



Nipissing Forest
Resource Management Inc.



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2009 - 2019

Forest Management Plan

Nipissing Forest

SECTION 7

Forest Management Plan Summary

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Index of Environmental Components of the FMP

Environmental Assessment Component	Section of Forest Management Plan	Page/Section Number
Background Information	Management Unit Description Supplementary Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ forest management guides used ▪ values map ▪ information on other forest resources ▪ Forest Resource Inventory update sources ▪ Aboriginal Background Information Report ▪ recommendations from year seven management unit annual report 	p.2-3 6.1.1 6.1.2 6.1.3 6.1.5 6.1.7 6.1.9
Description of the Environment Affected	Management Unit Description Harvest Operations Renewal and Tending Operations Roads Supplementary Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ forest management guides used ▪ values map ▪ information on other forest resources ▪ Forest Resource Inventory update sources ▪ Aboriginal Background Information Report ▪ digital stand list 	p.2-3 p.4-244 p.4-267 p.4-275 6.1.1 6.1.2 6.1.3 6.1.5 6.1.7 6.1.14
Description of the Selection of Operations and the Alternatives which were Considered	Long-Term Management Direction Harvest Operations Renewal and Tending Operations Prescriptions for Operations Roads Supplementary Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ analysis package ▪ road planning ▪ area of concern planning ▪ digital stand list 	p.3-73 p.4-244 p.4-267 p.4-200 p.4-275 6.1.6 6.1.12 6.1.13 6.1.14

Environmental Assessment Component	Section of Forest Management Plan	Page/Section Number
Description of the Proposed Activities	Harvest Operations Renewal and Tending Operations Prescriptions for Operations Roads Supplementary Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ road planning ▪ area of concern planning ▪ digital stand list 	p.4-244 p.4-267 p.4-200 p.4-275 6.1.12 6.1.13 6.1.14
Description of the Expected Effects on the Environment and Proposed Mitigation Measures	Long-Term Management Direction Operational Prescriptions for Areas of Concern Roads Supplementary Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ road planning ▪ area of concern planning 	p.3-73 p.4-200 p.4-275 6.1.12 6.1.13
Description of Proposed Monitoring	Silvicultural Ground Rules Operational Prescriptions for Areas of Concern Roads Monitoring and Assessment Supplementary Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ monitoring programs ▪ road planning ▪ area of concern planning 	p.3-87 p.4-200 p.4-275 p.4-281 6.1.1&6.1.29 6.1.12 6.1.13
Description of Public Consultation and A Summary of the Results	Supplementary Documentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ public consultation summary ▪ report of the local citizens committee ▪ issues addressed ▪ required alterations from draft plan review 	6.1.15 6.1.16 6.1.17 6.1.18
Any Other Environmental Assessment Matters		

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Local Citizens Committee's Statement of General Agreement with the Forest Management Plan

The LCC is in general agreement with the FMP as the best effort with the tools available. The Planning Team has considered many forest values and interests, some of which are diametrically opposed, and the draft FMP provides a reasonable balance of responses to those values and interests.

It is agreed that the FMP should result in sustainability of the forest ecosystems, although not necessarily with the make-up predicted by the models. There are reservations concerning the credibility of the outputs of the models due to much of the starting condition Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) having been derived from 1989 aerial photography and limited understanding, by the LCC, of how well the models reflect the complexity of the forest in a changing climate.

It is understood that the models are continually being improved and future Forest Management Plans will strive to correct past deviations from the desired outcomes.

General Description of the Forest

Overview

The Nipissing Forest covers more than half of North Bay District and comprises the southern portion of that district. The district is located in the south-eastern part of the Northeast Region. The Forest extends over 11,932 square kilometres and has a permanent population of approximately 86,000. The city of North Bay has a population of 56,000 and is a supply and communications centre for much of North-eastern Ontario. North Bay is a focal point for a ring of smaller, nearby communities. See Figure 1.

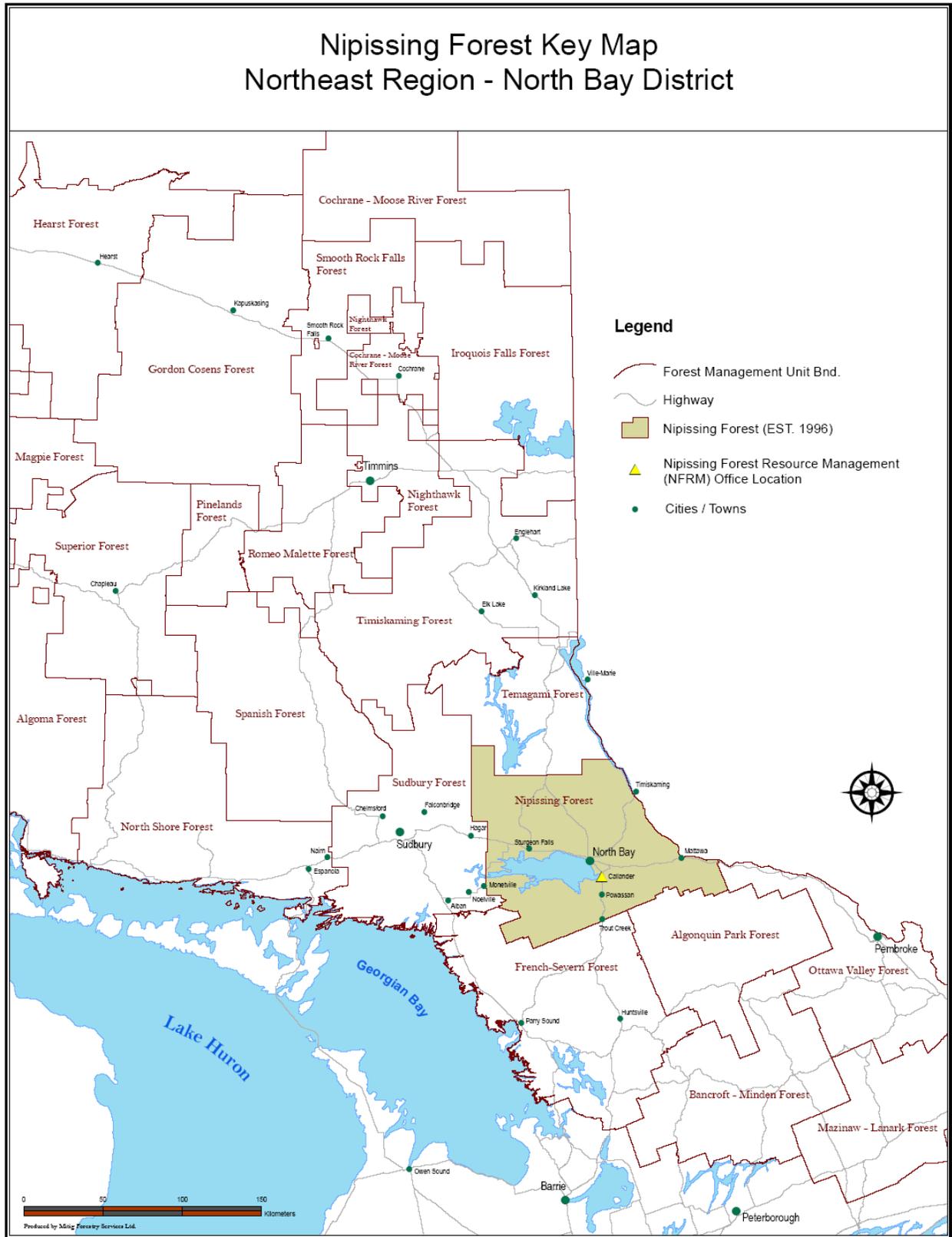
The Nipissing Forest is administered and managed by Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. (NFRM) under the authority of Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) No. 542053. The company is owned by its shareholders: R. Fryer Forest Products Limited, Goulard Lumber (1971) Limited, Tembec Industries Inc., Hec. Clouthier and Sons Inc., and Grant Forest Products Inc. The Sustainable Forest Licence, under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, is administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, North Bay district office. North Bay District reports administratively to the Regional Director of the Northeast Region, based in Timmins, Ontario.

There are 18 provincial parks, either partly or entirely, within the boundaries of the Nipissing Forest. The parks are: Amable du Fond, Alexander Lake Forest, Chiniguchi Waterway, French River, Jocko River, Kenny Forest, Manitou Islands, Marten River, Mashkinonje, Mattawa River, Ottawa River, Restoule, Samuel de Champlain, South Bay, Sturgeon River, Temagami River, West Sandy Island, and Widdifield Forest. There are 21 conservation reserves, either partly or entirely, within the Nipissing Forest.

Two First Nation Reserves, Dokis and Nipissing are situated in the western and central parts of the Forest respectively. Two other aboriginal communities, the Mattawa/North Bay Algonquins and the Antoine First Nation, are located in the Mattawa area, but do not have any reserve lands. The Temagami First Nation is located north of the Nipissing Forest, but uses parts of the Nipissing Forest for traditional uses. The provincial government has no land use jurisdiction on the Indian Reserves, but timber extraction is an important activity on these lands and many band members are involved in timber management on the adjacent Crown lands.

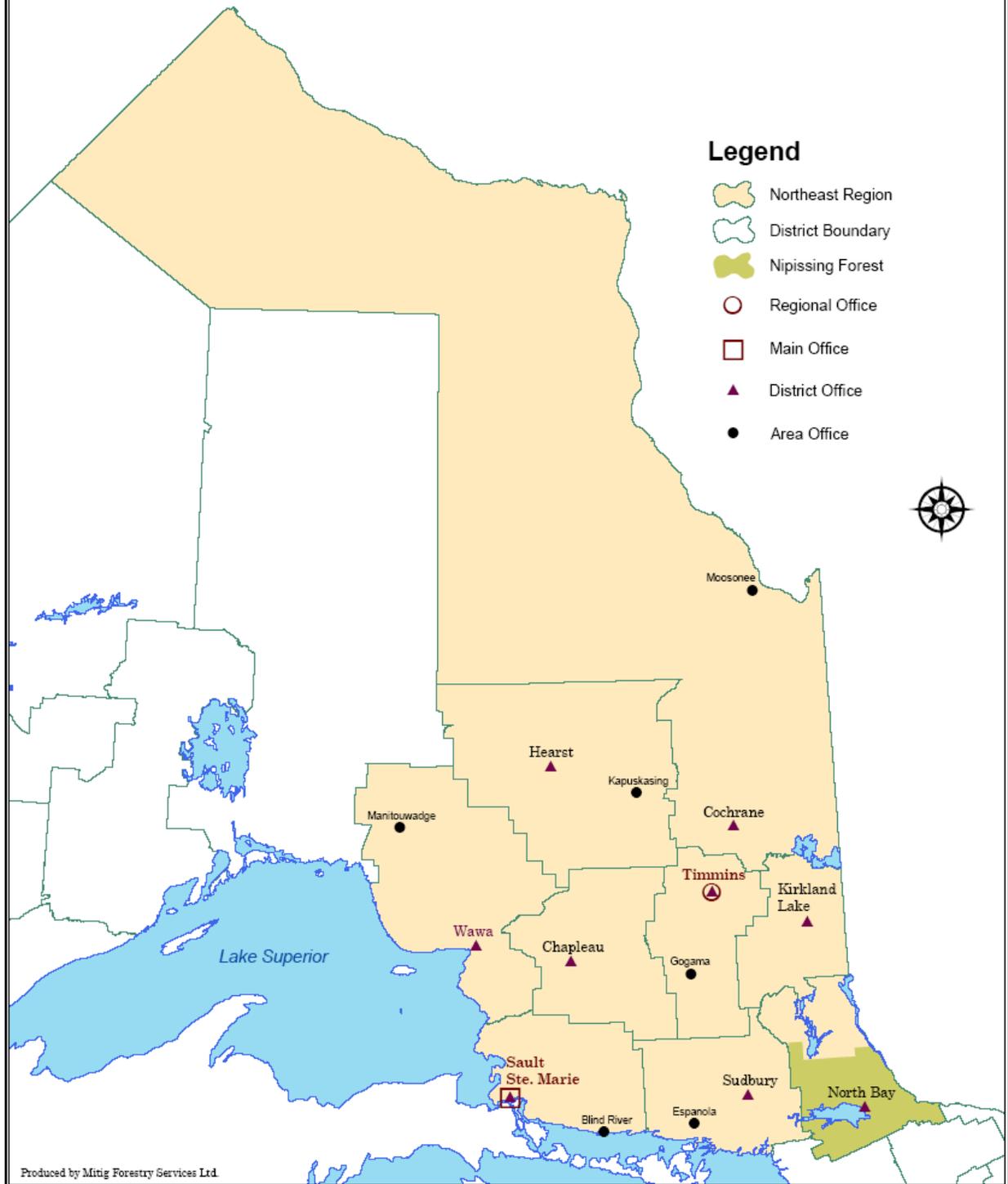
Two major provincial highways, #11 and #17, intersect in the city of North Bay, thus providing excellent access to the north, south, east and west parts of the district. Numerous secondary highways branch off from these two creating an elaborate grid of primary access into all corners of the district. Besides provincial highways, most townships have a network of municipal and local roads. The logging roads, constructed primarily for wood harvesting, are maintained by logging companies. Recent government funding has allowed the forest industry to upgrade many of the primary forest access roads within the Forest

Figure 1: Key Maps of the Nipissing Forest Management Unit



Northeast Region

Ministry Of Natural Resources - Administrative Boundaries



A number of mills receive wood fibre from the Nipissing Forest, but not all of them are entirely dependent on the unit for their timber supplies. The major wood processing facilities that draw their wood supplies from the area are listed in Figure 2. The four mills below, identified with an *, are physically located in the management unit.

Figure 2: A list of the major mills historically receiving wood from the Nipissing Forest Management Unit.

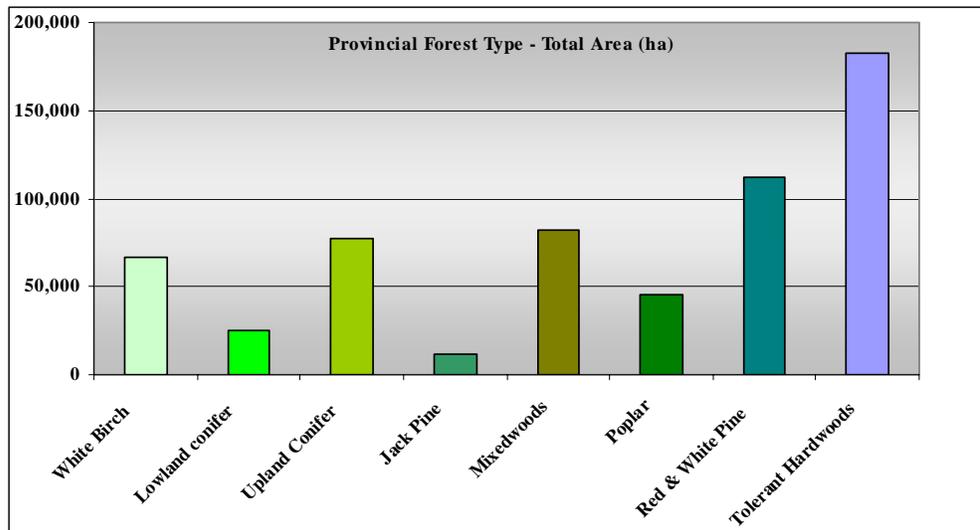
Mill	Community in Ontario, unless otherwise noted
Abitibi Bowater	Iroquois Falls
Ben Hokum & Son Ltd.	Killaloe
Columbia Forest Products Ltd.*	Rutherglen, Hearst
Domtar Corp	Espanola, Nairn Centre, Elk Lake
Goulard Lumber (1971) Ltd.*	Sturgeon Falls
Grant Forest Products Inc.	Engelhart, Timmins
H & R Chartrand Lumber Ltd.	Noelville
Herb Shaw & Sons Ltd.	Petawawa
Liskeard Lumber Ltd.	Elk Lake
Northern Pressure Treated Wood Ltd.	Kirkland Lake
Precut Hardwood*	North Bay
R. Fryer Forest Products Limited	Monetville
St.Marys Paper Corp.	Sault Ste. Marie
Tembec Industries Inc.*	Mattawa, Kenogami
AbitibiBowater.	Quebec
Les Industries Davidson Inc.	Quebec
Les Industries L.P.B. Inc.	Quebec
Maibec Industries	Quebec
Smurfit-Stone	Portage, Quebec
Tembec Inc. (Temiskaming)	Temiskaming, Bearn, Quebec
Temlam (Ville-Marie)	Ville-Marie, Quebec

The Nipissing Forest is just over one million hectares including forested area, water and other non-forested areas. 74% of the total management unit is Crown (67% in managed plus 7% in parks); 23% is patent land; and 3% is other. The Crown owned land represents 843,546 ha and includes land and water. Of this, 9% (78,964 ha) is in parks, protected areas and conservation reserves and 91% (764,582 ha) is Crown managed area. 49% (552,298 ha) of the Nipissing Forest is classified as Crown productive forest, available for timber production, with the remaining 51% consisting of other land types (water, non-forested land, patent, federal, Crown parks and non-productive Crown forest).

Forest types

The forest types on the managed portion of the Nipissing Forest that cover the greatest area are tolerant hardwood (TOL) at 31% and white and red pine (PWR) at 18%. The mixedwood (MIX) forest type at 14%, mixed conifer upland (MCU) at 13% and white birch (BWT) at 11% are also significant in size. The same five forest types are also dominant in parks and other protected areas. These five forest types make up 86% of the managed forest. See figure 3.

Figure 3: Provincial Forest Type Summary



On the Nipissing Forest, the tolerant hardwood forest type is the most common and is made up predominantly of hard maple. Hard maple is found throughout the forest, most frequently on fresh to moist glacial tills. It is most common as pure stands, but is also associated with yellow birch, hemlock, beech, balsam fir and white spruce. Maple stands in the northern portion of the district are generally poorer in quality than those south of Lake Nipissing due, primarily, to differences in climate. Hard maple is represented in all age classes with the majority between 60 and 140 years of age. Categorized into the TOL provincial forest type is the area in hemlock on the forest. Although this is a small amount, hemlock is important to several wildlife species. White-tailed deer, for example, make use of stands of hemlock as wintering areas.

There are 112,420 ha in the PWR forest type, which constitutes just over 18% of the managed forest. Because of past heavy logging of white pine and red pine, an objective is to increase the amount of area in this forest type. This objective has been carried forward from the 1999 and 2004 plan (see Section 3.6, Objectives). Table FMP-2 shows a reduced number of hectares in the 40-80 age class compared to the other age classes. This is the result of the combination of the predominance of mature white pine and the increase in red pine plantations established over the last 45 years. The current forest only has about half of the red and white pine that there was at the beginning of the last century (around 1900). One of the consequences of this is that there is much more area in the intolerant species, poplar and white birch.

At about 14% of the managed Crown forest, the MIX forest type is the third most prevalent on the Nipissing Forest. This forest type is made up of areas with generally no more than 20% of any species dominating the stand. Almost as common as the MIX grouping, covering almost 13% of the managed forest is the forest type MCU, made up of primarily spruce, pine and fir with the presence of some intolerant hardwoods.

The BWT forest type covers about 61,179 hectares of the managed Crown forest. White birch can be found in relatively pure stands, as well as associated with poplar, balsam fir, white spruce, black spruce, hard maple and white pine on the Forest. White birch can be found on most soil types in the area, however the best growth and quality is found on deep, fresh, loamy tills. BWT stands on dry sands are often the result of wildfires. Many stands that used to be primarily white pine or red pine are now dominated by white birch because of removal of the pine in past logging operations.

The POP forest type is found on 40,609 ha throughout the Nipissing Forest on a wide range of sites from silty to fine sands and tills. It is more common in the northwest portion of the forest and in the area adjacent to Lake Nipissing. The POP forest type contains mainly trembling aspen and large tooth aspen. Balsam fir is also present, but to a much lesser extent. Most of the area in the poplar working group is 60 to 100 years old. This is mainly the result of past logging practices where pine and spruce were removed from these areas.

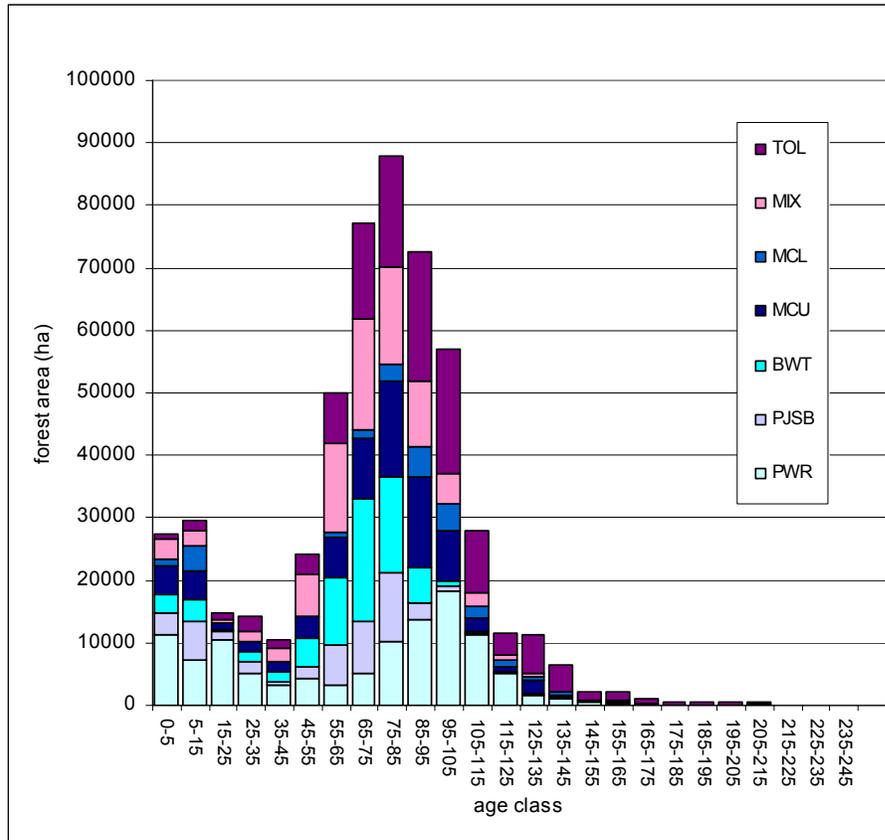
MCL is one of the smaller forest types on the Nipissing Forest, encompassing only 4% of the total Crown forest. These low lying areas are dominated by spruce, cedar and larch.

The PJK forest type is found on only about 2% of the Nipissing Forest. The best jack pine is found in the northeast and northwest corners of the district on coarse sands and gravels. Poor quality stands are found in different parts of the district on dry shallow pockets of soil between exposed bedrock. Stands in the south and west are poor quality due to site conditions and also because of attacks from the jack pine budworm in 1969, 1970, and again in the mid-1990's

Worth noting with regards to smaller forest conditions on the Forest, are the five working groups on the managed forest that are 1,000 ha to 5,000 ha in size; these are oak (4,610 ha), mixed spruce (3,176 ha), mixed maple (2,175 ha), larch (2,147 ha) and ash (1,317 ha). The two smallest working groups are other hardwoods (222 ha), which includes basswood, ironwood and black cherry; and Scots pine with only 33 ha.

The current forest has just over half of the total Crown forest area clustered in the 61-100 age classes. Approximately 17% of the area is in the age classes of 0-40 years and 3.0% in the oldest age classes (141 years+). Objectives and strategies have been developed so that the future forest composition will be more similar to the way it would occur naturally. Age class distribution for each forest type is displayed graphically in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Ageclass Distribution of the Current Forest Condition by Provincial Forest Type



Habitat

The Nipissing Management Unit is a diverse forest of both Great Lakes-St Lawrence (GLSL) and Boreal Forest types. The landscape provides for a diverse range of flora and fauna including; 51 mammals, 23 reptiles and amphibians, and over 200 bird species.

Three provincially featured species are found on the Nipissing Forest. Moose occur throughout the management unit, except in the heavily populated or agricultural areas. The key components of moose habitat are semi-mature and mature conifer stands, young deciduous stands, aquatic feeding areas, mineral licks and calving sites. The pileated woodpecker is considered a keystone species in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Forest. It inhabits a wide range of older (60-160 years) aged Great Lakes-St Lawrence/Transitional forest types. Poplar, white and red pine, black and white spruce, balsam fir and white birch appear to be central components of preferred habitat. White-tailed deer are found primarily in the southern portion of the Forest. The Wildlife Management Unit WMU 41, 47, and 48 herds are currently listed as increasing or at or above carrying capacity. The main wintering areas are around Golden Valley, Loring, and near Mattawa. WMU 47 is home to the largest traditional deer wintering yard in the province, the Loring Deer Yard (LDY). The critical habitat components for deer are conifer shelter, early successional stage hardwood stands, openings (including log landings, clearings and fields) and forest stands containing oak and beech trees.

Old-Growth species represent a range of over-mature habitat conditions on the forest landscape. The long-term sustainability of habitat for the American black bear (fall habitat), black-backed woodpecker, Canada lynx, and ruby-crowned kinglet are a mandatory component of the planning process.

Fisheries & Wetlands

There are 1453 lakes within the Nipissing Forest. A total of 949 km of cold water streams and 526 km of warm water streams, considered significant to the fisheries, wind their way through the management unit. Water bodies located in the eastern portion of the forest drain into the Mattawa-Ottawa River system, and eventually make their way into the St. Lawrence River. Waters in the western part of the unit flow into the Sturgeon River-Lake Nipissing-French River drainage system and on into Georgian Bay.

Only 12.8 percent of the surface area of water in the management unit is made up of cold water lakes, rivers, and streams. A large percentage of these water bodies occur in the easternmost portion of the unit, including McConnell, Timber, and Guilmette Lakes, while the majority of the remaining cold water sites are located in the north-west corner (Emerald, Manitou and Red Cedar Lakes). Trout Lake's land-locked Atlantic salmon (ouananiche) population is a unique resource since the species exists here outside of its normal range. Cold water fish species tend to be quite sensitive to disturbances to water quality and to shoreline habitat. The prescription for coldwater fisheries and the self-sustaining lake trout and brook trout lakes area of concern prescriptions are two mechanisms used in this Plan to further enhance or protect existing coldwater fisheries.

Located centrally, Lake Nipissing is the largest body of water in the Forest. It accounts for two-thirds of the fishing pressure and 81 percent of the total harvest, by weight, in the management unit. Other heavily fished warm water lakes in the district include Lake Nosbonsing, Wasi Lake, and Commanda Lake. These lakes, located in the southern portion of the management unit, draw both tourists and locals in search of walleye and other game fish.

Wetlands of various sizes and types are scattered throughout the Forest, and are often associated with lake, river and stream systems. These aquatic systems can serve as important travel corridors and feeding areas for many wildlife species. They provide critical habitat for many plant and animal species, including many of the furbearers (e.g., beaver, mink, muskrat). Wetlands are also important fish habitat. Some species of fish, such as northern pike and muskellunge rely on wetlands as spawning areas. For other species, wetlands can be valuable feeding or food-producing areas, providing frogs, insects, bait fish and other food. Wetlands also serve other important functions such as: ground water recharge and discharge; flood damage reduction; shoreline stabilization; sediment trapping; and nutrient retention and removal.

Provincially significant wetlands identified to date are:

Wetland Name	Township(s)
Cache Bay	Caldwell, Springer
Callander Bay	North Himsworth, West Ferris
Chippewa Creek	Widdifield
Duchesnay Creek	Merrick, Widdifield
Fish Bay	Nipissing
Gauthier Creek	West Ferris
Jessup's Creek	West Ferris
LaVase River/Dreany	East Ferris, West Ferris
Loudon Basin Peatland	Loudon
Parks Creek	Widdifield
Rice Bay	Bonfield, Phelps
Upper Wasi River	Chisholm

Other Forest Resources

Eight old growth sites have been identified on the Nipissing Forest. All eight are protected in the ministry's land use planning documents within parks or conservation reserves. Seven contain representative old growth red and white pine; one, Widdifield Forest, supports large old growth yellow birch and hard maple. The parks and conservation reserves protecting these stands are follows:

○ Gooderham Old Growth White Pine Forest Conservation Reserve	82 ha
○ McLaren Forest Conservation Reserve	410 ha
○ God's Lake Old Growth White Pine Forest Conservation Reserve	354 ha
○ Boom Creek Conservation Reserve	590 ha
○ Ottertail Creek Conservation Reserve	949 ha
○ Mattawa River Provincial Park Additions	10,687 ha
○ Alexander Lake Forest Provincial Park	1,934 ha
○ Widdifield Forest Provincial Park	2,170 ha

Species at risk (SAR) are a part of the natural ecosystem and have intrinsic ecological, social and cultural value for the people of Ontario. It is a mandatory requirement of the FMPM to ensure that species currently listed at risk in Ontario on our forests are included in the forest management planning process. For this plan, this includes the red-shouldered hawk and the southern flying squirrel. There are numerous other species at risk on the Nipissing Forest; for a complete list see section 2.2.5 of the Plan. There are currently no forest-dwelling flora SAR documented on the Forest.

The red-shouldered hawk is a species at risk that inhabits the Nipissing Forest. It is currently ranked as special concern. The red-shouldered hawk prefers mature-to-over-mature tolerant

hardwoods in close proximity to riparian hunting grounds away from human infrastructure such as roads and buildings.

The southern flying squirrel is currently listed as special concern. It is a species that is experiencing a northward-range expansion and has been documented and successfully captured as far north as Lake Temagami. The southern flying squirrel is a secondary cavity nester that prefers large-diameter hardwoods for nesting and mast producing trees such as oak and beech for feeding.

In August of 2007 NFRM released a report called *High Conservation Value* Forest in the Nipissing Forest SFL with the subtitle *An assessment of forest values and their conservation in the Nipissing SFL from a global, regional and local perspective based on the Forest Stewardship Council's Principle 9*. This report is available by link on the NFRM website, www.nipissingforest.com.

Long-Term Management Direction

The long-term management direction (LTMD) for the management unit provides guidance for the levels of access, harvest, renewal and tending activities required to achieve the desired forest and benefits. In the development of the long-term management direction, management objectives and indicators were identified and analytical methodologies, models, and tools regarding forest regulation, social and economic assessment, wildlife habitat supply and landscape management were used. This information is discussed in more detail in sections 3.2 through 3.6 of the FMP. All of this information is used in the development of a management strategy (section 3.7) that balances social, economic, and biological objectives over the long-term.

Major considerations in the development of the LTMD were focused on social, economic and environmental variables such as the future forest condition, spatial wildlife habitat and old growth forests, emulating natural disturbance, climate change, utilization and harvest stability, aboriginal interests and resource based tourism.

The construction of five primary road corridors is proposed in the 2009-2019 FMP. These primary roads will access harvest areas and allow for the conduct of silviculture treatments for the next 10 years. The roads are also intended to provide long-term access to future harvest areas for the next 20 years.

Two of the above corridors (Lasalle Extension Road and the Gooderham Extension Road) were approved in the 2004-2024 FMP, but have not been constructed to date, so they have been included in the 2009-2019 FMP. The planning team reviewed the corridors and determined that no further planning is required since the primary corridors being carried over are consistent with the previous approved FMP. The 500m primary road corridors are mapped exactly as approved in the 2004 FMP and the use management strategies remain the same.

The level of harvest, as well as the criteria used in the selection of harvest areas (sections 3.8 and 3.9 of the FMP), is established for the 10 year period of the Plan. These criteria are based on

forest regulation, models and tools that determine the available harvest area for each forest unit (FU) on the Forest.

The long-term management direction also provides a means of assessing the sustainability of the management strategy through the measurement and monitoring of indicators that have been developed for each management objective (section 3.10 of the FMP). These management objectives were developed by the planning team and Nipissing Local Citizen's Committee (LCC) and form the basis on which to develop the desired forest and benefits.

Forest Units and Silvicultural Ground Rules

A forest unit is an aggregation of forest stands for management purposes which has similar species composition, develops in a similar manner (both naturally and in response to silvicultural treatments) and is managed under the same silvicultural system. Forest units are among the fundamental building blocks of a forest management plan. They are used to describe current, and project future, forest conditions in the FMP.

Silviculture prescriptions for each forest unit are composed of a set of instructions or methods, compiled into a silvicultural ground rule (SGR). The components of a prescription are harvest method, logging method, site preparation, regeneration, and tending. For each of these components, there is a specific instruction/method that is commonly used when managing each forest unit present on the Nipissing Forest. The preferred silvicultural ground rule is described below for each forest unit.

BW – White Birch, Poplar Mix

- Harvest and logging method: clearcut harvest with retained standards using full tree logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: natural from retained standards
- Tending: none

BY – Yellow Birch

- Harvest and logging method: seeding cut in a good seed year (target of 50% crown closure) within a uniform shelterwood 2 cut harvest system using tree-length logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: natural from residual growing stock
- Tending: improvement cut (even-aged) usually concurrent with harvest

HDSEL – Tolerant Hardwood Selection

- Harvest and logging method: single tree selection targeting 20 m² of residual basal area (6,6,5,3) using tree-length logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: continuous ingress of natural regeneration in single tree gaps
- Tending: improvement cut (even-aged) usually concurrent with harvest

HDUS – Tolerant Hardwood Shelterwood

- Harvest and logging method: seeding cut (target of 50% crown closure) within a uniform shelterwood 2 cut harvest system using tree-length logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: natural from residual growing stock
- Tending: none

HE – Hemlock

- Harvest and logging method: combined preparation/seeding cut (target of 60-70% crown closure) within a uniform shelterwood 3 cut harvest system using tree-length logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: natural from residual growing stock
- Tending: none

LWMX – Lowland Mixedwood

- Harvest and logging method: combined seeding/first cut (target of 50% crown closure) within a uniform shelterwood 2 cut harvest system using tree-length logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: natural from residual growing stock (retained conifer component consistent with original stand content)
- Tending: none

MCL – Mixed Conifer Lowland

- Harvest and logging method: clearcut harvest with retained standards and seed trees using full tree logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: natural from retained trees
- Tending: none

MW – Mixedwood

- Harvest and logging method: clearcut harvest with retained standards and seed trees using full tree logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: natural from retained trees (conifer component to be maintained without supplemental treatment)
- Tending: none

PJ – Jack Pine

- Harvest and logging method: clearcut harvest with retained standards using full tree logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: plant jack pine
- Tending: aerial or ground application of herbicide

PJSB – Jack Pine Upland Black Spruce Mix

- Harvest and logging method: clearcut harvest with retained standards using full tree logging method
- Site Preparation: aerial or ground application of herbicide
- Regeneration: plant mix of black spruce and jack pine
- Tending: aerial or ground application of herbicide

PO – Poplar

- Harvest and logging method: clearcut harvest with retained standards using full tree logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: natural from retained standards through root/stump suckers or seed
- Tending: none

PR – Red Pine

- Harvest and logging method: commercial thinning (removing 25% or 33% depending upon age) using either tree length or cut to length logging method
- Site Preparation: none
- Regeneration: none
- Tending: none

PWST – White Pine Seed Tree

- Harvest and logging method: clearcut harvest with retained seed trees using full tree logging method
- Site Preparation: mechanical or chemical site preparation
- Regeneration: plant mix of white & red pine & white spruce
- Tending: aerial or ground application of herbicide if required

PWUS – White Pine Uniform Shelterwood – 2 equally common prescriptions

- Harvest and logging method: combined preparation/seeding cut (target of 40% crown closure), and, first removal cut (target of 20-35% crown closure) within a uniform shelterwood 3 or 4 cut harvest system using tree-length logging method in both cases
- Site Preparation: mechanical scarification in combined preparation/seeding cuts, and mechanical or chemical site preparation in first removal cuts
- Regeneration: natural from residual growing stock, however, supplemental planting is expected
- Tending: aerial or ground application of herbicide if required

SF – Spruce/Fir

- Harvest and logging method: clearcut harvest with retained standards and seed trees using full tree logging method
- Site Preparation: mechanical or chemical site preparation
- Regeneration: plant mix of white and black spruce
- Tending: aerial or ground application of herbicide

Plan Objectives and Indicators

Work completed by the planning team, the Nipissing LCC and the AWG (Aboriginal Working Group) to consider and refine the DFBW and AWG consultation results, as well as the FMPM and all other applicable forest management guides and guidelines, yielded 42 objectives and 61 indicators, thus providing over 1000 measures of sustainability. The planning team set a desired level, or a specific number, range or trend for each indicator, to be achieved and maintained over time. Accompanying the desired level is a target, with a specific number, range or trend and a timeframe for achievement. One or more desired levels and targets have been identified for each indicator. The desired level is intended to reflect the planning team's interpretation of moving towards the emulation of natural processes on the landscape, or meeting a series of environmental, economic or social values. The target may be the same as, or different from, the desirable level of the indicator, but it has remained consistent with or established movement toward, the desired level. Rationale for all desired levels and targets has been documented by the planning team, and is contained in section 6.1.26 of the FMP.

All indicators developed for the Plan are quantifiable. The establishment of a target for each management objective often reflects the necessity to balance conflicting management objectives. Targets may be the same, or differ from the desired levels. The strategic forest management model (SFMM) was used to develop a management strategy that balances the achievement of related management objectives over time. In order to measure each objective and its related indicators, one or more measures were assigned for each indicator. There are objectives for forest diversity, social and economic values, silviculture, and provision of forest cover for those values that are dependent on the Crown forest.

Management Strategy

The management strategy is a balance in the achievement of management objectives. The management strategy model run is included in digital format in the Analysis Package, a supplemental document to the FMP. The development of the management strategy was supported by findings within scoping analysis in SFMM as well as other forms of spatial analysis. The modeling outputs project how the forest develops through time, in terms of its structure and composition and the projected types and levels of activities required to achieve the management objectives. The model outputs include:

- a) Projected forest condition for the Crown productive forest (Text 3.7&FMP-7)
- b) Projected habitat for selected wildlife species (Text 3.7&FMP-8)
- c) Projected available harvest area by forest unit (Text 3.7&FMP-9)
- d) Projected available harvest volume by species group (Text 3.7&FMP-10); and
- e) Projected operations, revenues and expenditures (Text 3.7&FMP-11).

Objective Achievement

A subset of objectives and indicators that required measurement through time was assessed using SFMM, and balanced as part of the requirements of the management strategy. A total of 15 objectives and 26 indicators were assessed within the SFMM for achievement of sustainability of the Plan. In addition, seven other objectives were assessed, outside of the SFMM model, to evaluate spatial disturbance pattern and preferred wildlife habitat as a result of selecting the

preferred allocation on the landscape. The consideration of these seven objectives will continue until the selected areas of operations are in place and approved in the final Plan.

The achievement of individual management objectives was assessed using the results of the forest modeling for the management strategy, preliminary spatial assessments, and other plan components up to stage four of public consultation of the forest management planning process. A refined set of management objectives and indicators, as well as the full Assessment of Objective Achievement is found in FMP-13 and Plan section 3.10.

Preliminary Determination of Sustainability

The planning team and Nipissing LCC were presented with the Preliminary Determination of Sustainability of the Long-Term Management Direction on January 21, 2008. The strategic direction of the Plan was presented to the Regional Director on February 29, 2008. Public review of the Long-Term Direction and Management Strategy included an opportunity to comment at Stage Two - Review of Proposed Long-Term Management Direction. Once alterations resulting from public comment and MNR review were addressed, the preliminary endorsement of the LTMD was granted by the Regional Director, MNR Northeast Region on April 17, 2008. Following shortly, in April of 2008, came Stage Three – the First Information Centre Review of Preferred Operations. These took place in four communities on the management unit, with comment periods extending for 60 days following.

Planned Operations

Section 4.0 of the FMP describes the planned operations for the first five-year term. The text in the following sections provides a summary the selected operations in terms of the harvest operations, the renewal and tending operations, roads planning, revenues and expenditures related to the operations, and the monitoring and assessment of operations. The areas selected for operations as well as areas eligible for renewal and tending are illustrated on two key maps located in Appendix D of this document, as well as in full operational scale in section 6.1.2 of the FMP. The selected primary and branch road corridors in the 2009 Plan are illustrated in a series of map products located in Appendix E of this document, as well as section 6.1.2 of the FMP.

Harvest Area

Section 4.3 of the FMP discusses the planned harvest operations for the first five-year term (2009-2014) and those preferred for the second five year term (2014-2019). The total projected available harvest area plus the mid-rotation tending figure from SFMM (commercial thinning of red pine plantations) and the total forecast harvest area for the ten-year period is 91,144 ha and 91,027 ha respectively. The selected harvest allocations do not exceed the available harvest area for any forest unit. Table 1 below illustrates the available, forecast, planned and contingency harvest areas for the FMP.

The planned harvest areas are made up of just under the half way mark of the forecast figure, at 43,607.8 hectares. The planning team set a target that allowed some flexibility between terms, to allow for operational realities of block allocation over a ten-year period. The remaining 51 percent of the forecast has had all required area of concern and roads planning completed,

however they will be confirmed and changed if necessary when Phase II planning and the associated public consultation are completed (consultation scheduled for the year 2012).

Table 1: Available, forecast, planned and contingency harvest areas

Forest Unit	Harvest area (ha)			
	Available 10-year	Forecast 10-year	Planned First 5-year Term	Contingency Area
BW	8,362	8,361.9	4201.7	1,768
BY	1,972	1,971.5	1,062.8	378
HDUS	14,521	14,520.0	6,325.4	2,390
HE	2,605	2,603.1	1,011.7	276
LWMX	1,830	1,830.0	890.7	914
MCL	1,429	1,428.1	827.9	467
MW	7,474	7,472.9	3,676.9	2,113
PJ	815	813.1	352.4	251
PJSB	2,323	2,323.9	954	697
PO	4,243	4,243.6	1,991.8	949
PR	1,069.0	964.1	499.3	381
PWST	3,717	3,715	1,971.2	1,119
PWUS	12,403	12,399.8	6,116.3	3,160
SF	9,941	9,939.2	4,872.0	1,584
HDSEL	18,440	18,441.3	8,854.0	3,010
Total	91,144.0	91,027.5	43,607.8	19,458
Source	FMP-15			FMP-20

Planned clearcuts are discussed in section 4.3.4 and are summarized in Table FMP-16 of the FMP, including rationale for those that are greater than 260 ha in size. The FMP requires the FMP to achieve a ratio of greater than or equal to 90% of clearcuts in the first five year term to be less than 260 hectares in size. In the first five-year term of this Plan, 90% (163 clearcuts) of planned clearcuts are less than 260 hectares while 10% (18 clearcuts) of planned clearcuts are larger than 260 hectares. In general, the majority of clearcuts on the Forest include a variety of forest units and are often mixed with other silviculture systems such as seedtree, shelterwood and selection. A variety of sizes of clearcuts were required to meet other landscape pattern objectives to emulate a natural disturbance pattern on the landscape. The maximum planned clearcut size is 2,752 hectares. This clearcut is comprised of 934 ha of planned harvest area and 1,818 ha of existing clearcut disturbance from past plans. The average planned clearcut size in the 2009 Plan is 158.5 hectares.

There is currently no surplus harvest area being declared in the 2009 FMP.

Harvest Volume

The forecast harvest volume for the 10-year period is 7,367,533 m³; 4,037,709 m³ is hardwood and 3,329,824 m³ is conifer. This information is provided in greater detail in FMP-17 and FMP-18, in section 9.0 of the FMP.

The available volume projected in the forest management model consisted of 4,076,000 m³ of hardwood representing a 1.4% variance from the forecasted levels. 3,364,200 m³ of conifer represents a 1.8% variance from forecasted levels. The forecast volume is averaged at approximately 81 m³/ha, which is increased from the 2004 FMP by approximately 4 m³/ha. This value is more consistent with actual volume achievement analysis in recent annual reports.

FMP-18, located in section 9.0 of the FMP, details the wood that is utilized and unutilized by licensee grouping in this Plan and FMP-19 details the wood utilization by mill for the Plan. Both tables identify some surplus volume (approximately 35,000 m³/yr) in cedar, other conifer, hemlock, yellow birch and other hardwood. Unutilized conifer is in a combination of pulp and sawlog products, where unutilized hardwood is in pulp product only.

As noted in FMP-19, all but two of MNR's wood supply commitments are projected to be achieved. Shortages in birch sawlog are subsidized with tolerant hardwood sawlog for the supply agreement for Tembec's sawmill in Mattawa, Ontario. With the exception of white birch sawlogs, Tembec's mill requirements can be met from the Nipissing Forest through open market purchases. Wood directives and open market purchases to Tembec's Mills in Mattawa and Temiskaming are more complicated. Some volumes of species and products cannot be obtained from Tembec's traditional operating area as originally planned. These shortages however can be met from open market purchases and or by substituting other species to meet the total demand for the two mills.

While all of the tolerant hardwood veneer from the supply is being directed to Columbia Forest Products in Rutherglen, Ontario, the supply is short of the demand by approximately 11,000 m³, for the 10-year period. Shortages of veneer to Columbia Forest Products are expected to continue over the period of this Plan. However, NFRM's Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Columbia Forest Products is to "make available all veneer white birch and tolerant hardwood logs". This will ensure that all available volumes are delivered to Columbia Forest Products' mill in Rutherglen. Similarly, the MOA with Grant Forest Products is to "sell all volumes of non-veneer poplar" to ensure that the current wood supply commitment will be met.

Achievements of the majority supply agreements contribute the long-term stability of the mills. The outcome shown in FMP-19 was produced by first fulfilling the supply commitments as described in letter from the Northeast Regional MNR office and then assigning any remaining volume to the open market demand developed by the planning team, via the utilization task team.

Quebec facilities have traditionally consumed 28% of the volume from the Forest. The Tembec Temiskaming facility represents the single largest user of round wood from the Forest. A small volume of wood has been identified as being available to facilities in the province of Quebec. This open market demand is important to achieve the full utilization levels and for this reason, it has been recognized in the Plan.

With the exception of the Tembec's mill in Temiskaming (which is subject to a supply agreement recognizing Ontario Crown wood flow outside the province), wood being shipped to Quebec must first be offered to Ontario Mills (as required by the "Northeast Region Procedure for Shipment of Round wood Outside the Province"). While NFRM would prefer to see all of the

harvest being utilized in Ontario, the wood going to Quebec does help increase the level of utilization on the Forest and helps maintain current employment levels for the licensees. In the event that a new source of demand is initiated in Ontario that requires fibre from the Nipissing Forest, supply will be prioritized to that facility.

Contingency Area and Volume

Unforeseen circumstances such as blowdown, wildfire, insect damage or disease may cause some of the planned harvest area to become unavailable for harvest during the ten-year period of the FMP. These contingency areas will accommodate such circumstances. Often contingency areas are later proposed as regular allocation harvest areas in the following FMP. The contingency areas are identified and portrayed on the operations maps in the section 6.1.2 and the stand listing of the contingency areas is provided in section 6.1.14 of the Plan.

FMP-20, section 9.0, records the amount of contingency area by forest unit and age class with associated conifer and hardwood volumes. The total contingency harvest volume equals 1,691,052 m³ which is comprised of both conifer and hardwood volumes of 814,354 m³ and 876,697 m³ respectively.

There are 19,458 ha of contingency area identified in the Plan. This total contingency area represents two years (20%) of the available harvest area. In general, on a forest unit basis, the intent was to approach or exceed two years worth of contingency.

Revenues and Expenditures

Table FMP-24 summarizes the forecast of estimated revenues and silvicultural expenditures for the Nipissing Forest for Phase 1 and 2 of the 10-year planning term. The forecast for revenue includes an estimate of the money generated through stumpage fees. The stumpage charges have been estimated by multiplying the current stumpage charges by forecast harvest volumes for each species (Table FMP-17). The stumpage rates and renewal rates are from the July 2007 rates as posted monthly on the MNR website. Rates used in the model can be found in the Analysis Package of the FMP. For hardwood and red and white pine sawlogs, the estimated grade split was determined based on species product proportions used in the modeling, and consistent with the assumptions used to develop product proportions used for the forecast of wood utilization in FMP-18 and FMP-19, section 9.0 of the FMP.

The current renewal stumpage rates, when combined with forecasted harvest levels by species, results in providing sufficient revenue to implement the planned renewal program. The current economic climate and associated market situation is causing rigorous reviews of all operating costs. NFRM and the Shareholders will be closely reviewing the current renewal rates as they relate to the renewal program. The review will be done to ensure that the current rates for each tree species and product are consistent with renewal expenditures required to maintain them. This process may identify opportunities to possibly adjust and balance rates. If so, NFRM will initiate discussion with the MNR.

Renewal and Tending Operations

The planned regeneration treatments that are proposed for the first five years of the plan include:

- natural regeneration in clearcut, shelterwood, and selection silviculture systems for a total of 31,691 hectares;
- planting in regular harvest areas for a total of 7,245 hectares;
- planting in natural disturbance areas (previously salvaged and with a Forestry Futures Trust program) for a total of 503 hectares;
- there are no re-treatments planned at this time;
- supplemental planting treatments within the HE, PWUS, SF, MW, MCL, HDSEL, HDUS forest units for a total of 2,731 hectares.

The planned site preparation treatments that are proposed for the first five years of the plan include:

- mechanical treatments for a total of 6,549 hectares;
- aerial chemical treatments for a total of 3,064 hectares;
- ground chemical treatments for a total of 2,743 hectares;
- an estimated 647 hectares of slash pile burning.

The planned tending treatments that are proposed for the first five years of the plan include:

- manual tending of plantations evolving on harvest and natural disturbance sites for a total of 819 and 75 hectares respectively;
- aerial chemical treatments of plantations evolving on harvest and natural disturbance sites for a total of 2,493 and 30 hectares respectively;
- ground chemical treatments of plantations evolving on harvest and natural disturbance sites for a total of 1,390 and 150 hectares respectively;
- high complexity prescribed burn on approximately 25 hectares;
- stand improvement concurrent with harvest operations for even-aged silviculture systems (HDUS and BY forest units) for a total of 1,395 hectares;
- stand improvement concurrent with harvest operations for uneven-aged silviculture systems (HDSEL forest unit) for a total of 1,395 hectares.

Unlike areas selected for harvested, the selection of areas eligible for renewal and tending is not required to be a precise identification of actual operations. More area is shown on the summary map than is expected to receive renewal and tending operations. Final selection of areas and the identification of specific treatments will be done at the AWS development stage.

Roads

All information related to existing, primary, branch and operational roads are described in section 4.5 of the FMP, including the forecast (ten-year) and planned (five-year) road construction and use management strategies for each. Table FMP-22 provides details for all information related to roads in the ten-year term. Planned construction, monitoring and maintenance responsibilities, access control requirements and future use management are recorded in the table. The selected primary and branch road corridors in the 2009 Plan are illustrated in a series of map products located in Appendix E of this document, as well as section 6.1.2 of the FMP.

Existing Roads

Existing primary, branch and road networks are recorded in the Existing Roads table in section 6.1.12 of the Plan. This table describes the maintenance, monitoring, access control, and abandonment and decommissioning activities for the five-year terms. Section 6.1.12 provides the use management strategies mentioned above in more detail. An overview map set identifies the location of the existing road networks to date. This map set is located in section 6.1.2.9. Section 2.3 of the Plan text outlines the findings of the Roads Task Team and discusses road responsibilities.

Operational Roads

Operational roads are contained within the boundaries of an area of operations. They provide short term access for harvest, renewal and tending operations. Operational roads are normally not maintained after they are no longer required for forest management purposes. FMP-22 lists the networks of operational roads to be constructed during the ten-year period of the FMP.

Branch Roads

Branch roads are roads that branch off existing primary and secondary roads or proposed new primary roads. If a new road is required to provide access to, through, or between separate areas of operations, the road will be classified as a branch road.

There are a total of ten branch roads forecast to be constructed during the period of the plan with a total construction length of 56.6 km. Five branch roads are planned during the first term of the FMP with a total construction distance of 28.3 km. The following are the branch roads and the associated new construction planned for the first five-year term of the plan:

- Field Township Road (4.8 km)
- Gwynfa Lake Road (4.5 km)
- Scud Lake Road (6.0 km)
- Sobie Lake Extension Road (6.8 km)
- Spider Lake Road (6.2 km)

Primary Roads

Primary roads provide principal access for the Forest and are constructed, maintained, and used as part of the main road system. Six primary road corridors are proposed for construction in the 2009-2019 FMP. These primary roads will access harvest areas and allow for access to conduct silviculture treatments for the next 10 years. The roads are also intended to provide long term access to future harvest areas for the next 20 to 30 years.

Two of the above corridors (Lasalle Extension Road and the Gooderham Extension Road) were approved in the 2004-2024 FMP, but have not been constructed to date, so these corridors have been included in the 2009-2019 FMP. No further planning is required since the primary corridors being carried over are consistent with the previous approved FMP. The 500m primary road corridors are mapped exactly as before and the use management strategies remain the same.

The four remaining primary corridors are new proposals. Below is a list of the six primary roads and the associated new construction length:

- Ottertail Creek Road (3.7 km)
- Schell Lake Road (12.0 km)
- Odorizzi Road (19.9 km) - reconstruction
- Sand Lake Road (11.3 km) - reconstruction
- Lasalle Extension Road (7.7 km)
- Gooderham Extension Road (10.5 km)

For each new primary road corridor an environmental analysis is provided in section 6.1.12 of the Plan. This analysis includes a description of each corridor, advantages and disadvantages, road use management strategy, and a cost analysis.

Monitoring and Assessment

The monitoring and assessment program will focus on forest operations inspections, silvicultural effectiveness monitoring, exceptions monitoring, assessment of regeneration success and monitoring of roads and water crossings.

There are essentially two exceptions to the Silviculture Guides that require a specific monitoring program. They are: full tree skidding of soft limbed trees in seeding cuts managed under shelterwood silviculture systems such as the PWUS, LWMX, HE, HDUS, and BY forest units; and, implementing the clearcut silviculture system using a strip harvest method within the HDUS forest unit.

Section 6.1.11 of the Plan includes methodologies, timing and duration of monitoring, the documentation and reporting of results, and the opportunity for LCC members to participate in data collection for each exceptions monitoring program.

Determination of Sustainability

Based on FMP-13, the vast majority of the 61 indicators of sustainability that were assessed at this stage of the Plan development were within, or moving toward, the desired levels. Rationale for setting targets at different than desired levels has been documented, and additional analysis has been conducted to ensure no negative impact to the sustainability of the Forest.

In all cases, the indicators that are not within or moving toward the desired level are a result of the current forest condition (ageclass gap, limiting wood supply into the medium terms) or balancing multiple objectives (limiting wood supply vs. certain ecological objectives). In cases where indicators are not moving toward the range for each desirable level, rationale has been provided.

Social and economic analysis for the proposed management strategy evaluated the 9% reduction in timber supply from the past (2004) approved forest management plan. The assessment concluded that no immediate impact to employment would result, as historic harvest levels have traditionally been lower than planned levels. It is important to note that anticipated reductions of timber supply in the next 4 to 5 planning terms could place strain on employment if resources are fully utilized. Recent trends on the Forest show increased utilization of wood.

The Nipissing Forest planning team concludes, on balance, that plan objectives are being met and progress is being made towards the desired forest and benefits. The determination of sustainability for the forest management plan has been achieved. The Plan continues to have regard for the plant life, animal life, water, soil, air and social and economic values, including recreational and heritage values.

The final Plan was presented to the LCC on December 16, 2008.

Appendix A: SUMMARY of the LCC REPORT

NIPISSING FOREST

2009 FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

SUMMARY of LCC REPORT

PHASE 1- STAGE 5

By Lorence Reed (LCC Member appointed to the Planning Team)

The LCC has participated throughout the planning process. LCC member Lorence Reed has attended all but two of the planning team meetings. The Plan Author has been fully cooperative with the LCC and has attended nine LCC meetings to present, review or discuss aspects of the plan during its preparation. LCC members participated on several of the task teams.

LCC Members received training on the Planning Process as well as much other training throughout the process. The training is listed in the LCC Report and documented in the LCC Meeting Minutes.

Most LCC members participated in the Future Forest and Benefits meeting and have been forthcoming with presentation of the interests of the sector they represent. There has been free and open discussion of the issues such as climate change, roads, carbon balance, AOCs and other issues listed in the report.

There has been LCC interaction with the public by means of presentations, information booths, media releases, media interviews and attendance at all of the Public Information Centres and participation in the Issue Resolution Process.

The LCC is generally satisfied with the planning process and the training received.

The LCC is generally satisfied that the Plan is balanced with respect to its response to the many varied interests and values on the Nipissing Forest.

Appendix B Resolution of Issues

When concerns cannot be resolved through meetings and discussions with the planning team, a formal process is available to resolve issues. As a first step, the concerned group or individual must identify the issue to the plan author in writing and offer a proposed solution.

The plan author then meets with the concerned party to attempt to resolve the issue. If it cannot be resolved, the matter is referred to the next level of authority, which is the MNR District Manager, and if needed, to the MNR Regional Director. If the issue is still not resolved after the formal issue resolution process, the concerned party can appeal the decision of the MNR Regional Director by making a request to the Director of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, Ministry of Environment for an individual environmental assessment of specific proposed forest management activities

Appendix C Summary of Major Issues

Introduction

The intent of this summary is to provide background to the reader as to the extensive work and struggles faced by the planning team during the development of the Nipissing 2009 FMP. The discussion of issues is often a sensitive topic, where individuals or groups may feel criticized in a public document. However, this section is not a venue for finger pointing, rather an opportunity to highlight the ability of planning team members to resolve issues and continue the forward momentum of the plan.

Cottaging Lakes

AOC Task Team struggled to select a prescription for the protection of Cottaging Lakes. In the 2004 FMP, only one Cottage Association (on Papineau Lake) requested a special AOC prescription. In hindsight, a rather generous prescription was developed, which included a skyline reserve to protect aesthetics and a timing restriction on operations to reduce logging noise in the summer.

For the 2009 AOC Task Team the question arose as to whether the Papineau Lake prescription should be applied to all Cottaging Lakes across the Forest (even if not formally requested to do so). The next question that arose was - how many cottages are required before a lake would be considered a Cottaging Lake – would the prescription apply to a lake with just one cottage? Other questions were generated by the team as the process continued. How big should the timing restriction be – over water logging noise can be easily heard as far away as 6 km? Why treat cottages any different than year round residences adjacent to Crown land – just because someone can afford to have a place on the water, does that entitle them to special treatment?

Three prescriptions were developed, but the task team could not come to a consensus as to which one should be selected. The issue was brought forward and discussed by the Planning Team. The Planning Team developed a new prescription where special consideration for additional protection (over the regular cold & warm water AOC prescriptions) would only be given to lakes where the cottagers had an active stewardship program for their lake – for example shoreline protection, fish habitat rehabilitation (with prior MNR approval), septic tank monitoring program etc. The new prescription was presented to the LCC. Comments made by the LCC not to limit the prescription to “established cottage associations” were incorporated into the final wording. The LCC also thought that the word “established” prevented new organizations from forming and the words “cottage associations” restricted the application to formal legal entities rather than a group of concerned cottagers. These word changes were made to the final prescription being proposed.

Primary Roads

Almost the entire community of Restoule objects to plans to haul wood through their community. The planning team has met twice with the community, in addition to the two information centres required by the FMPM, to discuss the forest management plan and forest access to the southwest corner of the management unit in particular. With the examination of all

other options and in consideration of all of the impacts, the Durrell Lake (Porter Lake) primary corridor off of Hawthorne Drive is still the most favourable route to access the wood shed to the west of the community. The community has been through all stages of the issue resolution process.

The MNR Regional Director's decision directed the planning team to remove the Durrell Lake corridor as selected in the approved version of the forest management plan. For details related to the final decision, please see the issue resolution documentation provided in the Plan.

The planning team anticipates operations in this area of the Forest to be an ongoing issue during the implementation of the forest management plan.

Connectivity

Local environmentalists expressed concern that “connectivity” was not addressed in the objectives of the Plan. The environmentalists wanted to see north –south travel corridors set aside for wildlife migration. Connectivity is considered by them to be important - especially considering the impacts of climate change on wildlife habitat. The Planning Team discussed this issue at least three times and at least twice with the LCC. In the end it was felt that the current set of AOC prescriptions would provide connectivity and there was nothing that could be done in the Plan to connect the south half of the forest to the north half, because of the extensive east - west band of private property along the Highway 17 corridor and Lake Nipissing. MNR Scientist's were consulted and they did not support the need to consider connectivity on the Nipissing Forest. They consider connectivity to be more of a concern in Southern Ontario where the forest occurs in spotty isolated patches. The Planning Team also raised concerns that increasing connectivity may expose the Forest to a greater risk of insect infestations from invasive species such as the Asian Longhorn Beetle and the Emerald Ash Borer.

Old Growth

The Old Growth Task Team for the past 2004 FMP were unable to resolve several questions. How big does a patch of old growth have to be to be functional? How should old growth patches be spatially distributed across the forest? In preparation for the 2009 FMP, NFRM volunteered to be a test area for the Landscape Guide so that these specific questions could be answered in time to be incorporated into the 2009 FMP. Unfortunately the Landscape Guide has not been finalized and the direction in the draft guide (which grouped mature and over mature patches), did not provide the answers required. In the end, the 2009 Old Growth Task Team decided to divide the forest up in four quadrants (based upon highway 11 & 17 corridors) and set a target to maintain or increase the current amount of old growth in each quadrant at plan end in 2019. The 2009 Old Growth Task Team also set a target to increase the average size and total frequency of the existing old growth patches by plan end in 2019.

Aggregate Act

Recent changes to the Aggregates Act for Category 9 and 14 aggregate pits restrict the removal of aggregate within 15 metres of an area of concern (AOC). The new FMP Manual defines an AOC to include timing restrictions. NFRM has numerous AOC prescriptions incorporated into our 34 Resource Stewardship Agreements (RSA's) with tourist outfitters that restrict operations in the summer and fall. As it stands now, even though the local tourist operators have no

objections to us constructing roads outside of the timing restrictions, we cannot source aggregate or even winter sand from within these areas.

This issue was identified early in the process by NFRM. The problem has been recognized by the MNR, but as of this submission of the draft Plan, the wording in the regulation has not been changed to correct this problem.

Appendix F: Schedule of Remaining Formal Public Consultation Opportunities

- Public inspection of the MNR approved FMP
 - Commencing February 2009



**Review of the
Forest Management Plan
for the Nipissing Forest
2009 - 2019**



Comment Sheet

Date	
Name	
Address <input type="checkbox"/> (Check the box if you would like to be on our mailing list for this forest management plan.)	
Affiliation/Organization	
Telephone	
Provide e-mail address if you prefer to be contacted by e-mail (Please note that a mailing address is required to receive correspondence electronically)	

Do you have any comments regarding our Forest Management Plan?

Do you have any comments regarding the preliminary list of required alterations?

Do you have any additional information about natural resource features, activities or values that could potentially be affected by forest management operations and are not shown on our existing values maps?

Do you have any other comments that you would like to make?

You may also send your comments directly to...

**Ministry of Natural Resources
North Bay District**
3301 Trout Lake Road
North Bay, ON, P1A 4L7
Fax: 705-475-5500
Attention: Guylaine Thauvette, Nipissing Area Forester

Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.
128 Lansdowne Ave. East
Callander, ON, P0H 1H0
Fax: 705-752-5736
Attention: Mark Lockhart, Planning Forester and Plan Author

or to fmpcomments@nipissingforest.com

Comments on the FMP must be received by March 31, 2009

Comments are collected and documented as part of the public consultation process for forest management planning as required under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. Under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (1987) or FIPPA, personal information will remain confidential unless prior consent is obtained. However, this information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources as public input for other resource management initiatives. For further information regarding FIPPA, please contact Guylaine Thauvette at 705-475-5539, toll free at 1-800-667-1940

