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2

(I) AREA OF CONCERN DOCUMENTATION

SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTATION

BANCROFT MINDEN FOREST 2021-31 FMP

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1 INTRODUCTION

2 The following supplementary document includes documentation of operational prescriptions or
3 conditions for an area of concern developed by the planning team that were not informed by an
4 approved forest management guide or developed through another planning exercise. Newly developed
5 operational prescription or conditions were developed with consideration and environmental analysis of
6 alternative operational prescriptions or conditions and participation of interested and affected persons,
7 organizations and First Nation and Metis communities. The summary of public comments received are
8 also documented.

9 Any supporting documentation meant to assist with interpretation of the Area of concern direction or
10 exchange of communication surrounding values protected by AOCs is also included in this
11 supplementary document.

1 INDIGENOUS VALUES AREAS OF CONCERN

INDIGENOUS VALUE – CONSTRUCTED STONE FEATURE

A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION

1. Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier: IV-CSF

2. Description of Natural Resource Feature, Land Use or Value:

(a) Constructed Stone Features (Indigenous-made formations and arrangements of stone)

(b) Reserve: 30 m (measured from the perimeter of the value)

Modified: 20 m measured from the reserve

B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions

- An alternative operational prescription is to maintain the protection of this value as a Condition on Regular Operations (CRO) as is in the current FMP.
 - CROs are not mapped and protected in the moment of operations only, not into the future, and are not added to an Indigenous values inventory.
 - The direction the Indigenous communities want, is to have these values mapped and brought forward into future planning exercises so they are protected in perpetuity.
 - Maintaining values as a CRO is not a preferred Operational Prescription.
- Another alternative Operational Prescription is to remove all protection of this value (the null alternative). Given these proposed Indigenous values have been reviewed by all participating Indigenous communities and endorsed by the planning team, this is not the preferred Operational Prescription.

C: PROPOSED/SELECTED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

(a) Description:

- 30 m reserve; 20 m modified
- Constructed Stone Features - Indigenous-made formations and arrangements of stone
- These values may occur singularly or in clusters.
- Indigenous community will provide the SFL with the contact person to help with identification and discuss forestry-related issues.
- MNRF will be informed of any agreements re: this AOC between the Indigenous community and SFL.
- MNRF will ensure the value is mapped
- Any proposed deviation of this prescription will require documented approval by the Indigenous community, and notification to the MNRF.
- No new roads or landings within reserve.

- Existing road reconstruction must receive documented approval by Indigenous communities before work commences.
- Maintenance on existing roads is permitted.
- No aggregate extraction within the AOC without documented approval by the Indigenous community.

(b) Rationale:

These are values that are historical in nature. These values are not adequately captured under the cultural heritage values description for Historic Aboriginal Values within the Forestry Management Guide to Cultural Heritage Resources (FMGCHR). These values are not adequately captured within the existing Cultural Heritage AOCs or CROs within the FMP. Therefore, a new Area of Concern (AOC) was developed for this value.

These are permanent values that may be identified with relative ease by trained forestry personnel and must be mapped as an Indigenous Value to ensure the value is protected during current FMP operations and future FMP planning.

These values are those which were constructed or arranged by human hand and not formed by natural events such as windfall tree root rock piles, black bear flipped stones etc. Examples of these values include food caches, burial mounds, “Indian farm” stone clearance piles, trail markers/ way-finding points (“inukshuk”), “cairns”, or other type of markers.

The identification and protection of such values may also protect non-indigenous historical constructed stone features. In some limited cases further assessment of the value by the affected Indigenous community may be required. If the value is identified as non-indigenous, other Cultural Heritage Resource AOCs can be applied.

The 30m Reserve protection area (measured from the perimeter of the value) is intended to protect the integrity of the physical value from mechanical damage, ground disturbance, or damage by felling of trees into the value, and integrity of the immediate local site around the value and archeological potential that may be associated with the physical value. There are no operations, new roads, landings, aggregate pits permitted within the 30m reserve.

The 20m Modified protection area (measured from the reserve) is intended to protect the integrity of the local site around the reserve that may have context in relation to the value and associated archeological potential from operational damage. Normal harvest, roads, landings, and aggregate pits may be permitted through consultation and agreement with the affected Indigenous community.

(c) Exception: n/a

D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received to date.

1 INDIGENOUS VALUE – NATURAL STONE FEATURES

2 A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION

3 1. Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier: IV-NSF

4 2. Description of Natural Resource Feature, Land Use or Value:

5
6 (c) Natural Stone Features (significant glacial erratics or groups of erratics, unique natural
7 arrangement of large stone, rock faces and outcrops)

8
9 (d) Reserve: 0 m; Modified: 30 m (measured from the perimeter of the value)

10 B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

11 1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions

- 12 • An alternative operational prescription is to maintain the protection of this value as a Condition
13 on Regular Operations (CRO) as is in the current FMP.
 - 14 o CROs are not mapped and protected in the moment of operations only, not into the
15 future, and are not added to an Indigenous values inventory.
 - 16 o The direction the Indigenous communities want, is to have these values mapped and
17 brought forward into future planning exercises so they are protected in perpetuity.
 - 18 o Maintaining values as a CRO is not a preferred Operational Prescription.
- 19
20 • Another alternative Operational Prescription is to remove all protection of this value (the null
21 alternative). Given these proposed Indigenous values have been reviewed by all participating
22 Indigenous communities and endorsed by the planning team, this is not the preferred
23 Operational Prescription.

24 C: PROPOSED/SELECTED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

25 (a) Description:

- 26 • 0 m reserve; 30 m modified
- 27 • harvest, renewal or maintenance operations can occur based on consultation affected Indigenous
28 community.
- 29 • The degree of harvest, renewal or maintenance operations within the modified area will range from
30 none to normal operations, depending on the above-mentioned consultation.
- 31 • If these values lie within area of archaeological potential, archaeological resources may be
32 associated with the location if the value.
- 33 • Indigenous community will provide the SFL with contact person to help with identification and to
34 discuss forestry-related issues.
- 35 • Boundaries will be established by affected Indigenous community prior to commencing operations.
- 36 • MNRF will be informed of any agreements re: this AOC between the Indigenous community and SFL.
- 37 • MNRF will ensure the value is mapped
- 38 • Any proposed deviation of this prescription will require documented approval by the Indigenous
39 community, and notification to the MNRF.

- No new roads or landings within the AOC without documented approval by the Indigenous community.
- Existing road reconstruction must receive documented approval by Indigenous communities before work commences.
- Maintenance on existing roads is permitted.
- No aggregate extraction within AOC without documented approval by the Indigenous community.

(b) Rationale:

These values are not adequately captured under the cultural heritage values description for Historic Aboriginal Values within the FMGCHR nor are they. These values are not adequately captured within the existing Cultural Heritage AOCs or CROs within the FMP. Therefore, a new AOC was developed for this value.

The values are those which were not constructed or arranged by human hand. These are permanent values that may or may not be easily identified by trained forestry personnel. These values will most often be identified through community values collections and information provided to the MNRF and SFL. These values must be mapped as Indigenous Value to ensure the value is protected during current operations and in future FMP planning.

Examples of these values can include significant glacial erratics (e.g. those that are large “room- sized” boulders), singular large boulders in association with specific terrain features (e.g. terrace, plateau, ridge, relict shoreline, points of land, hilltop, lookout, adjacent to a waterbody), close-proximity arrangement of large boulders and tight groups of erratics, boulders which may have a general profile or general overall appearance of an animal or human face or body, and small ridge or cliff-face features and specific rock outcrops.

The 30m modified protection (measured from outside perimeter of the value) is intended to protect the integrity of the physical value and immediate local areas associated with the physical value (including archeological potential) from mechanical damage, ground disturbance and soil disturbance and other site impacts, or damage by felling of trees into the value as best as possible.

Normal harvest, renewal or maintenance operations can occur based on consultation and agreement with the affected Indigenous community. The degree of harvest, renewal or maintenance operations within the modified area will range from none to normal operations. No new roads or landings or aggregate pits are permitted within the AOC without consultation and agreement with the Indigenous community.

The 30m modified protection (measured from outside perimeter of the value) is intended to provide protection for individual values. Multiple values or values clusters within a localized area may require a larger polygon protection through application of the Indigenous Cultural Landscape AOC.

(c) Exception: n/a

D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received to date.

INDIGENOUS VALUE – CULTURALLY MODIFIED TREES

A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION

1. Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier: IV-CMT

2. Description of Natural Resource Feature, Land Use or Value:

(a) Culturally Modified Trees (historical modification due to usage as trail markers, historic evidence indicating canoe making (on Birch and Cedar), sugar bush tapping)

(b) Reserve: 0 m (measured from the outside perimeter of the value)
Modified: 20 m

B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions

- An alternative operational prescription is to maintain the protection of this value as a Condition on Regular Operations (CRO) as is in the current FMP.
 - o CROs are not mapped and protected in the moment of operations only, not into the future, and are not added to an Indigenous values inventory.
 - o The direction the Indigenous communities want, is to have these values mapped and brought forward into future planning exercises so they are protected in perpetuity.
 - o Maintaining values as a CRO is not a preferred Operational Prescription.
- Another alternative Operational Prescription is to remove all protection of this value (the null alternative). Given these proposed Indigenous values have been reviewed by all participating Indigenous communities and endorsed by the planning team, this is not the preferred Operational Prescription.

C: PROPOSED/SELECTED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

(a) Description:

- No skidding within modified and avoid felling of trees towards the value
- These values may occur singularly or in clusters.
- Indigenous community will provide the AFA with contact person to help with identification and discuss forestry-related issues.
- MNRF will be informed of any agreements between the Indigenous community and AFA
- MNRF will ensure the value is mapped
- Any proposed deviation of this prescription will require documented approval by the Indigenous community, and notification to the MNRF.
- No new roads or landings within AOC.
- Existing road reconstruction must receive documented approval by Indigenous communities before work commences.
- Maintenance on existing roads is permitted.

- No aggregate extraction within the AOC without documented approval by the Indigenous community.

(b) Rationale:

These values are not adequately captured under the cultural heritage values description for Historic Aboriginal Values within the FMGCHR nor are they adequately captured within the existing Cultural Heritage AOCs or CROs within the FMP. Therefore, a new AOC was developed for this value.

These values were created by historic human modifications of a tree during any stage of its growth. These values may be easily identified by trained forestry personnel. These values are semi-permanent and must be mapped as an Indigenous Value to ensure the value is protected during current operation and in future FMP planning.

Examples of a CMTs include wayfinding points or trail markers, place markers, grave markers trees. These types of CMTs were modified as young saplings or at other stages of growth through bending and twisting of the tree or its branches, or through pruning the branches in order to make the tree grow in a desired manner to stand out and be easily identified to communicate information to its observer.

Other examples of CMTs include historic modifications to the trunk of the tree specifically that resulted in scarring such as the scarring from making trail blazes, scarring from removal of birch bark for canoe making and other uses, and scarring from the removal of wood slats from White Cedar for canoe making and other construction. Scarring and rot may be found localized on the southwest bases of very old sugar maples indicating historic sugar bush tapping.

The 20m modified protection (measured from the CMT) is intended to protect the integrity of the physical value from mechanical damage to root area or tree from skidding, ground disturbance, and damage to the CMT caused by felling of adjacent trees towards the CMT. Normal harvest. Renewal and tending is permitted within the 20m modified, however trees must be felled away from the CMT and no skidding is permitted within the 20m modified. No new roads, landings or aggregate pits are permitted with the 20m modified area.

(c) Exception: n/a

D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received to date.

1 INDIGENOUS VALUES - INDIGENOUS CAMP AND CAMPSITE AREA

2 A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION

3 1. Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier: IV – ICCA

4 2. Description of Natural Resource Feature, Land Use or Value:

5
6 (a) Indigenous Camp and Campsite Area (cultural gathering sites, historical or modern traditional
7 hunting, fishing, and gathering camps and campsites; does not include modern
8 temporary/seasonal camps, cabins, or campsites erected on forest roads or landings or in
9 aggregate pits.)

10
11 (b) Reserve: 30 m (measured from the perimeter of the value)
12 Modified: 70 m (measured from the reserve)

13 B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

14 1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions

- 15 • An alternative operational prescription is to maintain the protection of this value as a Condition
16 on Regular Operations (CRO) as is in the current FMP.
 - 17 o CROs are not mapped and protected in the moment of operations only, not into the
18 future, and are not added to an Indigenous values inventory.
 - 19 o The direction the Indigenous communities want, is to have these values mapped and
20 brought forward into future planning exercises so they are protected in perpetuity.
 - 21 o Maintaining values as a CRO is not a preferred Operational Prescription.
- 22
23 • Another alternative Operational Prescription is to remove all protection of this value (the null
24 alternative). Given these proposed Indigenous values have been reviewed by all participating
25 Indigenous communities and endorsed by the planning team, this is not the preferred
26 Operational Prescription.

27 C: PROPOSED/SELECTED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

28 (a) Description:

- 29 • 30 m reserve; 70 m modified
- 30 • harvest, renewal or maintenance operations can occur based on consultation with affected Indigenous
31 community.
- 32 • The degree of harvest, renewal or maintenance operations within the modified area will range from
33 none to normal operations, depending on the above-mentioned consultation.
- 34 • These camps may range from a historically known site to a modern-day site with little sign of use
35 and may have permanent, temporary or no structure on site.
- 36 • Indigenous community will provide the SFL with contact person to help with identification and to
37 discuss forestry-related issues.
- 38 • Boundaries will be established by affected Indigenous community prior to commencing operations.
- 39 • MNRF will be informed of any agreements re: this AOC between the Indigenous community and SFL.
- 40 • MNRF will ensure the value is mapped

- Any proposed deviation of this prescription will require documented approval by the Indigenous community, and notification to the MNRF.
- Protection for Indigenous trap cabins will be developed by each trapper and SFL - SFL required to contact owner before operations commence
- No new roads or landings within the AOC without documented approval by the affected Indigenous community.
- Existing road reopening or reconstruction is permitted.
- Maintenance on existing roads is permitted.
- No aggregate extraction within the AOC without documented approval by the Indigenous community.

(b) *Rationale:*

These values are not captured under the cultural heritage values description for Historic Aboriginal Values within the FMGCHR. These values are not nor are they adequately captured within the existing Cultural Heritage AOCs or CROs within the FMP. Therefore, a new AOC was developed for this value.

These values may or may not be historical and are intended to be values that are still being used currently. These values will continue used into the future for as long as the characteristics defining the value are maintained. There may or may not be any visible sign of the camp or campsite area and they may not be a permanent structure identifying the site as a camp or campsite.

These values will most often be identified through community values collections and information provided to the MNRF and SFL. Protection for Indigenous trap cabins will be developed by each trapper and the SFL – the SFL is required to contact owner before operations commence.

These values can include sites where communities hold cultural gatherings, historical or traditional sites campsite locations associated with hunting, fishing, and gathering activities including those that are continually used. These values do not include modern temporary/seasonal camps, cabins, or campsites erected on forest roads or landings or in aggregate pits.

Silvicultural prescriptions, new roads, landings, and aggregate pits may have negative impacts on the value and the way in which the community uses the site. These activities can impact the current and future cultural connection to the value. It is also possible, in some cases, that certain operations could have a beneficial impact on these values.

The 30 m reserve (measured from outside perimeter of the value) is intended to provide protection for the specific area determined to be the camp/campsite. No operations, roads, landing or aggregate pits are permitted within the reserve.

Within the 70 m modified (measured from the 30m reserve) normal harvest, renewal or maintenance operations can occur based on consultation and agreement with the affected Indigenous community. The degree of harvest, renewal or maintenance operations within the modified area will range from none to normal as determined by the consultation agreement with the affected Indigenous community.

The consultation and agreement with the affected Indigenous community will also determine the size of the modified area required (up to 70m measured from the reserve).

1

2 *(c) Exception: n/a*

3 **D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

4 None received to date.

5

INDIGENOUS VALUE – PLANT MATERIAL GATHERING SITES

A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION

1. Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier: IV – PMGS

2. Description of Natural Resource Feature, Land Use or Value:

(a) Plant Material Gathering Sites (traditional gathering sites of medicinal plants, edible plants and craft materials)

(b) Reserve: 0 m ; Modified: 30 m (measured from the perimeter of the value)

B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions

- An alternative operational prescription is to maintain the protection of this value as a Condition on Regular Operations (CRO) as is in the current FMP.
 - o CROs are not mapped and protected in the moment of operations only, not into the future, and are not added to an Indigenous values inventory.
 - o The direction the Indigenous communities want, is to have these values mapped and brought forward into future planning exercises so they are protected in perpetuity.
 - o Maintaining values as a CRO is not a preferred Operational Prescription.
- Another alternative Operational Prescription is to remove all protection of this value (the null alternative). Given these proposed Indigenous values have been reviewed by all participating Indigenous communities and endorsed by the planning team, this is not the preferred Operational Prescription.

C: PROPOSED/SELECTED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

(a) Description:

- These values may include species that are considered to be uncommon or rare or of high cultural significance and may be sensitive to certain operations.
- Indigenous community will provide the SFL with the contact person to help with identification and discuss forestry-related issues.
- MNRF will be informed of any agreements re: this AOC between the Indigenous community and SFL.
- MNRF will ensure the value is mapped
- Any proposed deviation of this prescription will require documented approval by the Indigenous community, and notification to the MNRF.
- No new roads or landings within AOC areas
- Existing road reconstruction must receive documented approval by Indigenous communities before work commences.
- Maintenance on existing roads is permitted.
- No aggregate extraction within the AOC without documented approval by the Indigenous community.

1 (b) *Rationale:*

2 These values are not captured under the cultural heritage values description for Historic Aboriginal
3 Values within the FMGCHR. These values are not adequately captured with existing Cultural Heritage
4 AOCs or CROs within the FMP. Therefore, a new AOC was developed for this value.

5 These values are defined areas, specific habitats, and/or localized plant communities that may have
6 historical value and are being used presently. These sites will likely continue to be used into the future
7 for as long as the characteristics defining the value can be maintained.

8 Silvicultural prescriptions, roads, landings, and aggregate pits may have negative impacts on the value by
9 impacting the habitats where the plants species grow, the individual colony or stand, through ground
10 disturbance, soil disruption, change in light, and species composition. In the short or long term these
11 activities may have negative impacts on the harvesting practices and cultural connection in the specific
12 area.

13 Examples of these values include plant species that are considered to be uncommon or rare or culturally
14 important, an entire black ash stand, specific habitats where specific medicinal plants grow, a specific
15 colony on a plant species (e.g. bearberry aka kinnikinnick), a specific forest stand area that produces
16 edible/medicinal mushrooms, a stand of cedar trees with many individual trees suitable for canoe
17 building now and in the future, a white birch dominated stand with many individual trees suitable trees
18 for bark harvesting now and in the future. These values do not include blueberry or raspberry picking
19 sites.

20 The 30m modified protection (measured from the perimeter of the value) is intended to provide for
21 normal harvest and renewal or maintenance operations. The degree of harvest and renewal or
22 maintenance operations will range from none to normal operations based on consultation and
23 agreement between with the affected Indigenous community. This consultation will also determine the
24 size of the modified area required. No new roads, landings, or aggregate pits are permitted within the
25 30m modified protection except through consultation and agreement with the affected Indigenous
26 community.

27 (c) *Exception:* n/a

28 **D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

29 None received to date.

INDIGENOUS VALUE – INDIGENOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE LANDSCAPES

A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION

1. **Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier:** IV – ICHL

2. **Description of Natural Resource Feature, Land Use or Value:**

(a) Indigenous Cultural Heritage Landscapes (historic or in current use including sacred and ceremonial sites, pictographs, petroglyphs, significant landscape topography, areas of archaeological potential, known archaeological site (unregistered))

(b) Reserve: 30 m (measured from the perimeter of the value)

Modified: 170 m (measured from the reserve)

B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions

- An alternative operational prescription is to maintain the protection of this value as a Condition on Regular Operations (CRO) as is in the current FMP.
 - CROs are not mapped and protected in the moment of operations only, not into the future, and are not added to an Indigenous values inventory.
 - The direction the Indigenous communities want, is to have these values mapped and brought forward into future planning exercises so they are protected in perpetuity.
 - Maintaining values as a CRO is not a preferred Operational Prescription.
- Another alternative Operational Prescription is to remove all protection of this value (the null alternative). Given these proposed Indigenous values have been reviewed by all participating Indigenous communities and endorsed by the planning team, this is not the preferred Operational Prescription.

C: PROPOSED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

(a) *Description:*

- The extent of protection and operating conditions will be determined through agreement between the SFL and the Indigenous community
- These values will be identified through Indigenous values collections studies and other sources of information
- Indigenous community will provide the SFL with the contact person to help with identification and discuss forestry-related issues.
- MNRF will be informed of any agreements re: this AOC between the Indigenous community and SFL.
- MNRF will ensure the value is mapped
- Any proposed deviation of this prescription will require documented approval by the Indigenous community, and notification to the MNRF
- No new roads or landings within the AOC without documented approval by the local Indigenous community.

- Existing road reconstruction must receive documented approval by Indigenous communities before work commences.
- Maintenance on existing roads is permitted.
- No aggregate extraction within the AOC without documented approval by the Indigenous community.

(b) *Rationale:*

These values are not captured adequately under the description of a Cultural Heritage Landscapes within the FMGCHR. Landscapes may or may not be landscapes that have been 'modified by human activities,' as per the FMGCHR. These values are not adequately captured within the existing Cultural Heritage AOCs or CROs within the FMP. The values may correspond with archeological potential identified by the affected Indigenous community that is not captured by the MNRF Archeological Potential Area (APA) model. Therefore, a new AOC was developed for this value.

Example of these values may include historic or modern community values, unregistered (known) archeological sites (including pictographs and petroglyphs), areas of archeological potential that are not captured by the MNRF APA modelling (e.g. specific landscape features associated with relict shorelines/ ancient waterbodies), sacred sites, significant or unique landscape topography features important to the community that is not captured in other IV AOCs (e.g. eskers, lookout/viewing points)

These are permanent values. These values must be mapped as an Indigenous Value AOC and this data must be available to MNRF and the SFL and utilized to ensure that the value is protected during current operation and in future FMP planning. Most of these values will be known only through community knowledge and values collections data and will be communicated to MNRF and SFL during FMP planning and operations reviews.

The 30m reserve (measured from the perimeter of the value) is intended to protect the integrity of the physical value from damage from ground disturbance, mechanical damage, and impacts to the cultural connection with the value and value area. No operations roads, landings, or aggregate pits are permitted in the 30m reserve.

The 170m modified (measured from the 30m reserve) affords further protection to the cultural and physical integrity of the immediate area adjacent the value against impacts. The extent of the modified area and the operating conditions, roads, landings, and aggregate pits that may be permitted within the 170m modified will be determined through consultation and agreement with the affected Indigenous Community. may be permitted within the modified zone through consultation agreement with the affected Indigenous community.

Where multiple values occur in proximity, their collective treatment may require the application of one large polygon encompassing all values within the reserve zone plus a modified area measured from the reserve.

(c) *Exception:* n/a

D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received to date.

1 INDIGENOUS VALUE – IMPORTANT INDIGENOUS HARVESTING AREA

2 A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION

3 1. **Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier:** IV – IIHA

4 2. **Description of Natural Resource Feature, Land Use or Value:**

5
6 (a) Important Indigenous Harvesting Area (important wildlife habitat features, important areas for
7 harvesting)

8
9 (b) Modified contains the delineated polygon of the value as identified by Indigenous community

10 B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

11 1. **Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions**

- 12 • An alternative operational prescription is to maintain the protection of this value as a Condition
13 on Regular Operations (CRO) as is in the current FMP.
 - 14 o CROs are not mapped and protected in the moment of operations only, not into the
15 future, and are not added to an Indigenous values inventory.
 - 16 o The direction the Indigenous communities want, is to have these values mapped and
17 brought forward into future planning exercises so they are protected in perpetuity.
 - 18 o Maintaining values as a CRO is not a preferred Operational Prescription.
- 19
20 • Another alternative Operational Prescription is to remove all protection of this value (the null
21 alternative). Given these proposed Indigenous values have been reviewed by all participating
22 Indigenous communities and endorsed by the planning team, this is not the preferred
23 Operational Prescription.

24 C: PROPOSED/SELECTED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

25 (a) *Description:*

- 26 • Normal harvest, renewal and tending operations.
- 27 • See Sections B, C, and D for conditions on roads, landings and aggregate pits.
- 28 • Modified management zone may be based on when harvest can occur i.e. timing consideration
- 29 • As values information is generated by the Indigenous communities or where known values maybe
30 negatively impacted by planned operations, communities will communicate the necessary details to
31 the SFL and MNRF to ensure protection
- 32 • Some values are sensitive and highly confidential; these will be communicated directly to the SFL
33 during reviews of planned operations
- 34 • Indigenous community will provide the SFL with the appropriate contact person to discuss forestry-
35 related issues.
- 36 • MNRF will be informed of any agreements re: this AOC between the Indigenous community and SFL.
- 37 • MNRF will ensure the value is mapped
- 38 • Any proposed deviation of this prescription will require documented approval by the Indigenous
39 community, and notification to the MNRF.

- 1 • No new roads or landings within AOC without documented approval by the local Indigenous
2 community.
- 3 • Existing road reconstruction must receive documented approval by Indigenous communities before
4 work commences.
- 5 • Maintenance on existing roads is permitted.
- 6 • No aggregate extraction within the AOC without documented approval by the Indigenous
7 community.

8 (b) *Rationale:*

9 These values are not captured under cultural heritage values description for Historic Aboriginal Values
10 within the FMGCHR. These values are not adequately captured within the existing Cultural Heritage
11 AOCs or CROs within the FMP. Therefore, a new AOC was developed for this value.

12 These values may or may not be historical. These values are those that being currently being used and
13 will continue to be used into the future for as long as the characteristics defining the value can be
14 maintained. Silvicultural prescriptions, roads, landings, and aggregate pits may have negative impacts on
15 the value such as impacts on specific important wildlife species, wildlife movement areas, wildlife food
16 source, or specific wildlife habitats.

17 These activities may have negative impacts on the way the community conducts its harvest practices for
18 wildlife within the value. These activities may have negative impacts on the current and future cultural
19 connection to the value and negatively affect the ability of the Indigenous Community to carry on its
20 harvesting tradition at the specified area. It is also possible, in some cases, that certain operations could
21 have a beneficial impact on these values.

22 Examples of these values may include specific localized areas where the Indigenous community harvest
23 specific wildlife in a specific manner and have done so throughout generations, specific localized areas
24 where there is an accumulation of traditional knowledge, specific areas where there is a strong cultural
25 connection to the area due to harvesting activities at the location over time.

26 Other examples of these values may include specific habitats or forest stand type and conditions with a
27 localized importance, such as a Hemlock patch adjacent a sugar maple stand with access via a forest
28 access road, a red oak ridge-top containing a deer migratory trail with adjacent a ATV trail access and in
29 proximity to an Indigenous 'hunt camp', a poplar and pine dominated esker on which the local
30 Indigenous community members successfully utilize a deer-drive to harvest deer each year at this
31 specific feature.

32 These are permanent values to semi-permanent values. These values must be mapped as an Indigenous
33 Value AOC and this data must be available to MNRF and the SFL and utilized to ensure that the value is
34 protected during current operation and in future FMP planning. Most of these values will be known only
35 through community knowledge and values collections data and will be communicated to MNRF and SFL
36 during FMP planning and operations reviews.

37 Generally, within the modified area, normal harvest, renewal and tending operations are permitted
38 within the modified area. Certain modifications to the silvicultural prescription may be recommended
39 through consultation and agreement with the Indigenous community. New roads or landings or
40 aggregate pits within the AOC are only permitted through agreement with the affected Indigenous
41 community.

1 The total size and delineation of the modified area polygon will be determined through consultation and
2 an agreement with the affected Indigenous community.

3 *(c) Exception: n/a*

4 **D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

5 None received to date.

2 PROVINCIAL FOREST GROWTH & YIELD RESEARCH PLOTS COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL

GYP AOC: There are a number of growth and yield (G&Y) plots [permanent growth plots (PGPs) and permanent sample plots (PSPs)] within the management unit which are part of a provincial plot network, established and maintained by the MNRF G&Y Program, designed for collection of time-sequence high-quality data on stand dynamics under natural and managed conditions.

The SFL worked with the MNRF Forest Productivity Science Specialist (G&Y specialist) during operational planning to identify where PGPs and PSPs overlap with planned operations and developed a communication spreadsheet to exchange information during plan implementation to fulfill the requirements of the GYP AOC prescription.

The communication spreadsheet provides the following information:

- information on plot location (i.e. township, harvest allocation identifier);
- status of prescription development, tree marking and planned silviculture activity (which will be updated as this information becomes available);
- a means to document any notes or special instructions from the MNRF G&Y specialist and the SFL and;
- information on scheduling and completion of forestry operations to assist the MNRF G&Y program to schedule plot re-measurements.

The SFL will share the communication spreadsheet annually (30 days prior to the implementation of the AWS, or before March 1st) with the MNRF G&Y Specialist and MNRF District Forester. For harvest allocations (blocks) with PSP/PGPs the SFL (i) will indicate if the allocation is scheduled in the AWS and provide a 'best guess' of operation start-up (i.e. Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter); and (ii) also add MNRF G&Y specialist to operations start-up notifications in-year. If a revision is made to the AWS to add one of the allocations with PSP/PGPs, the SFL will provide the updated spreadsheet to the MNRF G&Y specialist when the revision is submitted and will strive to provide a 30-day notice prior to operations commencing.

All G&Y plots in LIO layer *Research Plot Protected* have a protection prescription identifier as either Full Protection or Full Protection – Negotiable. The following section describes the level of communication required based on the protection prescription:

- **For ALL plot AOCs**, the SFL will contact MNRF G&Y Specialist for further direction where the AOC overlaps with an existing road, landing or aggregate pit.
- **Where the plot is identified as *full protection***, the need for communication will arise only if the SFL is planning any thinning and or tending operations and would like to make a case to treat the plot AOC as well. In such situation the MNRF G&Y program will evaluate the request on a

1 case-by-case basis and may allow treatment within the AOC.

- 2
- 3 • **Where the plot is identified as *full protection – negotiable***, the SFL will contact the MNRF G&Y
4 Specialist after developing the silvicultural prescription if it is determined that clearcut
5 silviculture is the most appropriate treatment for that location to seek input and permission. If
6 permission is granted, conditions will be clearly defined and agreed upon and documented in
7 the communication spreadsheet. For all instances where forestry operations (partial-harvest,
8 renewal or tending) will occur within GYP AOC, a pre-harvest written notice will be sent to the
9 MNRF G&Y specialist (through exchange of communications spreadsheet and start-up
10 notification) at least 30 days prior to the operation within the AOC. The requirement of this
11 notice is mainly to arrange for PSP/PGP pre-harvest measurement. The MNRF G&Y specialist
12 may provide additional instructions or input which the SFL will document when the information
13 was received or the MNRF G&Y specialist will summarize those instructions in the
14 communications spreadsheet. If the instructions are too complex to be simplified in the
15 spreadsheet, they can be outlined in an email and the spreadsheet will refer to the email as the
16 official documentation.

17 **Post-operation notice:** The SFL will provide MNRF G&Y specialist with an email notice of completion, as
18 soon as possible, after the forestry operation is complete in a harvest allocation with GYP AOC. This
19 information will also be recorded in the communication spreadsheet.

3 MULTI-SPECIES INVENTORY AND MONITORING PLOTS

The MSIM component of the Provincial Wildlife Population Monitoring Program uses multiple, survey methods on each plot in a network to provide population data (presence and/or relative abundance) for a large number of terrestrial and riparian vertebrate wildlife species over a broad scale in both time and space. The MSIM plots were randomly selected from accessible National Forest Inventory grid nodes that overlap Ontario's Area of Undertaking (AOU) for forestry on Crown Lands. Monitoring takes place on active MSIM plots from the beginning of May to approximately mid-September.

The goal of the MSIM plot network is to monitor status and trends in wildlife populations to support evaluation of the effectiveness of forest management direction in sustaining wildlife on Crown land.

A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION

1. Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier: MSIM

2. Description of Value

a) Description of value(s):

MNRF biodiversity monitoring plot consisting of cameras, audio recording, ultrasonic recording devices as well as small mammal traps and salamander traps. These points fall in an organized layout within a 500m radius area. There are both active plots – equipment on site and measurements taken during the summer – and inactive plots – station centers identified but no equipment on site nor measurements being taken. Station marker (aluminum posts), individual trees used to mount monitoring equipment, and the salamander coverboard survey grid are collectively referred to as plot infrastructure.

b) Dimensions of area of concern:

The AOC consists of a 500 m to 1 km radius modified zone (alternative dependent).

B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions and Conditions

ALTERNATIVE #1

a) Alternative identifier/number: Alternative 1

Source is the recommended prescription by the Provincial Wildlife Population Monitoring Team, May 2018 following a June 2017 memo.

2. Proposed Operational Prescription and Condition

1000m radius modified zone measured from the plot center with all plot infrastructure within, or just slightly outside the inner 500m radius.

1 Notify the Wildlife Population Monitoring Program (WPMP) specialist for southern region if operations
2 are planned within the AOC to determine if plot is active. Annual work schedules can also be consulted
3 by WPMP.

4 Harvest, Renewal and Tending

- 5 • Inactive plots – no restrictions within 1000 m AOC however operations should avoid damaging any
6 plot infrastructure to the extent reasonably possible. Notify the WPMP specialist if any infrastructure
7 is damaged.
- 8 • Active plots – September 16 to April 30 – Normal operations but plot infrastructure is kept intact.
9 Avoid traversing the salamander coverboard grid, however, trees within the grid can be removed
10 provided no disturbance to any coverboard take place.
- 11 • Active Plots – May 1 to September 15 – No operations may take place within the AOC unless other
12 arrangements have been made with the WPMP specialist. No conditions on tree planting and manual
13 tending.

14 Primary Roads, Branch Roads and Landings

- 15 • Active or Inactive plots – no conditions on hauling or road maintenance.
- 16 • New roads inactive plots – New roads may be constructed in the AOC of inactive plots if reasonable
17 efforts are made to ensure none of the plot infrastructure is within 15m of right-of-way.
- 18 • New roads active plots – New roads may be constructed within the AOC of active plots if none of the
19 plot infrastructure is within 15 m of the right-of-way.
- 20 • Construction can only take place from September 16 to April 30.

21 Operational Roads and Landings

- 22 • Active or Inactive plots – no conditions on hauling or road maintenance.
- 23 • New roads inactive plots – New roads may be constructed in the AOC of inactive plots if reasonable
24 efforts are made to ensure none of the plot infrastructure is within 15m of right-of-way.
- 25 • New roads active plots – New roads may be constructed within the AOC of active plots if none of the
26 plot infrastructure is within 15 m of the right-of-way.
- 27 • Construction can only take place from September 16 to April 30.

28 Forestry Aggregate Pits

- 29 • New aggregate pits Inactive plots – reasonable efforts will be made to ensure no new aggregate pits
30 are placed within 500 m of plot center or within 100 m of any of the infrastructure.
- 31 • New aggregate pits active plots – No new aggregate pits will be placed within 500m of plot center or
32 within 100 m of any plot infrastructure.
- 33 • Timing restrictions for active plots September 16 to April 30 apply to forestry aggregate pits within
34 the entire AOC unless other arrangements have been made with the WPMP specialist.

36 **3. Environmental Analysis**

- 37
- 38 i. The identification of the potential environmental effects of specific forest management
39 operations on the value(s) in the area of concern.

The prescription is in keeping with a 2017 memo and 2018 proposed operational prescription and a 2017 memo provided to the planning team from the Biodiversity and Monitoring Section. It virtually eliminates forestry disturbance to wildlife within the 500m plot where infrastructure is located and addresses the Biodiversity and Monitoring Section concerns about staff safety for staff carrying out measurements. It also protects investment in plot infrastructure.

- ii. An assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative operational
The advantage of the prescription is that it a) protects all infrastructure, b) virtually eliminates disturbance for forestry operations in the plot that might affect wildlife observations for that year and c) address concerns of safety issues for staff carrying out measurements.

The disadvantage of the prescription is that a) at 1 km radius, it is a very large area that excludes summer forestry activities that may be on sites that are well suited to summer operations when many others are not – either due to site, access or other AOCs that have summer restrictions from regulated guidelines, b) restricts road building to seasons that are usually poorly suited to road building (i.e. fall conditions are often wet and not conducive to such activities), c) remove the ability to utilize potential sources of aggregate for a significant distance, and d) provides uncertainty for planning of forestry activities as inactive plots may become active at any time with the restrictions that are applied to active plots.

1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions and Conditions

ALTERNATIVE #2

- a) Alternative identifier/number: **Alternative 2**

C: PROPOSED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

500m radius AOC from center of plot and 50 m from center of plot and 50 m from any plot infrastructure which is found within or slightly outside the 500m radius perimeter.

Notification of Regional Wildlife Population Specialist (WPMP) with the Biodiversity and Monitoring Section to determine if plot is active when the area within the AOC is planned for operations, normally within AWS review period. Also notify WPMP specialist if any infrastructure is damaged from any forestry activities.

Harvest, renewal and tending

- Inactive plots – no restrictions within 500m m AOC however operations should avoid damaging any plot infrastructure to the extent reasonably possible. Notify the WPMP specialist if any infrastructure is damaged.
- There are no conditions on tree planting and manual tending on any type of plot (active or inactive)
- Active Plots - September 16 to April 30 – Normal operations can proceed if plot infrastructure is kept intact. Avoid traversing the salamander coverboard grid; however, trees within the grid can be removed provided no disturbance to any coverboards takes place.
- Active Plots - May 1 to September 15 – Reasonable efforts made to avoid operations taking place within the AOC unless other arrangements have been made with the WPMP specialist. If this timeframe cannot be avoided, the SFL manager will inform the District Forester and the WPMP specialist as soon as this is known, with the target being prior to April 30 of the year of operations. If

operations must coincide with measurements, the SFL manager will ensure that survey staff will be able to contact logging company to coordinate both operations to address any safety concerns. A 50 m reserve will be placed on infrastructure within the plot during any operations that occur at this time. The harvest prescription will be discussed with the WPMP Specialist.

Primary Roads, Branch Roads and Landings

- Active or Inactive plots – no conditions on hauling or road maintenance.
- New roads inactive plots – New roads may be constructed in the AOC of inactive plots if reasonable efforts are made to ensure none of the plot infrastructure is within 15m of right-of-way.
- New roads active plots – New roads may be constructed within the AOC of active plots if reasonable efforts taken to ensure none of the plot infrastructure is within 15 m of the right-of-way. Construction to take place from September 16 to April 30 to the extent possible. The WPMP Specialist will be notified, ideally prior to April 30, if road construction work occurs during May 1 – September 15.

Operational Roads and Landings

- Active or Inactive plots – no conditions on hauling or road maintenance.
- New roads inactive plots – New roads may be constructed in the AOC of inactive plots if reasonable efforts are made to ensure none of the plot infrastructure is within 15m of right-of-way.
- New roads active plots – New roads may be constructed within the AOC of active plots if, reasonable effort is made so none of the plot infrastructure is within 15 m of the right-of-way. Construction to take place from September 16 to April 30 to the extent possible. The WPMP Specialist will be contacted as soon as it is known that construction must take place within the May 1 to September 15 period.

Forestry Aggregate Pits

- New aggregate pits: inactive plots – reasonable efforts will be made to ensure no new aggregate pits are placed within 500 m of plot center or within 100 m of any of the infrastructure.
- New aggregate pits: active plots –. reasonable efforts will be made to ensure no new aggregate pits are placed within 500 m of plot center or within 100 m of any of the infrastructure.
- Timing restrictions for active plots September 16 to April 30 apply to forestry aggregate pits to the extent possible.

2. Environmental Analysis

- i. The identification of the potential environmental effects of specific forest management operations on the value(s) in the area of concern.

The prescription maintains most of the intent of the suggested prescription from the 2017 memo and May 2018 document from the Biodiversity and Monitoring Section and it is expected that there will be minimal disruption to the purpose of the plots. If the WPMP specialist feels that there is no value if the industry must carry out operations during the summer within an active pot that measurements might be paused for that year. However, there may be value in measuring response to forestry operations.

- 1 ii. An assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative operational prescription
2 or condition in preventing, minimizing or mitigating those potential effects

3 The advantage of the prescription is that it a) protects all infrastructure, b) will in most cases
4 follow the Biodiversity and Monitoring sections objectives in terms of timing restrictions, c)
5 allow for operations if the forest industry must have the area for summer operations, d) does
6 not include restrictions 500m beyond the plot as forestry operations routinely occur adjacent to
7 forestry workers and public values with no unreasonable safety concerns, e) allows road
8 building – if necessary – to occur outside the normal wet fall conditions thus improving both
9 financial and environmental costs to road building efforts, and f) allowing use of aggregate if it
10 occurs within the AOC as aggregate is often limiting in this forest. The prescription will alleviate
11 most safety concerns of MNRF survey staff by setting up a communications plan between the
12 surveyors and the logging operations.

13 The disadvantage of the prescription is that a) the full expectation of the Biodiversity and
14 Monitoring Section MAY not always be met for each plot, b) if summer operations must occur
15 the WPMP specialist must decide what impact or value this would have for data and may result
16 in a year with no data or affected data. The WPMP may also still have safety concerns about
17 staff working within an area where active operations are occurring in closer proximity than
18 500m.

19 The prescription recognizes that various operations will be avoided within the May 1 to
20 September 15 field measurement season to the extent possible. Although unlikely, there are
21 scenarios in which avoiding operations during this time period are not possible. This would
22 occur when one of the SFLs Overlapping License Agreement holders (OLAs) would not have
23 another viable area to operate in within that timeframe. There are several OLAs and many
24 require summer operating areas and enough other viable areas may be limited due to species
25 and product availability in other blocks, other timeframe restrictions in other blocks that are
26 restricted by operational (e.g. no summer access) or policy (e.g. species at risk habitat with
27 summer restrictions) factors.

28 **D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

29 None received to date.

30 **E: SELECTED PRESCRIPTION**

31 (a) *Description:* Alternative 2

32
33 (b) *Rationale:* Alternative 2 strikes the greatest balance between operational needs and flexibility and
34 the intent of the MSIM plots. It provides for the greatest certainty for forest industry to conduct
35 operations while reducing disruption and safety concerns to the plot infrastructure and program
36 objectives. MSIM plots are one part of a program designed to provide population data and
37 associated habitat condition for a large number of species over a broad scale in both time and space
38 using a consistent set of protocols (PWPMP Program Plan, Section 7.1).

39 (c) *Exception:* No

4 REMOTE TROUT LAKES

The direction for this AOC focuses on maintaining various ecological functions of aquatic ecosystems, including the productive capacity that supports fish (i.e., protection of fish habitat). In addition to their potential effects on the productive capacity of aquatic ecosystems, roads constructed during forestry operations may increase access to specific fisheries. In some cases, the risk associated with new or improved access may be acceptable given the specific management objectives of a fishery. In other cases, the risk associated with new or improved access may not be acceptable given the management objectives of a fishery if there is a potential for over-harvest or introduction of alien species.

A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION

1. Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier: RTL

2. Description of Value

c) Description of value(s):

Access restrictions on remote lakes and ponds with self-sustaining Lake Trout and/or Brook Trout populations (Rocky Lake, Baldcoot Lake, Hawk Lake, Evans Lake, Buck Lake, Blairs Lake, Sud Lake)

d) Dimensions of area of concern:

Area of concern measured from the edge of the associated water feature. Two Modified Management Zones (MMZ1 0-400m, MMZ2 401-1000m)

B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions and Conditions

ALTERNATIVE #1

b) Alternative identifier/number: Alternative 1

2. Proposed Operational Prescription and Condition

Area of concern measured from the edge of the associated water feature. Two Modified Management Zones (MMZ1 0-400m, MMZ2 401-1000m)

Harvest, Renewal and Tending

- Harvest, renewal, and tending are permitted within the AOC subject to direction for lakes and ponds.

Primary Roads, Branch Roads and Landings

- New primary and branch roads within the AOC require MNRF approval. All new primary/branch roads will be subject to locally appropriate access control measures to limit the increase in angling pressure.

- Use and maintenance of existing roads and landings is permitted if the footprint of the road or landing remains unchanged

Operational Roads and Landings

- New operational roads within MMZ1 require MNRF approval
- All new operational roads within the AOC will be subject to locally appropriate access control measures during operations. Where a new operational road is the closest access to the fishery, or otherwise increases access, the road must be decommissioned following completion of operations. Decommissioning activities should include removal of all water crossing structures and may also include measures to minimize access such as ditching, grubbing, and placing physical barriers such as slash and rock on the road bed.
- Use and maintenance of existing roads and landings is permitted if the footprint of the road or landing remains unchanged.

3. Environmental Analysis

- Identification of the potential environmental effects of specific forest management operations on the natural resource feature(s), land use(s) or value(s) in the area of concern:
 - Harvest and extraction have the potential to expose mineral soil and result in transport to the lakes, potentially impacting fish habitat;
 - Machine travel may impact shallow groundwater flow, potentially changing brook trout spawning and nursery areas;
 - Roads and skid trails improve access for vehicles, increasing angling pressure and the risk of introducing non-native species to these lakes.
- Assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative operational prescription in preventing, minimizing or mitigating those potential effects:

Advantages:

 - Minimizes new road construction
 - Mitigates increased access through access controls and road decommissioning

Disadvantages:

 - Does not address potential impacts of harvest operations on fish habitat
 - When new roads are built within the AOC, access to fisheries may increase despite efforts at access control and decommissioning.

1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions and Conditions

ALTERNATIVE #2

- Alternative identifier/number: **Alternative 2**

2. Proposed Operational Prescription and Condition

The AOC consists of a reserve (0-90m) and a Modified Management Zone (91-300m). The total AOC width is 300 metres. The AOC is measured from the edge of vegetation communities capable of providing an effective barrier to the movement of sediment.

Additional site specific modifications may be introduced by Forest Operations Prescriptions.

Harvest, Renewal and Tending

- Harvest, renewal, and tending are permitted within the AOC subject to direction for lakes and ponds.

Primary Roads, Branch Roads and Landings

- Use and maintenance of existing roads and landings is permitted within the reserve if the footprint of the road or landing remains unchanged.
- New roads and landings are allowed inside the reserve portion of the AOC, construction of new roads within the Modified Management Zone are not permitted unless there are no practical or feasible alternatives. Where new roads must be built the following conditions must be considered:
 - Temporary roads and /or crossing will be used wherever practical and feasible to limit future access and disturbance. Road should be constructed with minimal width of right-of-way and low standard (winter road is preferred).
 - Newly constructed roads will be decommissioned after the completion of harvest and silviculture operations in the area at a point no closer to the lake than the outer border of the 300m zone.
 - Closure activities should include removal of all water crossing structures and may also include measures to minimize access such as ditching, grubbing and placing physical barriers such as slash and rock on the road bed.

Operational Roads and Landings

- Use and maintenance of existing roads and landings is permitted within the reserve if the footprint of the road or landing remains unchanged.
- New roads and landings are allowed inside the reserve portion of the AOC, construction of new roads within the Modified Management Zone are not permitted unless there are no practical or feasible alternatives. Where new roads must be built the following conditions must be considered:
 - Temporary roads and /or crossing will be used wherever practical and feasible to limit future access and disturbance. Road should be constructed with minimal width of right-of-way and low standard (winter road is preferred).
 - Newly constructed roads will be decommissioned after the completion of harvest and silviculture operations in the area at a point no closer to the lake than the outer border of the 300m zone.
 - Closure activities should include removal of all water crossing structures and may also include measures to minimize access such as ditching, grubbing and placing physical barriers such as slash and rock on the road bed.

3. Environmental Analysis

- i. Identification of the potential environmental effects of specific forest management operations on the natural resource feature(s), land use(s) or value(s) in the area of concern:
 - Harvest and extraction have the potential to expose mineral soil and result in transport to the lakes, potentially impacting fish habitat;

- Machine travel may impact shallow groundwater flow, potentially changing brook trout spawning and nursery areas;
 - Roads and skid trails improve access for vehicles, increasing angling pressure and the risk of introducing non-native species to these lakes.
- ii. Assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative operational prescription or condition in preventing, minimizing or mitigating those potential effects:

Advantages:

- Reserve area prevents some effects of forest operations on fish habitat
- Reserve prevents increased access within 90m of the fishery
- Minimizes new road construction
- Mitigates increased access in the Modified Management Zone through road decommissioning

Disadvantages:

- When new roads are built within the AOC, access to fisheries may be increased despite efforts at decommissioning

C: PROPOSED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

a. *Description:* Alternative 1

- b. *Rationale:* Provides a balanced approach to protecting the fishery value by focusing on limiting the creation of new access while providing opportunity for forest management activities.
- Allows regular harvest throughout the AOC
 - Approvals provide flexibility to construct roads as needed throughout AOC
 - Mitigates increased access through access controls and road decommissioning
 - Fire habitat is protected through other AOCs (e.g. water features, groundwater recharge areas)

c. *Exception:* No

D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

None received to date.

E: SELECTED PRESCRIPTION

Alternative 1.

5 AOCs WITHIN ENHANCED MANAGEMENT AREA E64A

The area that is now the Bancroft Minden Forest was once four distinct Crown Management Units, each with its own unique management plan. The former/historic Leslie M. Frost Centre was one of four Management units amalgamated to form the Bancroft Minden Forest Management Unit. In 1974 the Frost Centre was established as a facility to provide opportunities for research and demonstration of resource management as well as recreation and public education. An integrated plan for land use and resource development ca. 1980 was developed by MNR for the Crown land within the Frost Centre which informs resource management activities in addition to the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas.

The Crown Land Use Policy Atlas is the source of area-specific land use policy for Crown lands in a large part of central and mid-northern Ontario. Prior to CLUPA there were District Land Use Guidelines (DLUGs) and location specific plans such as the Frost Centre Integrated Plan. In 1999, as part of the “Lands for Life” planning process, the MNR produced “Ontario’s Living Legacy Land Use Strategy” (OLL) which documents land use policies for Crown Land in southern Ontario and “mid-northern” Ontario. The CLUPA policy reports replaced the DLUGs and location specific plans. Recreation programs once run by the MNR – Leslie M. Frost Centre ceased when the Frost Centre was closed in 2004. These programs were not transferred to anyone, any group or any organization.

However, the Township of Algonquin Highlands came forward to take over administration of the canoe routes and campsites (known as the water trails system) within the historic Frost Centre as an economic opportunity via Land Use Permits. *The Haliburton Highlands Water Trails* advertises numerous canoe route possibilities with 171 interior canoe/boat-only access campsites and 70 portages, and a limited number of road access campsites, primarily found along the Sherborne Lake Access road. They maintain a trails office adjacent to the historic Frost Centre on Highway 35 and have an online reservation system to reserve organized camp sites which they maintain.

The CLUPA is located almost entirely within the boundaries of the historic Leslie M. Frost Natural Resource Centre and is referred to as Enhanced Management Area (EMA) E64a which has incorporated direction from the Leslie M. Frost Natural Resource Centre integrated plan.

The historic Frost Centre Integrated Plan boundary is made up of three areas in CLUPA:

- o G421, General Use Area
- o E64a-2, Clear Lake Enhanced Management Area
- o E65R-2, Black River Enhanced Management Area

Each area has different policies and overlay areas (each with additional policies) associated with it.

There were two AOC prescriptions (with associated supplementary documentation) in the 2011 FMP that pertain to the historic Frost Centre which have been carried forward into the 2021 FMP. These AOCs pertain to:

- Skyline Use Area or Viewscape (SUA in Table FMP-11)
- Nordic ski trails (XTR in Table FMP-11)

1 While the AOCs also pertain to other lakes and ski trails outside of the historic Frost Centre, they have
2 been included here under the context of EMA E64a to provide background for the comments received
3 during Stage 3 from the Township of Algonquin Highlands and serve as a placeholder for new
4 prescriptions.

5 The Township of Algonquin Highlands informed the planning team that they manage backcountry
6 camping in the Frost Centre and Poker Lakes canoe routes areas and ski trails in the Frost Centre under
7 an LUP with the MNRF. They also manage and maintain 38 kilometres of backcountry hiking trails
8 throughout the township of Algonquin Highlands which cross a combination of Crown, private and
9 municipal land. While the EMA 64a direction does not pertain to the canoe routes in the Poker Lakes
10 area, consistency in AOCs between both areas would be the ideal situation, with the same reserves as
11 within the Frost Centre applying to each.

12 It is the goal of the plan author with the assistance from the MNRF to create AOCs specific to the Water
13 Trails Program for:

- 14 • Poker Lake campsites, portage trails and access points
- 15 • Algonquin Highlands hiking trails

16 These AOCs would need to consider reasonable accommodation for the Water Trails Program which
17 could include reserves and modified buffers on campsites, portages and hiking trails. Discussions will be
18 initiated between the SFL and Water trails representatives regarding how operations can co-exist during
19 the peak camping season. The forest industries needs must also be considered as they are under
20 considerable restrictions that affect their ability to operate e.g. other values with AOC prescriptions and
21 timing restrictions and weather to name a few. The intention of this collaboration is to create a
22 comprehensive package that will allow the Water Trails program and the Forest Industry to co-
23 exist. Both are important for the local economy as well as providing recreational use of our Crown lands
24 and forest products through sustainable forest management.

25 Ideally the AOCs that are created through this process can transfer to the Frost Centre LUP held by the
26 Water Trails. Further clarification on the direction in the CLUPA and how it applies to forest operations
27 will be needed.

28 The intention of the Planning Team during draft plan review is the following steps:

- 29 1) Initiate a meeting between the SFL and the Water Trails Program with the assistance of the
30 MNRF after Draft Plan submission (week of March 22nd). This initial meeting would be an
31 overview of what AOCs will be needed and possibly the parameters. The intention is to outline
32 the AOCs before the final Plan (June).
- 33 2) Continue to identify all areas needed for AOCs on the land (campsites, portage trails, hiking
34 trails and ski trails).
- 35 3) Continue work to determine what parts of the CLUPA applies to the Water Trails program in the
36 former Frost Centre.

NUNIKANI AND SHERBORNE LAKES SKYLINE USE AREA

A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION

1. Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier: SUA

2. Description of Land Use Value:

(a) Description of natural resource feature (s), land use(s) or value(s): Nunikani and Sherborne Lakes Skyline Use Area

(b) Dimensions of area of concern: Slope dependant reserve measured from treed edge and slope dependant modified management zone (MMZ)

% slope	AOC Width (m)	Reserve Width (m)	Modified Width (m)
0-15	30	15	15
16-30	50	15	35
31-45	70	30	40
>45	90	30	60

B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION

1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions and Conditions

(a) Alternative identifier/number: Alternative A

2. Proposed Operational Prescription and Condition

The AOC includes a slope-dependant reserve and a modified management zone that takes in that portion of land that can be viewed from Nunikani and Sherborne Lakes. AOC widths are minimums and may be extended based on actual conditions encountered.

The following conditions apply to the whole AOC:

- Roads and landings within the AOC must not be visible from the lake
- All operational roads subject to an abandonment strategy (as described in the AWS)
- No aggregate extraction is permitted

Reserve:

- No harvest, renewal or tending is permitted.

MMZ:

- Residual forest will be maintained (see section 4.2.1) in the dimensions stated below. If areas outside the MMZ width (e.g. hills) are visible from the lake, normal selection and shelterwood harvest is permitted. Clearcut harvest must maintain a minimum of 9m²/ha in trees >10cm DBH.
- Protection of the site shall follow the general standards found in the CROs (table 4.2.2.2) for controlling compaction, rutting, erosion, nutrient loss, loss of productive forest and hydrological impacts.

3. Environmental Analysis

(i) Identification of the potential environmental effects of specific forest management operations on the natural resource feature(s), land use(s) or value(s) in the area of concern:

Nunikani and Sherborne Lakes: The Crown Land Use Policy Atlas deems the portion of land beyond the backshore use area that can be viewed from any location on Sherborne and Nunikani Lakes as an Enhanced Management Area (E64a). An overlay of a skyline use area resulted in the Nunikani and Sherborne Skyline Use AOC in the 2006 FMP (CLUPA ID: E64a-2/SK2). The policy still exists, thus the AOC was carried forward to the 2011 FMP (*and now to the 2021 FMP*). The skyline is designated as a partially restricted use area for the outdoor recreation program and resource production, specifically aesthetics and forest management. The AOC was written to mediate any negative effects that clearcut harvesting, roads and landings may have on recreational users of the lakes.

(ii) Assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative operational prescription in preventing, minimizing or mitigating those potential effects:

The AOC as described in this alternative meets the requirements of the CLUPA for Nunikani and Sherborne Lakes.

The described AOC adjacent to water is more restrictive than the provincially recommended large lake direction prescribed by the Stand and Site Guide. Less timber will be available for harvest than under regular conditions. There is potential for operational planning to be limited by restrictions on the placement of operational roads and landings. According to the Stand and Site Guide, some stand-replacing disturbance adjacent to water is recommended to emulate natural disturbance. This AOC prescription does not allow clearcutting up to water, therefore does not allow for the creation of young forest habitat up to the proportion recommended by the Stand and Site Guide (10% on large lakes).

C: PROPOSED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

(a) Description: Alternative A – See above

(b) Rationale: The proposed operation prescription has been in place since the 2001 FMP and has been effective in protecting the aesthetic and recreational value of the Nunikani and Sherborne Lakes.

1 (c) Exception: No exception is proposed.

2 **D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

3 None received to date.

4 **E: SELECTED PRESCRIPTION**

5 Alternative 1.

6 **FROST CENTRE CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS**

7 **A: AREA OF CONCERN DESCRIPTION**

8 **1. Area of Concern (AOC) Identifier:** XTR

9 **2. Description of Land Use Value:**

10 (a) Description of natural resource feature (s), land use(s) or value(s): Frost Centre Cross Country Ski
11 Trails. These trails have Land Use Permits.

12 (b) Dimensions of area of concern: Modified Management Zone (MMZ) 0-20m on both sides of the trail.

13 **B: OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION**

14 **1. Environmental Analysis of Alternative Operational Prescriptions and Conditions**

15 (a) Alternative identifier/number: Alternative A

16 **2. Proposed Operational Prescription and Condition**

17 The AOC is the width of the trail plus a Modified Management Zone (MMZ) 20m wide on both sides of
18 the trail, to address aesthetics and shade concerns. This AOC was developed and recommended by the
19 Bancroft Minden Local Citizen's Committee.

20 Conditions within the MMZ include:

- 21 • Good neighbour considerations (see CROs Section 4.2.2.2) will be followed regarding all phases
22 of operations, including tree marking in proximity of the identified value. In particular,
23 "Modifications to operations may be implemented to resolve public safety, aesthetic, shade or
24 joint use concerns."
25 • Selective and shelterwood harvest, renewal and tending is permitted.
26 • During tree marking, the removal of potential danger trees must be emphasized.
27 • Fell all trees away from trails whenever possible.

- Where necessary, consult with the trail operator to schedule operations to minimize disruptions and ensure safety to other trail users, including making use of small trail diversions.
- Place forest operations signs on each side of the planned operation boundary to alert trail users they are entering a forestry operation area.
- Identify and verify by written agreement with the operator those trail sections where canopy retention (esp. conifers on S and W sides) within the modified zone will be maintained.
- New skid trails to cross ski trails at close to right angles with minimum canopy disturbance.
- Identify and verify by written agreement with the operator those locations where maintaining existing drainage is critical.
- Existing access roads can be used during forestry operations.
- Restore all drainage disturbance and conduct all rehabilitation work as soon as possible after conclusion of forestry operations.

3. Environmental Analysis

(i) Identification of the potential environmental effects of specific forest management operations on the natural resource feature(s), land use(s) or value(s) in the area of concern:

The ski trails are established on roads originally used for logging. The intent of the AOC is to minimize conflict between trail users and traffic associated with logging operations, as well as protect the aesthetics and snow cover of the trail. If canopy closure is completely removed (e.g. through clearcutting) directly adjacent to the trail, increased sunlight exposure may result in snow melt and decreased trail quality. It is expected that the proposed AOC will mediate this impact. Dangerous conditions created by damaged or felled trees, skid trail placement, condition of the road post-harvest and communication of specific operational details were also identified as concerns by the trail users, via an LCC member.

(ii) Assessment of the advantages and disadvantages of the alternative operational prescription in preventing, minimizing or mitigating those potential effects:

The proposed AOC prescription was developed by the LCC, with a high level of involvement from the concerned party. It has been written to address and mitigate all the potential impacts identified by the ski trail users. Ongoing communication, specifically between harvest operators and trail operators will be key, and is outlined in the prescription.

The prescription will result in less timber being harvested than under normal circumstances, especially if area adjacent to the trail is an intolerant forest type, requiring clearcut harvest. Increased planning will be necessary to meet standards laid out in the AOC.

C: PROPOSED OPERATIONAL PRESCRIPTION AND CONDITION

(a) Description: Alternative A – See above

1 (b) Rationale: The proposed operation prescription has been recommended by the LCC to address
2 concerns of the LUP holders for the Frost Centre cross country ski trails. The AOC was reviewed and
3 approved by the planning team.

4 (c) Exception: No exception is proposed.

5 **D: SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

6 The Frost Centre Ski Trails off Dan Lake road are to be excluded from winter operations and the contact
7 information there needs updated to reflect current management under the direction of the Township of
8 Algonquin Highlands. This is also listed in the CLUPA policies.

9 **E: SELECTED PRESCRIPTION**

10 Alternative 1.

6 COMMUNICATION PROTOCOL FOR OPERATING PROVINCIAL PARKS

There are a number of operating provincial parks within the forest management unit which are regulated under the Provincial Parks and Conservation Reserves Act, 2006. Protected Areas permanently protect representative ecosystems, natural and cultural heritage, maintain biodiversity, and provide opportunities for ecologically sustainable recreation.

The SFL worked with Ontario Parks during operational planning to identify where provincial parks are adjacent to planned operations and developed a communication spreadsheet to exchange information during plan implementation to fulfill the requirements of the PP AOCs

The communication spreadsheet provides the following information:

- Information on protected area name and contact
- information on location (i.e. township, harvest allocation identifier);
- status of prescription development, tree marking and planned silviculture activity (which will be updated as this information becomes available);
- a means to document any notes or special instructions from Ontario Parks and the SFL and;
- information on scheduling and completion of forestry operations to communicate with Ontario Parks.

The SFL will exchange the communication spreadsheet annually (45 days prior to the implementation of the AWS, or before March 1st) with Ontario Parks staff and managers and MNRF District Forester. For harvest allocations (blocks) adjacent to protected areas, the SFL (i) will indicate if the allocation is scheduled in the AWS and provide a 'best guess' of operation start-up (i.e. Spring, Summer, Fall or Winter); and (ii) also add Ontario Parks staff to operations start-up notifications in-year. If a revision is made to the AWS to add an allocation adjacent to a protected area, the SFL will provide the updated spreadsheet to Ontario Parks staff and managers when the revision is submitted and will endeavor to provide a 30-day notice prior to operations commencing.

During FMP preparation, Ontario Parks staff and managers will review the planned operations and identify any concerns and/or values that may require additional consideration to the SFL. Operations will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and depending on location and operations will be assigned a 'risk rating' based on the potential to impact visitor experience. The respective Ontario Parks staff will work with the SFL to determine an appropriate approach to address the concern and/or values based on the risk rating e.g. operations identified as low risk may not require any further follow up beyond the AWS notice. BMFC will consider all input from Ontario Parks and any changes resulting from these discussions will be reflected in the forest operations prescription.

7 FLEXIBILITY PROVISIONS

Many AOC prescriptions allow for the flexibility to deviate from direction in the prescription under specific circumstances. Changes to permitted operations are primarily dealt with on a case-by-case basis. The requirement and extent of MNRF approval varies based on the level of risk associated with deviating from the direction in the Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (SSG).

1: Extraordinary Circumstances

The phrasing “except in extraordinary circumstances” was included in the SSG when it was felt that the potential risk associated with deviating from direction was relatively high, and thus deviation should be a rare event.

Changes to permitted operations under extraordinary circumstances will be considered on a case by case basis. Generally, the following principles must be met for flexibility to be invoked under extraordinary circumstances:

1. Strict application of the AOC direction would result in unacceptable social, economic, or environmental consequences,
2. The proposed modified activities are unlikely to have an adverse effect on the protection objectives of the AOC, and
3. The situation could not reasonably have been foreseen and planned for.

During implementation of the FMP, the ‘extraordinary circumstances’ flexibility provision is dealt with by requiring an administrative amendment to the FMP. An example of the wording that would be included in the AOC prescription is as follows; “Activity X is not permitted except in extraordinary circumstances as specifically identified and justified through the FMP AOC planning process.”

Administrative amendments are described in Part C, Section 2.2.2. of the Forest Management Planning Manual (2020).

2: All other flexibility phrases (e.g. reasonable efforts, normally, where practical and feasible)

These flexibility phrases are included in AOC prescriptions where the risk associated with deviating from direction is lower than those identified with the “except in extraordinary circumstances” clause.

Changes to permitted operations given this level of flexibility in the SSG were discussed at the AOC Task Team level and prescriptions written up to describe the specific course of action (e.g. approval, notification) that is required for each AOC where these flexibility phrases apply.

Approval process for deviating from AOC prescriptions

It is the responsibility of the Bancroft Minden Forest Company (BMFC) to protect previously identified values and new values identified during operations and request approval from MNRF before conducting certain activities within the respective AOC for each value. AOC prescriptions in FMP-11 describe the

1 situations where MNRF approval is required. BMFC will make best efforts to minimize the need for
2 approval through considering all other available options. However, in some cases there may be no other
3 options or in certain cases (e.g. re-using an old road from previous harvest cycle) it makes the most
4 sense from both an ecological and economic perspective.

5 MNRF Approval includes the following steps:

6 1. BMFC reviews alternatives and prepares request

7 BMFC staff will determine the need for an approval through reviewing mapped FMP values that will be
8 encountered during operations. BMFC staff will verify in the field that the value is properly located and if
9 operations requiring approval will be entering and/or affecting the value. First and foremost, they will
10 review and carefully consider alternative options to avoid the value all together (i.e. physically moving
11 the location of a road, landing or all operations, staying out of an AOC until after timing restrictions,
12 finding alternate sources of aggregate etc.).

13 2. BMFC submits request to MNRF

14 If no alternate options are available (i.e. in the case of a road location due to steep topography, site
15 factors such as bedrock or inoperable terrain, or if re-using an old road from the previous harvest cycle
16 is the best solution to minimize aggregate and avoid constructing a new road in close proximity), BMFC
17 staff are to submit a request in the form of an e-mail with a map attached to illustrate the area affected.
18 The request will outline the value and associated AOC prescription, geographic location and block
19 number, the type of operation to be conducted, how impacts will be minimized, as well as reasons why
20 alternate options are not preferable and occasionally, it will indicate benefits to other values by avoiding
21 them (i.e. multiple values within close proximity).

22 Generally, all AOC requests should be submitted to the Management Biologist assigned to the Bancroft
23 Minden Forest Management Plan. If this individual is unavailable, the following positions are the
24 secondary contacts: Forestry Technical Specialist, Management Forester, Management Biologist
25 assigned to Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Management Plan or Resources Operations Supervisor.

26 3. MNRF staff reviews request and provides approval or denial notice to BMFC

27 It is the responsibility of whomever receives the request to ensure key MNRF staff are informed and
28 provide input into approving the requests. If there are enough details in the request (MNRF may request
29 further details), or and/or there is enough local knowledge of the area a field visit is not always
30 completed. Documentation is completed by the receiver of the request that outlines the specific
31 request, location, and conditions.

32 Once complete, the documentation is sent to BMFC with a cc to the Resources Operations Supervisor for
33 notification purposes.

34 MNRF and SFL have committed to a service standard for providing a response within 3 days for requests
35 that do not require a field visit and 5 days for requests that do require a field visit.

1 If the service standards cannot be met by MNRF, the SFL has committed to providing notification of how
2 and when they intend to move forward with the AOC deviation. BMFC has acknowledged that these
3 situations will be subject to compliance inspections and will assume the risks associated with their
4 actions.

5 4. Filing of the request

6 Each AOC approval request, even if denied, is assigned a number by MNRF staff and filed in Forest
7 Management folder located on the district common drive. It is then used for compliance purposes after
8 operations have been completed to ensure any required conditions have been followed. This folder can
9 be made available to those working within the MNRF, otherwise a request can be made to have an
10 electronic and/or printed copy available to those requiring this information for audit purposes.

11 **Notification process for deviating from AOC prescriptions**

12 A number of AOC prescriptions in FMP-11 describe situations where MNRF notification is required when
13 deviating from the AOC prescription. Similar to the approvals process described above, BMFC will make
14 best efforts to avoid the need to deviate from AOC prescriptions. When this cannot be avoided or is
15 preferred (from an ecological, economic and/or social perspective), the notification documentation to
16 MNRF will outline the value and associated AOC prescription, geographic location and block number, the
17 type of operation to be conducted, how impacts will be minimized, as well as reasons why alternate
18 options are not preferable and occasionally, it will indicate benefits to other values by avoiding them.

19 The same steps and considerations used to review and submit requests for MNRF approvals will be used
20 to document and notify MNRF; with the difference being that once the notification has been submitted
21 to MNRF, BMFC can commence work.

22 The notification documentation will include an approximate start date that the work is planned for that
23 specific site. Every effort will be made to provide notification prior to commencing work and ideally, two
24 weeks in advance. This will provide MNRF an opportunity to inspect sites beforehand, if time allows, and
25 provide any comments or concerns to BMFC.

26 BMFC and MNRF are encouraged to conduct joint field visits when contemplating situations where
27 deviating from AOC prescriptions may be required.

28 MNRF will file the documentation in the Forestry Management folder located on the district common
29 drive.