



What's HAPpening?

A regularly published newsletter from the MERC-Tembec Herbicide Alternatives Program (HAP) Steering Team

The HAP Goal:

Develop and implement a strategy to regenerate forests on Tembec tenures in northeastern Ontario using alternatives to the application of chemical herbicides.

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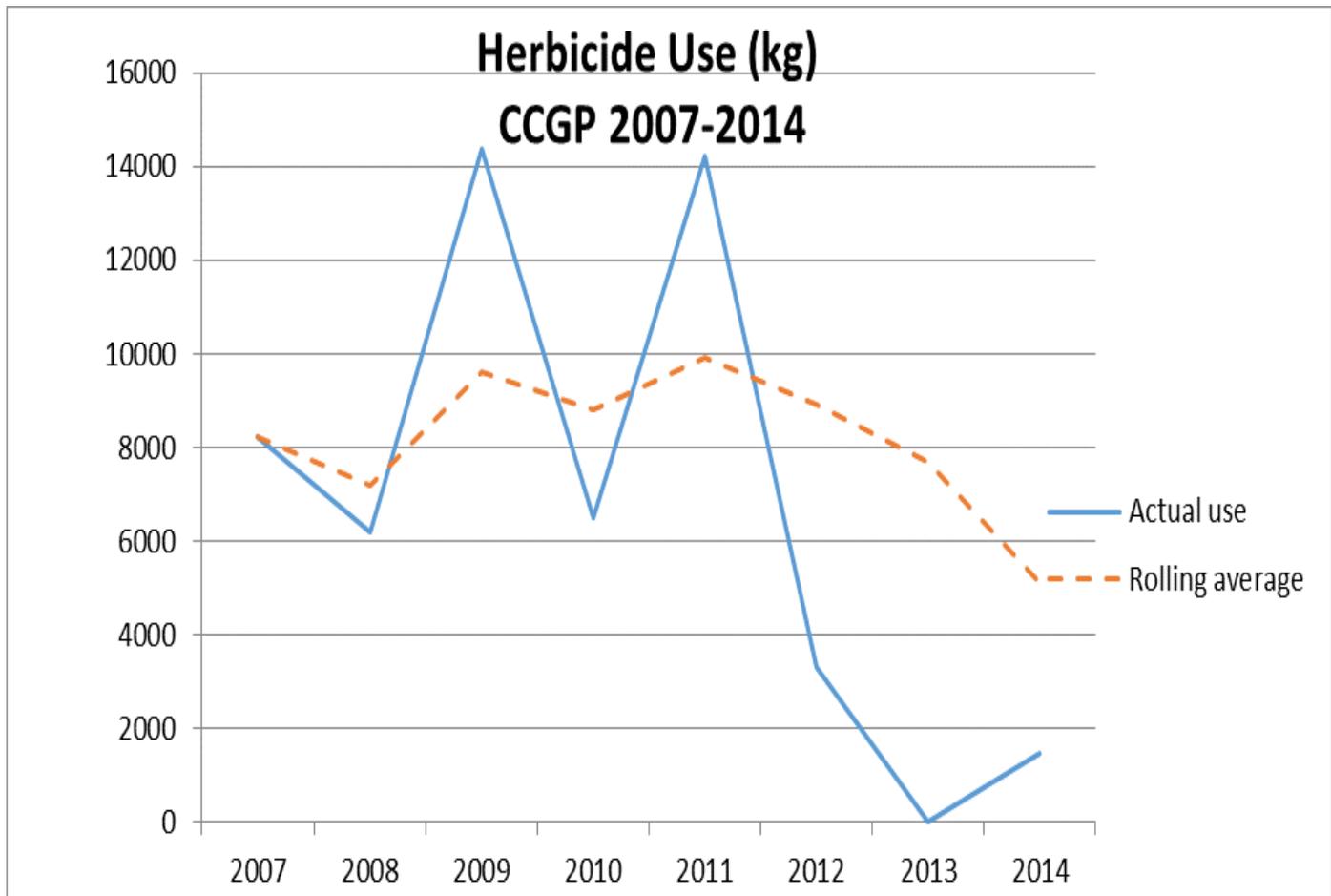
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Herbicide Use Trending Downwards on Chapleau Crown Game Preserve

Chris McDonell, R.P.F., Tembec Inc.

The conservation and stewardship interests of the North Superior Regional Chiefs' Forum (NSRCF) were integral to the creation of the Herbicide Alternatives Program (HAP) given the special priority and connection to the lands of these communities to the 700,000 ha Chapleau Crown Game Preserve (CCGP). Significant portions of the CCGP overlap the Martel and Gordon Cosens Forest licenses managed by Tembec and are therefore within the scope of the broader Tembec/MERC HAP program. At the request of the HAP Steering Team, in winter 2015 data was compiled by Tembec showing herbicide use on the portions of the Martel and Gordon Cosens Forests within the CCGP.

The actual use data identifies a wide fluctuation in annual use of herbicides. Factors such as weather (wet and windy conditions limit the effectiveness of herbicide use), amount of harvesting in previous years, forest type and regeneration technique all affect the amount of site preparation prior to tree planting or tending of conifer tree seedlings. To assist in tracking progress and setting targets to maintain reductions in herbicide use, averaging the actual data over a number of years (rolling average) is helpful to develop a picture of the trend. This data will be updated annually for the CCGP and for Tembec forest licenses in northeastern Ontario as one method used by the HAP Steering Team to monitor progress towards HAP goals.



Forest Chronicle Update:

Submitted by: Gordon Kayahara

Understanding First Nations Rights and Perspectives on the Use of Herbicides

Gordon Kayahara and Carly Armstrong worked with the HAP First Nation steering committee members to compile First Nation perspectives on why the use of herbicides in forestry should stop. HAP members who collaborated and shared their knowledge, insights and teachings were: Jason Gauthier (Chief, Missanabie Cree First Nation), Archie Nolan (Traditional Elder, Missanabie Cree First Nation), Lark Ritchie (Elder, Chapleau Cree First Nation), Isabell Souliere (Traditional Knowledge Advisor for HAP, Missanabie Cree First Nation) and John Tangie (Fire Keeper and Elder, Michipicoten First Nation). This paper was aimed at providing forestry professionals with an improved understanding of the concerns that First Nation communities have over chemical herbicide use. These concerns are based upon strong, complex, sophisticated, and enduring First Nation worldviews and “ways of knowing” which deserve recognition and respect. Equally important for forest practitioners is to understand and accept as valid First Nations’ interpretations of treaties and how the concept of shared land means that before herbicides are used, First Nation communities must first give their consent. On top of these reasons is a general mistrust of government, industry and the associated regulatory institutions to protect the health of the communities and the land. Thus forest practitioners are encouraged to redirect time and scarce funding away from attempts to “educate” First Nations communities that western science demonstrates that registered herbicides are safe when used as specified on product labels; rather, time and resources may be more effectively spent on engagement, building relationships, and developing trust, in order to arrive at solutions that are congruent with each First Nation community’s values and terms. The hope behind publishing this paper was to broaden understanding and help people make peace with the land.

The paper has been published in the Forestry Chronicle, the journal of the Canadian Institute of Forestry: Kayahara, G.J. and C. Armstrong (Compilers). 2015. Understanding First Nations rights and perspectives on the use of herbicides in forestry: A case study from northeastern Ontario. Forestry Chronicle 91(2): 126 – 140.

Congratulations to Gordon and Carly on this outstanding feat of getting published in The Forestry Chronicle and a big Thank You goes out to all the contributors! Great work!

HAP Steering Team Profile: Retiring Jeff Leach



Jeff and Jan Leach looking forward to active retirement.

Jeff Leach Retires After 38 Years

Jeff Leach grew up on a small livestock farm in Southern Ontario. He realized early that working outdoors would be a focus for his career moving forward. Jeff ventured north to Sault Ste. Marie to be schooled in forestry and was then hired by Spruce Falls Power & Paper Company Limited (now Tembec) based out of Kapuskasing.

Spruce Falls was very serious about replenishing lands they harvested, starting with the establishment of a tree nursery in 1947. With tree planting and forestry programs being actively carried out, this provided a great opportunity for Jeff to see first-hand how dynamic forest succession can truly be. Jeff spent a good part of his career with “boots on” learning something new about the bush every day.

Jeff’s recent career milestones are the securing of Tembec’s Forest Stewardship Council certification in 2003, planting of the 300th million tree seedling on the Gordon Cosens Forest, being involved with the Herbicide Alternatives Program (HAP) and receiving the Terk Bayly Award from the Ontario Professional Foresters Association in recognition of his contributions to forestry in the province of Ontario. These milestones have certainly contributed to the Tembec Forestry group becoming better managers of the forest now and into the future.

Jeff’s career has spanned 38+ years in the boreal forest. His wife Janice has been a big part of Jeff’s success. They have raised two sons, both tree-planters, of whom they are very proud. Jan and Jeff look forward to an “active retirement” phase moving forward.

SPRING TIME IS RENEWAL TIME

BY ELDER ARCHIE NOLAN

Once again, spring has arrived and displays this by the melting of snow and ice, you can hear the birds singing and talking to each other, the sounds they make are ones of happiness, because they know it is a time of renewal and birth. Many good things happen, if, we take the time to “smell the roses”, but many people don’t take the time to notice or as the “Old Ones” say, to see and hear the story of spring time. For many Nishnawbe, it is when Mother Earth comes out of her winter rest to help the medicines and wildlife to replenish and the ice to come off the rivers, streams and lakes.

I mentioned the story of spring time and it is these kinds of stories that connect us all, especially, in the Nishnawbe way of things. A friend and I were speaking about this last week and we talked about these “Old Ones”, who always told a story when asked a question about things in life. When these ones told their story, the answer to a person’s question was in the story. Sometimes, if, a person didn’t listen, they would wonder and miss the points and think this Old One didn’t know what they were talking about but the answer was there. I had an uncle who spoke like this and usually people would say, there he goes again, telling us things that don’t make sense but in a few weeks, the answer to their question, when they would realize that my uncle had told them the answer all along. I do that sometimes and as I get older, that’s the way my story telling goes.

I speak of these things, as this way has been passed down to the people since the beginning of time as it is a way of keeping our teachings intact, so that the young ones will know who we are, where we came from and where we are going. We are talking about spring renewal here and what a wonderful way to understand that spring is renewing us as well by showing us the story of Spring Renewal.

When I was a young fellow, there is a lake in my territory which was teeming with fish and we were told many times, take only what we need, for the fish have to be protected too, so they can continue to help the water and feed us, for fish are very generous as they give of themselves, so we can eat and live. This lake was near a gold mine in this area, which had no outside access, but when the road did come in, that opened up the area to more fishermen and of course, when the mine closed and then reopened, there was more taking of fish. During that time, things changed as well because on that particular lake, ice fishing become more popular as the fisherman had “snow machines” which resulted in more heavy fishing. When I was a kid, we didn’t have snow machines. As a result of this heavy fishing, the lake was almost fished out and as a result, in later years, only “one fish” was allowed for a person to take, one fish a day until the stock rebounded. The story here is, people overfishing, new technology, meaning snow machines, meaning lake fished out. This isn’t the whole story but I believe the message is in

the story, don’t over fish, take only what you need, so the lake will remain healthy. And this message applies to other things that are happening, such as over logging, herbicidal spraying, which affects everything that we are connected to, Land, Air, Water, the 4-Leggeds and Finned Ones. GOOD STORY EH!

From the Land – The Pin Cherry



The Pin Cherry is a small, straight, deciduous tree that can grow up to 12m in height and 25 cms in diameter, with almost a dark, red blood colored bark having noticeable horizontal markings (lenticels). The leaves look like little lances, and taper up to a short tip, with tiny uneven teeth along the margins. The flowers are small and white and have long-stalks, in bunches of 5 to 7 along the twigs. The cherries are small and bright red, with thin, sour flesh, 6 to 8 mms across and ripen from late July to early September.

In the Spring, the Pin Cherry tree can be very identifiable. You will notice that when the Pin Cherry tree grows in poor conditions, it doesn’t get any bigger than a shrub.

The Pin Cherry is very edible but very sour. Although the flesh is not harmful, pin cherry stones and leaves contain toxic cyanide and are potentially lethal to livestock if ingested.

The small and tart Pin cherries, were widely used by Indigenous Peoples of Canada. They were eaten fresh from the trees, or were cooked, or dried and powdered for winter storage. Peoples who used them include the Ojibwa, Huron, Algonquin, Potawatomi, Cree, Chipewyan, Gitksan, Shuswap, and possibly other British Columbia groups.

Today, folks mostly make the cherries into jelly. All of Ontario except the far North is home to the Pin Cherry.

It needs bright sun to survive, so it usually grows in open areas away from other trees that might create shade and inhibit its growth. In nature, the seeds of the Pin Cherry can lie dormant in the ground for many years, sprouting in great

quantities after some kind of a natural disturbance like a wind storm or fire that removes the forest cover.

Did You Know?

There was a North West Company post on the Mississaugua River in the 1820's and changed over to the Hudson Bay Company in 1821. At that time it was staffed by one clerk and two men.

Later on in June 1830, Mr. William Cowie was in charge of the post until his untimely death on April 28, 1836. He drowned with one of his men crossing the Mississaugua River in a canoe, which was apparently driven under the ice by the force of the current. The post was taken over by Francis Grant, who fell sick in 1837 and had to be relieved of his duties. Governor George Simpson and his committee wanted to close the post down.

But the post continued to thrive each year, under different clerks until the summer of 1845 when Henry Sayer (my Great Great Grandfather) was appointed to the post. They knew by hiring him they would get the hides from the Indians, as he was married to Obemau-Unoqua, who was the daughter

of Big Foot. He remained at the post until 1862.

When Sayer was employed by the post there was an old store, a broken down stable, and a dwelling. He built a new store and a new Men's House, which he claimed belonged to him, though they knew he used Company materials to build these places.

Mr. Crawford came to the Mississaugua Post in July of 1862 and wanted to take over all of Sayer buildings, Sayer claimed all the buildings as his own so Crawford embarked on new buildings for the Company. They were at a disadvantage as they couldn't find a trustworthy person who was acquainted with the Indians.

The post remained open until May 31, 1900.

The remains of the post can still be seen and there is also a cemetery where William Cowie, Jane, Henry, Edward and Robert Sayer are buried, not too far from the old Hudson Bay Post.

Submitted by: Yvonne Jensen, President of the North Channel Metis Council (Alternate)

Need more information? Contact any of these HAP Steering Team members.	
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