



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.

Volume 01- Spring 2013

Contact us at: editor.hap@gmail.com

An Introduction to the Herbicide Alternatives Program (HAP)

A prime focus of First Nations is the elimination of forest management practices that apply herbicides within their traditional territories. In 2010, Tembec initiated discussions with northeastern Ontario First Nations communities and organizations regarding the use of herbicides in forestry. The concept of a joint (First Nations and Tembec) engagement to review herbicide use and explore alternatives was proposed. The engagement took the form of a program identified as the Herbicide Alternatives Program (HAP)

Tembec's commitment to this initiative is driven by three major objectives:

1. To address expressed First Nation community concern about herbicide use on their territories,
2. To take the Forest Stewardship Council's (FSC) continuous improvement action plans on herbicide reduction to a new level,
3. To recognize stakeholder concerns for pesticide use in general.

To guide and drive the HAP, Tembec and the Mushkegowuk Environmental Research Centre (MERC), and with input from First Nation communities and organizations, assembled a team of individuals drawn from First Nation communities and Tribal Councils in northeastern Ontario, MERC, Tembec, and the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources acting in an advisory role. Other advisors are consulted and contribute to the team's efforts on a case-by-case basis.

The team has two co-chairs – one from MERC, one from Tembec, who are jointly accountable for moving the process forward. Team members meet regularly to review the program plan and budget, maintain momentum of the program, and for other purposes that are determined as the HAP unfolds. All team members have active roles in the project. This newsletter is one of the products generated by the group.

Representation from First Nation Communities

Currently, Mushkegowuk Council, Michipicoten F.N., Missanabie Cree F.N., Chapleau Cree F.N., and Taykwa Tagamou Nation are represented on the HAP Steering Team.

These representatives consult with First Nation leadership and community members within the Tembec licenses, gather information and relay traditional views, values and community concerns back to the HAP team.

The entire team then collaborates to integrate and align the collected information for use in HAP-generated proposals, recommendations and suggestions to Tembec Forest Managers.

The intended outcome is that Tembec forest management planners recognize and respect the traditional worldviews held by First Nations as well as the close relationship Aboriginal peoples have with the land. The HAP team ensures that these values are considered and accommodated during the Forest Management Planning Process.

At times community Chiefs, councilors and Elders also attend team meetings or join field excursions to provide direct input

to the team. As an example, Chief Joe Buckell, MFN, Chief Keeter Corston, CCFN, and CCFN Elders participated in a tour of HAP sites in the Chapleau Game Preserve in the early spring of 2012.



Chief Corston, Chapleau Cree F.N. studies a proposed HAP test site in the Chapleau Game Preserve with Jeff Leach, HAP Member from Tembec's Kapuskasing Operations

First Sites Selected for 'No-Spray'

To date, the HAP Steering Team has identified and established the first four of several test sites managed by Tembec where no herbicides will be used.

First Proposal to Tembec Issued by Team

In March of this year, after four field trips and reviews of data currently available, the HAP Steering team issued its first proposal to Tembec Management recommending the elimination of herbicide vegetation management on low nutrient sites. As the program continues other proposals and recommendations are forthcoming.

Some Immediate Benefits of the Program

In 2012, some immediate benefits were generated by HAP.

The Aboriginal Entrepreneur Project (AEP) is a spin-off project of the HAP with a mandate to inform First Nation members of economic opportunities that accompany implementation of HAP. The project has delivered a guidance document for community members considering a service supplier arrangement with Tembec.

Tembec Aboriginal Forestry Technician Program

A Tembec initiative, spawned by discussions in the HAP, seeks to employ two Aboriginal youth having interest in a forest sector career. The jobs are at Tembec's Chapleau and Kapuskasing offices. The period of employment is from May through end of August. Besides a competitive wage, Tembec will assist with accommodation expenses, and provide an extensive orientation to the forest management process. Contact the HAP team for more information.

Major Contribution by HAP Team

As we know, many First Nations oppose the use of chemical herbicides in forestry despite the scientific claim that the proper use of herbicides does not harm humans or the environment. But is the First Nation message being understood by the industry and government?

In order to increase understanding, HAP members are finishing a document that explains what the First Nation position is built upon.

Acting as scribe for the First Nation contingent, Gordon Kayahara, HAP Advisor, and Carly Armstrong, MERC, have compiled the thoughts of the group as a paper with the working theme "*They're Spraying On Top Of Us*". This document will be submitted for publication in April 2013.

Topics in the paper include treaties and sharing the land, observations from those on the land, risk and mistrust of the government and science, and the traditional worldview of First Nations in northeastern Ontario.

We're hoping that the HAP initiative spreads beyond Tembec, with government and other industry players entering into dialogue to accommodate concerns over herbicide use.

HAP Team Asking Youth to Join the team!

Youth can bring a unique and important perspective to the HAP table, and we're inviting letters of interest from youth who want to build relationships with First Nation Elders,

community members as well as people in the forest industry, and the general public. You'll gain valuable experience working with us, and it'll look good on your resume!

If you align with the HAP goals and objectives, you're encouraged to send us an email at editor.hap@gmail.com outlining your interests, strengths, and reasons why you want to be a part of the HAP team

From the Land – Mountain Ash

Found along high ground at forest margins, and cutovers, the Mountain Ash keeps invasive shrubs at bay and provides food and nesting space for birds like the Cedar Waxwing. Herbicides kill off this important plant, threatening wildlife food supplies.



Mountain Ash Berries

The HAP Monitoring Strategy

As the number of HAP test sites increases there's a need to regularly assess and determine the best strategies to achieve the 'no herbicide' goal. This past January a small task group of the HAP steering team developed a draft monitoring strategy for the HAP project. It adopts existing field data collection methodologies that could be used to evaluate the effectiveness of non-herbicide alternative treatments. Monitoring data will be used to substantiate the decisions and methods needed to implement the HAP vision

Opportunities for First Nations

One of the key elements of this strategy is to ensure that opportunities exist for First Nations to become involved in monitoring and to see for themselves what a fully implemented HAP may look like out on the land.

The field work may also provide an opportunity to identify medicines and non-timber forest products (e.g. mushrooms) that are of interest to First Nations. The 2013 summer field season (See ' Tembec Aboriginal Forestry Technician Program', column one. on this page.) will provide an opportunity to test some of the monitoring procedures to see how well they work.

Need more information?

Contact us at: editor.hap@gmail.com

Special Attachment to Spring Issue of "What's HAPpening"

The HAP Logo – A Call for Proposals

The logo used for this issue of 'What's *HAP*pening!' is a sample only, to inspire your creativity.



*The sample HAP Logo to be replaced
We need an official Logo*

The HAP Steering Team needs you to design us an impressive replacement logo to represent our mission and First Nations Involvement in the HAP initiative.

The Team's mission is to: "Develop and implement a strategy to regenerate forests on Tembec tenures in northeastern Ontario using alternatives to the application of chemical herbicides."

The successful design will be displayed on various HAP-related documents and communication vehicles; some of which include Safety Helmet Decals, Business Cards, and Newsletters, etc. The logo will be seen by Tembec employees, First Nation Communities, Forestry Industry professionals, and the general public.

We're sure we can find an artist or designer who can build us a graphic we can proudly display!

The competition is open to any person residing in Northeastern Ontario.

We particularly encourage members of First Nation Communities, on or off-reserve to compete in this process.

Check your community bulletin boards for details on how you can earn up to \$250.00 for the chosen design!

You can also email us at editor.hap@gmail.com

Or... talk with these HAP representatives for more information.

HAP Team Members

Archie Nolan, Missanabie Cree F.N.

Chris McDonnell, Tembec (HAP Co-Chair)

John Tangie, Michipicoten First Nation

Carly Armstrong, HAP Coordinator

Lark Ritchie, Chapleau Cree F.N. (HAP Co-Chair)

Jeff Leach, Tembec – Kapuskasing Office

Tom Kioke, Taykwa Tagamou Nation

Don Bazeley, Tembec, Timmins Office