3) primary roads, Maybrun, Cameron and Trilake Roads located on the KMU that have travel restrictions placed on them as part of their use management strategy. These roads have been closed to protect remote tourism values and lake trout values. Travel restrictions have been in place since they were initially planned in the early to mid 1980's.

Numerous issues arise with the management of closed/restricted travel roads. A brief overview of some of these issues include:

- Pressure to open closed roads to all users, including recreational anglers and hunters.
- Concern that closed roads deny access to local anglers and hunters while at the same time create "hunting and fishing preserves" for tourists.
- Conflict within tourism industry between desire for remoteness and desire for convenient and less costly access to tourist facilities.
- Concern by Bear Management Area (BMA) holders that they cannot use restricted travel roads to transport hunters or set up baits resulting in a loss of viability of their BMA.
- Concern that all building repairs regardless of user type (trapper vs. property owners) should be treated the same in terms of transportation of bulk items for building repairs and construction.
- Need to clarify travel permit guidelines for First Nations people using closed roads in the pursuit of their traditional and treaty rights of hunting and fishing.

As part of the FMP preparation, the planning team undertook a workshop (April 14, 2000) with stakeholders to specifically review the current use management

strategies for the Maybrun, Cameron and Trilake road systems. The objective for the review was to:

1. Reaffirm the road use objective.
2. Identify possible alternatives or modifications to the current road use management strategy for public review and comment.
3. Clearly identify the recommended road uses and conditions for issuing travel permits.

There was not full consensus from workshop participants on the road use management strategies for the Maybrun, Cameron and Trilake Roads. BMA holders continued to be concerned that they are not able to obtain travel permits to transport hunters on the closed roads. Tourism industry representatives were concerned with any changes to the start point (kilometre 15) for the road closure on the Maybrun Road. Their concern was that changing the road closure start point from kilometre 15 to kilometre 24 would result in less protection for remote tourism values and lake trout values.

The results of the workshop were available for public review at the second information centres on June 6 and 7, 2000. Only one comment was received on the proposed changes to the use management strategies. This comment came from a tourist operator on Atikwa Lake who was opposed to moving the closure start point from kilometre 15 to kilometre 24.

The following is an overview of how the above issues have been addressed in the use management strategies for the Maybrun, Cameron and Trilake Roads.

- All three roads will continue to be managed as closed or restricted travel roads under the *Public Lands Act* (Section 26).
- The road closure for Maybrun and Cameron Roads will continue to be year round closures.
- Trilake Road will continue to be managed as closed road from January 1 to September 30 and as an open road from October 1 to December 31.
- The closed road use management strategy will be modified for Maybrun Road to change the start point for the road closure from kilometre 15 to kilometre 24.
- Guidelines for issuing travel permits have been prepared for each road and will be administered by the Kenora District office.
- First Nations use of the above closed road systems will be a permitted activity and has been included in the above guidelines for issuing travel permits.

It is unlikely that the above modifications to the use management strategies for the Maybrun, Cameron and Trilake Roads have resolved all of the above issues. For a more detailed overview of the history, use management strategies and planned activities for the Maybrun, Cameron and Trilake Roads, please refer to **Supplementary Documentation H**.

Roads to be Reclassified

Four roads will be reclassified in terms of road use. The four roads are Snook Lake, South Otterskin, Carver and Flapjack.

Three roads (Snook Lake, South Otterskin and Carver Roads) will be reclassified from secondary to primary roads. This change in classification means that the roads are considered permanent and will be in use for a period of time in excess of twenty years.

The Flapjack Road will be reclassified from tertiary road to secondary road. This change in classification means that the road use will be for a time period of fifteen years. The Flapjack Road has been in use for more than ten years. Originally planned as a tertiary road, it has become apparent there is an underestimate in the wood volume available in this area as well as the length of time needed to complete operations. In addition, changes to the operational layout of harvest blocks were required when the wildlife management strategy was changed to identify white-tailed deer as the featured species for this area.

All water crossings on the above roads will be site inspected to determine if sizing of water crossing continues to be adequate given the change in road classification. If sizing of the water crossings are not adequate, a plan amendment will be required to increase the size of the water crossing.

Road Abandonment

An emerging issue is road abandonment. Issues and concerns include:

- Roads originally built for forest access purposes but are no longer required for forestry purposes or are serving other road users such as the mining industry; First Nation community access or access for traditional activities; access to private property and facilities; angler and hunter access to resources, etc.
- Forest industry no longer require roads for forestry purposes and want to remove road from their inventory and responsibility.
- Environmental concerns about how roads, and specifically water crossings, are abandoned.

The following roads have been identified to be abandoned:

- Fifth Lake Road (Secondary)
- Dickers Lake Road (Secondary)
- Umfreville Road (Secondary)

Prior to abandonment a detailed review of the other forest users and concerns will be undertaken for the three road systems identified to be abandoned to determine

if any additional public consultation is required. If no concerns are identified the Ministry will complete site inspections of all water crossings on the road system and will develop an abandonment strategy for the removal of the water crossings based on the Criteria for the Removal of Water Crossings on Abandoned Roads (October 1997).

In addition to the above roads, the FMP has identified a number of tertiary roads to be abandoned. The following are the abandonment principles for tertiary roads:

- | Tertiary roads constructed prior to May 1996 are considered abandoned.
- |
- | Tertiary roads built in the 1996 – 2001 FMP will be abandoned in the 2001 – 2006 FMP.
- |
- | Tertiary roads built between 1996 – 2001 and used after May 1996 will be subject to the water crossing removal criteria.
- |
- | Tertiary roads built in the 2001 – 2006 FMP will be abandoned in the 2006 – 2011 Kenora Management Plan (five years after construction).
- |
- | If any abandoned tertiary roads in the 2001 – 2006 FMP are revived for use by the forest industry, the Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings will be applied to the previously abandoned portion of the road.
- |
- | Any revived roads, previously abandoned, will be inspected at the time of the AWS to determine current values. The appropriate planning and FMP amendment(s) will be initiated prior to road use.
- |
- | If any abandoned tertiary roads are revived for use by the forest industry in the 2001 – 2006 FMP, the Environmental Guidelines for Access Roads and Water Crossings will be applied to the previously abandoned portion of the road.

First Nation Participation and Issues

There are twelve First Nations that are located directly within the KMU. They are as follows:

Anishinaabeg of Naongashing (Big Island) First Nation, Big Grassy First Nation, Ochiichagwe'babigo'inning (Dalles) First Nation, Northwest Angle #33 First Nation Northwest Angle #37 First Nations, Wauzhushk Onigum (Rat Portage) First Nation, Ojibways of Onegaming (Sabaskong Bay) First Nation, Iskatewizaagegan (Shoal Lake #39) First Nation, Shoal Lake #40 First Nation, Wabaseemoong Independent First Nations, Washagamis Bay First Nation and Naotkamegwanning (Whitefish Bay) First Nation.

All twelve First Nations have been contacted by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek direction whether they wanted to choose the Forest Management Native Consultation Program which provides for additional consultation and documentation opportunities. Wabaseemoong Independent First Nations and Iskatewizaagegan First Nation chose the Native Consultation Program. The offer to present forest management information centres at Wabaseemoong Independent First Nations was made, but unfortunately the First Nation was unable to convene these sessions.

The FMPM requires that the planning team develop a Native Background Information Report and a Report on Protection of Identified Native Values for those communities which chose to participate in the native consultation process. The planning team decided to prepare the reports for each of the twelve communities. This approach was undertaken in the hopes that a proactive approach in assembling existing information for each community would assist the First Nations communities in understanding the nature and extent of the information that MNR has available. In addition, this approach provides a building block for First Nations if they choose to become involved in the forest management planning process in a future FMP. Both reports were provided to each of the twelve communities. The Background Report and Report on Protection of Identified Native Values are found in **Supplementary Documentation E**.

A number of issues were identified by First Nation communities and individuals during the preparation of this FMP as well on other occasions. The issues include:

- I The need for increased conifer allocations for First Nation communities.
- I Concerns with the quality of harvest blocks for the First Nation communities that do have a softwood allocation.
- I Concerns that forest operations are impacting traditional use of resources by First Nations.
- I Concern that First Nation communities are not benefiting from forest management activities.

Over the past number of years MNR Kenora District has attempted to address the above concerns by encouraging First Nations communities and individuals to participate in management activities such as tree planting, thinning and spacing. First Nation participation in forest management activities is summarized in the Background Reports for each First Nation.

Conifer opportunities are limited because of the commitments to existing contractors and mills. Opportunities exist however with the hardwood allocations because of the new Trus Joist mill proposed for the Kenora area. All of the twelve communities have been advised of the opportunities that the Trus Joist hardwood mill initiative presents. Trus Joist has been specifically directed to

consult with each First Nation on the opportunities in woodlands, mill and construction activities available.

Progress is being made on the collection of native value information. Currently there are two projects underway for the collection of native value information. One project is with the Anishinaabeg of Kabapikotawangag Resources Council Inc. which represents the six communities of Anishinaabeg of Naongashing (Big Island); Big Grassy First Nation; Northwest Angle #33 First Nation; Northwest Angle #37 First Nation; Ojibways of Onegaming First Nation and Wauzhushk Onigum First Nation. A second project is underway with Iskatewizaagegan First Nation.

Native value information will be incorporated into the FMP as it becomes available. Depending on the nature of the values information provided and their relationship with the planned activities, a plan amendment may be required. The type of plan amendment (administrative, minor or major) will be determined based on a review of the value information.

Summary

The above issues have been considered in the development of plan objectives and strategies; the analysis and evaluation of management alternatives; and in the development of operational alternatives and prescriptions.

(i) Names of the Kenora District Manager, Plan Author and Local Citizens Committee

Kenora District Manager: Fred S. Hall
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Plan Author: Alex Clark, RPF
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources

Local Citizens Committee:

Curt Sprague/Dave Schwartz, Wilderness Heritage & Community Keepers Organization

Mark Scott/Howie Adams, Independent Loggers

Carl Ridd, Lake of the Woods District Property Owners Association

Charlotte Caron/Gord Lemaistre, Forest Industry

Murray McDowall, Sportsmen Conservation Club

Vacant, Local Labour Unions

Alex Rheault, Tourist Industry

Clarke Anderson, Trappers & Bait Fishing

Vacant, Prospectors Representative

Vacant, First Nations Representative

Dianne Whyte, Secretary

(j) Schedule for Remaining Public Consultation

Stage Five	MNR Approval of Plan and Notice of Plan Inspection	February 6, 2001
	Last Opportunity for 'Bump-up' Request	March 7, 2001
	MOEE Decision on 'Bump-up' Request	
	Operations Commence	April 20, 2001

(k) Comment Sheet Kenora Forest Management Plan

Date: _____



Name: _____

Address: _____

Affiliation/Interest: _____

Telephone: _____

Note: Under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to seek public input on other resource management surveys and projects. Comments expressed will form part of the public record.

Do you consent to having the above personal information public?

Yes

No



Please take this time to review the questions listed below and answer where appropriate. If you would prefer, you may mail or drop the questionnaire off at the Ministry of Natural Resources Kenora District Office. If you require additional space, please use the back of this sheet. All public comments must be received at the Kenora District Office by March 7, 2001.

Do you know of any other values (eagle nests, moose aquatic feeding areas, areas of personal interest) that should be identified on the values map?

Do you have any comments about areas shown for forest management operations (harvest, roads, regeneration) in the upcoming 2001 plan?

If you wish to forward comments by mail:



Alex Clark, Plan Author
 Kenora Crown Forest Management Plan
 Ministry of Natural Resources
 P.O. Box 5080 Kenora, Ontario P9N 3X9
 Telephone: (807) 468-2516 Email: alex.clark@mnr.gov.on.ca

(l) Statement of Issue Resolution Process

There is an opportunity at any time during the forest management planning process for interested persons to seek resolution of issues with the plan author. If there is still dissatisfaction with the result of issue resolution with the plan author, the Ministry's District Manager and/or the Ministry's Regional Director will attempt to resolve the issue.

Any concerned party must follow the procedure outlined in 3.4 of the Forest Management Planning Manual to ensure that the issue is dealt with fairly, fully and promptly.

(m) Statement of "Bump-up" Request

There is an opportunity during the forest management planning process for interested persons to make a request to the Minister of the Environment that specific forest management activities require an individual environmental assessment under the *Environmental Assessment Act*.

The bump up procedure may be initiated during the planning process, but not later than 30 days following the final public notice for the FMP (Notice of Plan Inspection).