

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN EXTENSION

for the
ALGONQUIN PARK FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT

Prepared By: Algonquin Forestry Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources
and Forestry, Southern Region

for the Period April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021

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FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN EXTENSION

for the
ALGONQUIN PARK FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Southern Region
Algonquin Forestry Authority
for the Period from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021

I hereby certify that this forest management plan extension has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Management Planning Manual and the Forest Information Manual, and is consistent with the approved forest management plan.

Prepared by: _____ Feb 21, 2019
G.H. Cumming, R.P.F. (date)
Plan Author

Submitted by: _____ Feb 21, 2019
Jeff Leavey (date)
General Manager
Algonquin Forestry Authority

I recommend that this forest management plan extension be approved for implementation and certify that it has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Management Planning Manual and relevant policies and obligations (including any relevant MNR agreements with Indigenous peoples). I also certify that this forest management plan extension has been prepared using the applicable forest management guides. In this forest management plan extension, prescriptions that differ from specific direction or recommendations in the applicable forest management guides are identified in the attached List of Exceptions.

Certified and Recommended for Approval by:

_____ March 18, 2019
Renee Bowler Date
Regional Resources Manager, Southern Region

Approved by: _____ March 18, 2019
Sharon Rew Date:
Regional Director, Southern Region Forest

Information Portal Submission Identifier: [ID]

Note: The original signed and stamped version of this page is available at the office of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in Pembroke and the office of the Algonquin Forestry Authority in Huntsville.

1.0 Term of Forest Management Plan Extension

The 2010-2020 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Algonquin Park Forest is being extended for one year and will remain in force for the term of the extension (i.e. until March 31st, 2021).

2.0 Planned Operations:

2.1 The Planned Operations Being Extended

The 2010-2020 FMP planned regular available harvest area is 135,026 hectares, of which only 43,010 hectares (32%) have been harvested as of the end of the 2017-2018 reporting year. All remaining operations (harvest, renewal and tending, primary/branch road corridors) including contingency areas are being extended. The actual contingency area required will be detailed through a future amendment process. All annual operations will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual.

The 2010-2020 operations (harvest, renewal and tending, primary/branch road corridors) being extended are identified on the Algonquin Park Forest 2020-2021 Forest Management Plan Extension Summary Map.

2.2 The Planned Operations Not Being Extended

All of the remaining 2010-2020 operations (harvest, renewal and tending, primary/branch road corridors, etc.) have been included in this Forest Management Plan Extension.

3.0 Comments from the LCC

The Algonquin Park Local Citizens Committee (LCC) was provided a 30 day review and comment period on the Forest Management Plan Extension Proposal. During that review and comment period, one concern was raised by the forest industry representative about the possibility of not having enough area left to harvest in the extended plan, particularly summer area. A response was provided that this concern has been investigated and can be mitigated with options, including a potential amendment to add contingency area to the FMP. The LCC Chairman, as well as 9 other LCC members, indicated their support for the Forest Management Plan Extension proposal.

The LCC members were provided an opportunity to review the draft Plan Extension for a period of 30 days, January 7, 2019 to February 06, 2019. No further comments were received during the 30 day review period.

4.0 Summary of Results of Formal Consultation

4.1 Public Consultation

A direct written notice requesting comments on the draft FMP Extension was issued to persons and organizations who have identified themselves as having an interest in, or who are known to be directly affected by the planned operations to be implemented during the FMP extension. The draft FMP Extension was available for public viewing on the MNRF eFMP website for a period of 30 days, January 7, 2019 to February 06, 2019. Only two comments were received and are summarized in Section 5.1.

Upon approval, a public notice was issued to advise the public that the approved FMP Extension is available for inspection.

4.2 Indigenous Community Involvement and Consultation

Indigenous communities within or adjacent to the Algonquin Park Forest, that have been identified by the MNRF as having interests in forest management planning (as per Part A, Section 3.1.1 of the 2017 FMPM), were provided a 30 day review and comment period on the Forest Management Plan Extension Proposal (September 13, 2018-October 12, 2018). No concerns were identified regarding the Plan Extension Proposal. In addition, these communities were provided a direct written notice requesting comments on the draft FMP Extension. No concerns were identified as described in Section 5.2.

Upon approval, a direct written notice was issued to the following Indigenous communities within or adjacent to the Algonquin Park Forest to advise them that the approved FMP Extension is available for inspection:

Algonquins of Ontario communities:

- Mattawa/North Bay Algonquin First Nation
- Antoine First Nation
- Whitney and Area Algonquins
- Bonnechere Algonquin First Nation
- Algonquins of Greater Golden Lake First Nation
- Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation
- Snimikobi Algonquin First Nation
- Algonquin Nation Kijicho-Manito Madaouskarini (Bancroft)
- Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation
- Ottawa Algonquin First Nation

Williams Treaties communities:

- Alderville First Nation
- Beausoleil First Nation
- Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
- Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- Curve Lake First Nation
- Hiawatha First Nation

- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation

Kawartha Nishnawbe

Mattawa Métis Community Council

4.3 Issue Resolution

No requests for Issue Resolution were received related to this Plan Extension.

5.0 Supplementary Documentation:

5.1 Summary of Public Consultation

Table 1. Summary of Public Consultation

		INPUT	RESPONSE	
DATE	Affiliation	COMMENTS/DETAILS	DATE	DETAILS
07/01/2019	Member of public	Member of public reported difficulties when accessing/navigating MNRF eFMP website for plan extension documents.	08/01/2019	MNRF forester emailed plan extension text and summary map directly and provided additional instructions about how to access the MNRF website.
04/02/2019	Mill owner	Inquired if there were any major changes as part of Plan Extension; i.e. change in available land base.	04/02/2019	MNRF forester emailed that there are no changes to the land base and all remaining harvest area in FMP will be available during Extension year.

5.2 Summary of Indigenous Consultation

As mentioned above in section 4.2 no concerns were identified by Indigenous communities regarding the Plan Extension Proposal. During the review of the draft Plan Extension, only the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) requested further discussion. This discussion occurred during an AOO Parks and Forestry Working meeting on January 31, 2019 at the AOO office. The MNRF District Forester reviewed the Plan Extension with the AOO members at that meeting. No concerns with the Plan Extension were identified at this meeting.

5.3 Forest Management Plan Extension Proposal

Supplementary Documentation
Long-term Forest Management Plan Extension Proposal for the 2010-2020
Algonquin Park FMP

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN EXTENSION PROPOSAL
for the
ALGONQUIN PARK FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT

Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Southern Region
Algonquin Forestry Authority
for the Period from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021

I hereby certify that this forest management plan extension proposal has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Management Planning Manual and is consistent with the approved forest management plan.

Prepared by:

September 6, 2018

(R.P.F. seal)

Gordon Cumming, R.P.F.
Chief Forester
Algonquin Forestry Authority

Date:

September 6, 2018

Submitted by:

Jeff Leavey, General Manager
Algonquin Forestry Authority

Date:

I recommend that this forest management plan extension proposal be approved and certify that it has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Management Planning Manual (2017), relevant policies and obligations including any relevant Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry agreements with Indigenous peoples.

Certified and Recommended for Approval by:

October 18, 2018

Renee Bowler
Regional Resources Manager, Southern Region

Date

Approved by:

Sharon Rew
Regional Director, Southern Region

October 18, 2018

Date

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1. Management Unit Name

Algonquin Park Forest (MU 451).

2. Reason for the Forest Management Plan Extension

The Algonquin Forestry Authority is proposing to prepare a Forest Management Plan Extension (FMPE) for the Algonquin Park Forest for the following reasons:

- Planning for the originally scheduled 2020-2030 FMP is behind schedule and will not be completed in time to allow operations to proceed on April 1st 2020. The following factors have contributed to planning delays:
 - New eFRI inaccuracies and classification issues
 - Initial delays associated with establishing Indigenous consultation requirements and addressing Terms of Reference concerns
 - New planning requirements – e.g. requirements to use Landscape Guide forest units
 - New FMPM issues – unresolved new planning requirements (e.g. Silvicultural Enhancement Initiative)
 - FMP support tool issues (e.g. MIST)
 - AFA capacity issues – job vacancies, computer virus issues and other workloads
- The planned operations (access, harvest, renewal, and maintenance) in the current approved 2010-2020 FMP will not be completed by the end of the FMP period and the balance of planned operations that have not yet been carried out are deemed sufficient to cover an additional year of operations from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021. Some contingency area from the approved 2010-2020 FMP will also be required to ensure sufficient area and volume is available to fulfill all commitments.
- This FMPE will allow operations under the approved Algonquin Park 2010-2020 FMP to proceed uninterrupted for one additional year, thereby reducing forest management planning costs without negatively impacting the sustainability of the Algonquin Park Forest.

3. Type of Forest Management Plan Extension and proposed period

Algonquin Forestry Authority is proposing to prepare a long-term (one year) Forest Management Plan Extension for the Algonquin Park Forest. The plan extension will cover the period from April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

4. Forest Management Plan Extension planning implications for the new FMP

As would have been the case for a 2020 FMP, Algonquin Forestry Authority will be utilizing the 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual for the preparation of the 2021-2031 FMP including the LTMD.

In the preparation of the 2021-2031 Algonquin Park FMP, the planning team will make use of the appropriate existing science-based guides to evaluate strategies and develop management prescriptions that promote healthy ecosystems, sites, and natural populations. The *Forest*

Management Guide for Great Lakes St. Lawrence Landscapes (LG) requires new FMPs to examine forest landscape pattern, structure and composition, and incorporate expressions of landscape processes which all serve as measureable indicators for forest sustainability. The *Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales* (SSG) provides direction to FMP's on planning and conducting forest operations at the stand and site level. Both the LG and the SSG will be used in the 2021-2031 FMP.

The 2021-2031 FMP will make use of the existing guides and the Algonquin Park Management Plan for the protection of values (e.g. water quality, moose habitat, fish habitat, raptors nests, recreation, archaeological sites) through the development of Area of Concern (AOC) prescriptions to guide operations and maintain the integrity of these values. The Forest Management Guide for Cultural Heritage Values will also be utilized. The Management Guidelines for Forestry and Resource-Based Tourism will not be used as the Algonquin Park Management Plan is used in Algonquin Park to protect recreational values and other park values.

The 2021-2031 FMP will also be prepared using the Forest Management Guide to Silviculture in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence and Boreal Forest of Ontario. This guide provides planning teams with information and direction to develop silviculture ground rules to meet local forest management objectives.

The 2021-2031 Algonquin Park FMP will be developed using the enhanced Forest Resources Inventory (eFRI) imagery acquired in 2007 and 2009. Significant time and effort has been required to prepare and update this new eFRI for planning, which has been the primary source of delays for the originally scheduled 2020 FMP.

The plan preparation schedule for the 2021-2031 Algonquin Park FMP will be as follows:

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
| • Stage One: Invitation to Participate | December 6 2017 |
| • Stage Two: Review of Proposed Long-term Management Direction | April 2019 |
| • Stage Three: Review of Proposed Operations | October 2019 |
| • Stage Four: Review of Draft Forest Management Plan | June 2020 |
| • Stage Five: Inspection of MNRF-Approved FMP | October 2020 |
| • Final Plan Approval | November 2020 |
| • Final Plan Implementation | April 1, 2021 |

Stage One: Invitation to Participate was already issued in December 2017 under the originally planned 2020-2030 FMP schedule. The Invitation to Participate involved issuing a public notice to invite the public to participate in the development of the FMP.

5. Current Forest Management Plan progress

The Algonquin Park Forest is currently in the 9th year of the current approved 2010-2020 FMP.

The ten year FMP planned regular harvest area is 135,026 hectares, of which only 37,838 hectares were harvested as of the 2016-2017 reporting year (28%). During the 2017-2018 operating year, approximately 7,250 ha were harvested; the exact area harvested during this period will be reported in the 2017-2018 Annual Report in November 2018.

Refer to the Year 7 Annual Report for the Algonquin Park Forest on the MNRF eFMP website [here](#) for details of completed operations and harvest levels during the first seven years of the current 2010-2020 FMP.

While significant area remains in the current FMP, it is anticipated that certain areas and seasons will be tight for supply in 2019-21 given the complex markets for the Algonquin Park wood supply and the required timing restrictions to protect Park values. Spatial modeling of remaining areas in the current FMP has been conducted to help quantify these potential issues. Other planning options, such as the use of contingency area, will be required to resolve potential shortfalls.

6. Planned Operations

The proposed FMP extension will provide the Algonquin Forestry Authority the opportunity to complete more of the planned harvest operations in the currently approved 2010-2020 FMP. The completion of these areas will reduce the amount of harvest area to be re-allocated in the 2021-2031 FMP.

All operations (harvest, renewal and tending, and primary/branch road corridors) which have not been completed will be eligible for the Plan Extension period. All areas proposed for harvest and past harvest areas are also proposed for renewal and tending activities. Some contingency areas from the approved 2010-2020 FMP will also be required to ensure sufficient area and volume is available to fulfill all commitments.

7. Documentation requirements for the Forest Management Plan Extension

The 2010-2020 Algonquin Park Forest FMP one-year extension will be prepared by a plan author who is a registered professional forester and will include the following documentation:

- A title, certification and approval page.
- A statement that the current FMP (i.e., date) will be extended and that it will remain in force for the term of extension.
- A description of the planned operations that will be available during the one-year extension period.
- A description of any planned operations that are not being included in the plan extension.
- A map of the primary and branch road corridors and the harvest area which will be carried forward in the plan extension.
- Comments from the Local Citizens' Committee.
- Summary of the results of formal consultation, including public consultation, Indigenous community involvement and consultation, and issue resolution.
- The proposal, as part of the supplementary documentation.

8. Identification and description of notification and consultation with known affected persons

If the MNRF Regional Resources Manager is of the opinion that the preparation of the FMP extension proposal should proceed, the MNRF Regional Resources Manager will provide Indigenous communities and the LCC an opportunity to review the FMP extension proposal and provide comments. These comments, if any, will be considered, when deciding whether or not to recommend approval of the FMP extension proposal to the MNRF Regional Director.

A direct written notice will be issued at least 15 days prior to approval of the FMP extension. The direct notice will be issued to persons and organizations who have identified themselves as having an interest in or who are known to be directly affected by the planned operations to be implemented during this FMP extension. In addition to the content requirements identified in Sections of the FMPM (2017), the notices will:

- Include a statement that the public are asked to provide comments on the planned operations to be implemented during the FMP extension within 15 days of the notice.
- Include an explanation on how comments will be handled under relevant provisions of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.
- Identify that further public consultation may be required if concerns are raised.
- Include a statement that the plan extension will receive MNRF approval (by a specified date) if no concerns are raised.
- Identify the opportunity for resolution of issues which will be handled in accordance with the 2017 FMPM (Part C, Section 7.1.5 and Part A, Section 2.4.1).

Upon approval of the extension, the MNRF regional director will issue a public notice to advise the public that the approved FMP extension is available for inspection. In addition to the content requirements identified in Sections 7.1.1 of the FMPM (2017), the notices will:

- Include a statement to advise that the period of the current FMP has been extended.
- Identify the period of the FMP extension.

9. Identification and description of approach for Indigenous involvement and consultation

The following communities have been identified by the Zone Manager/District Manager as being in or adjacent to the Algonquin Park Forest, in accordance with Part A, Section 3.1.1 of the 2017 FMPM:

Algonquins of Ontario communities:

- Mattawa/North Bay Algonquin First Nation
- Antoine First Nation
- Whitney and Area Algonquins
- Bonnechere Algonquin First Nation
- Algonquins of Greater Golden Lake First Nation
- Algonquins of Pikwàkanagàn First Nation
- Snimikobi Algonquin First Nation
- Algonquin Nation Kijicho-Manito Madaouskarini (Bancroft)
- Shabot Obaadjiwan First Nation
- Ottawa Algonquin First Nation

Williams Treaties communities:

- Alderville First Nation
- Beausoleil First Nation
- Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation
- Chippewas of Rama First Nation
- Curve Lake First Nation
- Hiawatha First Nation
- Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation

Kawartha Nishnawbe

Mattawa Métis Community Council

For Indigenous communities where a customized consultation approach has been developed in accordance with Part A, Section 3.4 and contains provisions for a FMP extension, the provisions of that approach will be applied. For those identified Indigenous communities without a customized consultation approach, or if the Indigenous community chooses not to use the approach, communities will be sent written notification as per Part C, Section 7.7.1.2. This direct written notice will be provided to each Indigenous community for each public notice required as identified in Section 8.0 of this proposal. At the request of the community, an Indigenous information centre will be provided. Upon approval of the long-term FMP extension, a public notice will be issued and placed in the local Indigenous media where available.

A Summary of Indigenous Involvement will also be prepared by the MNRF in the preparation of the FMP extension.

10. Coordination of the interrelationships between the FMP, the annual work schedule(s), and management unit annual reports

An Annual Work Schedules (AWS) will be prepared for the one-year period of the extension (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021). A management unit Annual Report (AR) will be prepared for the period of the forest management plan extension (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021) and will be submitted by November 15, 2021. The enhanced AR requirements for the final year AR of the FMP will be prepared in the year following the completion of the plan extension.