

Suggestion for Implementation of CR#16 – Ecological & Cultural Integrity

~ FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY ~

- Example taken from: Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources & their implementation of the Ontario Environmental Bill of Rights via “Statements of Environmental Value”
- The Statement of Environmental Value include statements describing the following principles (Available online at: <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca/ERS-WEB-External/content/sev.jsp?pageName=sevList&subPageName=10002>) :
 - A sound understanding of natural and ecological systems and how our actions affect them is key to achieving sustainability
 - As our understanding of the way the natural world works and how our actions affect it is often incomplete, MNR staff should exercise caution and special concern for natural values in the face of such uncertainty.
 - The finite capacity of our natural systems should be recognized in planning and allocation decisions.
 - Natural resources should be properly valued to provide a fair return to Ontarians and to reflect their ecological, social and economic contributions.
 - Participation in resource management by all those who share an interest is a necessary ingredient, particularly in support of communities who must balance economic diversity with other needs. Those affected by proposed changes must have access to information and opportunities to provide input to decisions that affect their lives.
 - Applied research and sharing of scientific and technological knowledge and innovative technologies must be fostered to support the sustainable development of natural resources.
 - An ecosystem approach to managing our natural resources enables a holistic perspective of social, economic and ecological aspects and provides the context for integrated resource management.
 - The planning for and management of natural resources should strive for continuous improvement and effectiveness through adaptive management of natural resources.
 - In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection must be an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation.
 - From both a sound business and environmental perspective, it is less costly and more effective to anticipate and prevent negative environmental impacts before undertaking new activities than it is to correct environmental problems after the fact.
 - Rehabilitating degraded environments is an important aspect of resource stewardship.
- An example of how this is applied to land use authorization occurs where regional forest management plans (FMP) are developed. The plan provides specific detail as to how each principle is met by the proponents. Here is an example from the Algoma Forest Management Plan:
- A suggestion for implementing CR#16 would be to include a template of ecological and cultural values for the applicable zones (this should be available in the description of the SMZs and CZs for GBL). A proponent would then describe how their land use activity either maintained or took care to mitigate effects on the list of values (which may/may not be based on CIMP VC's). This list of principles should be concise and clear so that proponents know exactly what they must do to meet conformity.

- Example of Potential CR#16 Template

STATEMENT OF ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL INTEGRITY

Proposed Activity & Authorization: Exploration Camp / Land Use Permit

Affected Zones: Zone 15

Ecological or Cultural Features (as identified in SLUP)	Potential Impact & Proposed Mitigation	CIMP Value Component & Indicator
Muskox Range and Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity will not overlap with Muskox habitat 	
Waterfowl Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity will take place during winter months, so breeding birds will not be disturbed. • The Camp will be located at an existing clearing (old camp site), so there will be no new net habitat degradation or loss. 	
Moose Habitat	Not applicable	
Furbearer Habitat	Etc	
Boreal Woodland Caribou range west of Deline	Etc	
Eskers	Etc.	
Importance of Ecological Representation: Tunago Lake, etc.		
Barren-ground Caribou habitat		
Traditional Trails		
Waterfowl harvest locations		
Moose harvest locations		
Fish harvest		
Barren-ground caribou harvest		
Furbearer harvest		
Boreal Woodland Caribou Harvest near Whitefish River		
Special Harvesting Areas (Ex. Neregah, Turili, etc.)		
Etc.		
Etc.		

1 **6.1.21 Consideration of MNR's Statement of Environmental Values Briefing Note for the Algoma Forest**
2 **2010 - 2020 Forest Management Plan**

3
4
5 **Description of Proposal**

6 The Algoma Forest is comprised of area 1,570,776 hectares in size including water and non-forested land under
7 Crown and patent ownership. The major communities within the unit are Sault Ste. Marie, Bruce Mines, and Wawa.
8 Approximately 972,353 hectares or 62% of the management unit is Crown land. It is located within the Northeast
9 Region's, Sault Ste. Marie and Wawa administrative Districts of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR).
10 The Algoma Forest is in the transition from the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence Forest Region to the Boreal Forest
11 Region. It includes a mix of forest types and conditions from rolling hills of sugar maple and yellow birch to rough
12 coastal terrain covered by white birch with stands of spruce and jack pine in between. White pine is present
13 throughout most of the eastern portion of the unit on productive, mixed sites. The forest supports tree species such
14 as maple, birch, pine, spruce, and poplar. Sugar maple, white birch, and black spruce are the most abundant species in
15 the forest. White spruce, trembling aspen, balsam fir, yellow birch and jack pine are relatively common. Red pine,
16 white pine, hemlock, cedar and larch are also present. A few isolated occurrences of other hardwoods, including and
17 black ash and white elm are also found.

18
19 The Algoma Forest is licensed to Clergue Forest Management Inc. under a Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL - Number
20 542257). Clergue Forest Management Inc. carries out Forest Management planning for the Algoma Forest in
21 consultation with the MNR, and the public. The anticipated dates that the forest management plan (FMP) will be in
22 effect are for the 10-year period of April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2020 with two five-year terms of operations from April
23 1, 2010 to March 31, 2015 and April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2020 respectively.

24 The Algoma Forest has 19 Conservation Reserves (CR); Echo River Hardwoods CR, Garden River Forest CR,
25 Goulais River Beach Ridges CR, Harmony Forest CR, Jollineau CR, La Verendrye/Ogidaki CR, Lake Superior
26 Highlands CR, North Montreal River Moraine CR, O'Connor CR, Rose Lake Dune Peatland Complex CR,
27 Searchmont South Forest CR, South Michipicoten River – Superior Shoreline CR, Stuart Lake Wetland CR, Thessalon
28 River Delta/Rock Lake Red Oak CR, Tikamanganda Lake CR, Tilley Creek West CR, Ranger North CR, Wabos
29 North CR, and Wabos South CR.

30 **Each of the following principles of resource stewardship as outlined in MNR's Statement of Environmental**
31 **Values, 2008 have been considered in the context of this proposal. The following describes how these**
32 **principles have been applied:**

- 33
34 • **A sound understanding of natural and ecological systems and how our actions affect them is key to**
35 **achieving sustainability.**

1 Through preparation of the FMP in accordance with the Forest Management Planning Manual the plan
2 incorporates indicators of sustainability that are used to assess the plan during production and later during plan
3 implementation. The ability to assess indicators of sustainability provides the opportunity for adaptive
4 management, and subsequently, continuous improvement in our stewardship. Insight and conclusions from the
5 analyses and evaluation have been incorporated into planning for this FMP, and the current planning process in
6 Ontario will ensure that future assessments of this FMP will provide insights for future FMPs.

- 7
- 8 • **As our understanding of the way the natural world works and how our actions affect it is often**
9 **incomplete, MNR staff should exercise caution and special concern for natural values in the face of such**
10 **uncertainty.**

11

12 The plan makes use of the appropriate existing guidelines for the protection of values (e.g. tourism, aesthetic,
13 water quality, fish habitat, moose habitat and marten habitat). These guidelines take into account data gaps and
14 provide the basis for adaptive management.

- 15
- 16 • **The finite capacity of our natural systems should be recognized in planning and allocation decisions.**

17

18 This plan recognizes forests have natural limits in terms of their capacity to produce timber and, by extension,
19 specific types of wildlife habitat. This is incorporated into the plan by using the Strategic Forest Management
20 Model (SFMM) computer modelling tool which produces an “available harvest area” based on the social,
21 environmental and economic management decisions developed by the planning team. This optimization model
22 solves by selecting silvicultural prescriptions to renew harvested areas to meet desired future forest conditions and
23 objectives. Determining the most effective treatment will require consideration and understanding of the site.
24 This plan has also incorporated the results of a “natural benchmark” analyses and spatial analysis of landscape
25 features, processes, and habitat.

- 26
- 27 • **Natural resources should be properly valued to provide a fair return to Ontarians and to reflect their**
28 **ecological, social and economic contributions.**

29

30 Determining Crown timber rates is not a FMP component. Continued provision of sustainable timber resources
31 through this FMP provides economic value to Ontarians. Social, economic and ecological value of other forest
32 resources (habitat, tourism etc.) has been recognized and considered in this FMP. Strategies and prescriptions
33 have been developed to ensure continued contributions of non-timber resources to the province of Ontario.

- 34
- 35 • **Participation in resource management by all those who share an interest is a necessary ingredient,**
36 **particularly in support of communities who must balance economic diversity with other needs. Those**
37 **affected by proposed changes must have access to information and opportunities to provide input to**
38 **decisions that affect their lives.**

1 The plan's public consultation and Aboriginal involvement process provided opportunities for the public and
2 Aboriginal communities to access information and become involved with planning of the forest operations.
3 Clergue Forest Management Inc. played a major role on the planning team including providing the author of the
4 plan. Other planning team members included representatives from MNR and First Nations. The Desired Forest
5 and Benefits workshop was used as a forum for plan development and input to understand what the community
6 desires and needs from the forest are. In addition, specific meetings with groups impacted by the plan were held.
7 Decisions proposed during the planning process can be appealed through an issue resolution process or through
8 a request for an individual environmental assessment.
9

- 10 • **Applied research and sharing of scientific and technological knowledge and innovative technologies**
11 **must be fostered to support the sustainable development of natural resources.**

12
13 The plan used existing models (i.e. Ontario Marten Analyst Model, Ontario Wildlife Habitat Assessment Model
14 and Strategic Forest Management Model,) a Geographic Information System, satellite imagery, and science based
15 guidelines (i.e. Natural Disturbance Pattern Emulation, marten, silviculture) to assist in the determination of
16 resource sustainability.
17

- 18 • **An ecosystem approach to managing our natural resources enables a holistic perspective of social,**
19 **economic and ecological aspects and provides the context for integrated resource management.**
- 20 • **In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection must be an integral part of the**
21 **development process and cannot be considered in isolation.**
- 22 • **From both a sound business and environmental perspective, it is less costly and more effective to**
23 **anticipate and prevent negative environmental impacts before undertaking new activities than it is to**
24 **correct environmental problems after the fact.**

25
26 To the extent possible, the Algoma Forest Management Plan has adopted strategies that support an integrated
27 approach to management and recognizes the impact of forestry activities on the entire ecosystem. The plan
28 recognizes that in some areas no harvesting should be allowed and in other areas normal forest harvesting
29 activities need to be modified to prevent or mitigate impacts on forest ecosystems or other known values. Areas
30 of Concern (AOC) prescriptions to guide operations have been used to maintain the integrity of these values.
31

32 Planning was done by a multidisciplinary team that was charged with the responsibility of ensuring that decisions
33 took into consideration all known forest values. A computerized support model such as the SFMM was used to
34 evaluate management objectives and strategies in order to provide for the best mix of social and economic
35 benefits. Similarly, SFMM was used to model the effects of various objectives and strategies on wildlife habitat.
36

- 37 • **The planning for and management of natural resources should strive for continuous improvement and**
38 **effectiveness through adaptive management of natural resources.**

1 This plan implements most recent policy, information sources, science, and analytical tools developed through
2 continuous learning. Ontario's FMP process requires the evaluation of current and previous FMPs and the
3 assessment of achievement of objectives, including analysis of effectiveness of LCCs. Insight and conclusions
4 from this analysis and evaluation have been incorporated into planning for this FMP.
5

6 • **Rehabilitating degraded environments is an important aspect of resource stewardship.**
7

8 Identification of forest structure and composition, and habitat issues and concerns, and the development of
9 strategies to address these concerns are key elements of this FMP. The plan makes use of the appropriate existing
10 guidelines and computer models to evaluate strategies and develop management prescriptions that promote
11 healthy ecosystems, sites, and natural populations (*e.g. Forest Management Guideline for Natural Disturbance Pattern
12 Emulation, Forest Management Guidelines for the Provision of Marten Habitat, Silviculture Guide to Managing for Black Spruce,
13 Jack Pine, and Aspen on Boreal Forest Ecosites in Ontario, etc.*)
14

15 **2. Opportunities for Consultation: how in the context of this proposal MNR provided for**

- 16 ○ **An open and consultative process when making decisions that might significantly affect the**
17 **environment; and**
18 ○ **Opportunities for involvement of Aboriginal people whose interests may be affected by**
19 **decisions that might significantly affect the environment.**
20

21 **Formal Public Consultation**
22

23 In accordance with provisions of the 2004 FMPM, formal public consultation has occurred at four stages during
24 preparation and review of this FMP: Invitation to Participate, Review of Long Term Management Direction (30
25 days), Information Centre – Review of Proposed Operations (60 days), and Information Centre – Review of
26 Draft Plan (60 days). Public Inspection of the Approved Plan (30 days) will occur following plan approval.
27 Direct written notice is provided to individuals and organizations at each stage of the planning process as required
28 of the FMPM. Individuals and organizations may request to be added to this list, which is updated at each stage.
29 Public notice is provided through advertisements in local newspapers. All comments and submissions received
30 from public consultation to date have been considered as part of the decision-making process by MNR. A
31 written response has been provided to all written comments and submissions, and upon request, to all verbal
32 comments. All comments and submissions are part of the public record. There is an opportunity during the
33 FMP process to seek resolution of issues with the MNR District Manager or the MNR Regional Director.
34 During the 30-day inspection period any person may make a written request to the Director of Environmental
35 Assessment and Approvals Branch, Ministry of the Environment, for an individual environmental assessment of
36 specific proposed forest management activities in the FMP. A response to a request for an individual
37 environmental assessment will normally be provided after the completion of the 30-day inspection period.
38

39 **Opportunities for Involvement of Aboriginal People**

1
2 Four First Nations and the local Metis community were invited to participate on the planning team.
3 Representatives from Thessalon First Nation and Michipicoten First Nation were active members of the planning
4 team and played an integral role in the plan preparation. The Aboriginal communities in or adjacent to the
5 Algoma Forest were offered the opportunity to develop a customized consultation approach for forest
6 management planning.

7
8 Aboriginal Background Information Reports were prepared for the four First Nation communities in previous
9 forest management planning processes. These reports document Aboriginal use of the natural resources on the
10 Algoma Forest, forest management related problems and issues for those Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal
11 values, and a summary of negotiations between MNR and Aboriginal communities. The Reports on the
12 Protection of Identified Aboriginal Values were prepared following operational planning. These reports
13 document proposed operations and road corridors of interest to the First Nation communities, Aboriginal and
14 other values, a discussion of the AOC prescriptions for Aboriginal values and a discussion of how Aboriginal use
15 of the forest has been addressed in the plan. A Summary of Aboriginal Involvement in the production of the
16 FMP has also been prepared and is included in the FMP.

17
18 **3. Additional Information: any other considerations of MNR's SEV in the context of this proposal**

19
20 The MNR has taken into account social, economic and other considerations. These have been integrated with
21 the purposes of the EBR. The broad objective of forest management on Crown land in Ontario and in this plan
22 is to provide for the wise use of forest resources, which is sustainable over the long term. The planning process
23 and related guides ensure that environmental, ecological, social and economic values are identified and measures
24 are taken to protect, conserve or enhance these values. A strategy of adaptive management allows new science
25 findings to be incorporated into the FMP. Harvesting activities are planned within the context of silvicultural
26 systems and the sustainability of the resource is addressed through the use of computer modelling and
27 professional knowledge to determine appropriate allocation levels. Sites that may be affected by operations,
28 including cultural heritage values, are protected by AOC prescriptions. The health of the forest is maintained
29 through regeneration activities and landscape diversity strategies. The public's right to a healthy environment is
30 protected through the planning process, which requires identification of environmental values and prevention or
31 mitigation of potential damage to those values. This right is further protected through mandatory reporting of
32 accomplishments, and associated compliance and effectiveness monitoring. These monitoring efforts will ensure
33 the FMP is followed and future planning strategies are modified as required.

34
35 Other considerations have been addressed by following the Class Environmental Assessment for Timber
36 Management on Crown Lands in Ontario, as extended and amended by MNR's Class Environmental Assessment
37 Approval for Forest
38

1 Management on Crown Lands in Ontario (MNR-71 as amended by MNR-71/2) and adhering to the Crown
2 Forest Sustainability Act (1994) in preparation of the FMP. This process requires the integration of social,
3 economic, ecological considerations through use of the FMPM for Ontario's Crown Forests (2004) in preparation
4 of the FMP.
5
6

7 **Prepared by:**
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11 _____
12 Gary M. Raines, R.P.F. Date:
13 Management Forester
14 MNR, Sault Ste. Marie District
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16

17 **I have taken into consideration the aforementioned in my decision to recommend approval of the Algoma
18 Forest 2010 - 2020 Forest Management Plan**
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21

22 _____
23 Bob Johnston Date:
24 District Manager
25 MNR, Sault Ste. Marie District