

Bulletin 001-19

Building a Customized Consultation Approach to
Address First Nations Values and Climate in the
Martel Magpie 2021 Forest Management Plan



Wahkohtowin
Development GP Inc.

First Nation Communities care about Forest Carbon Management in the Magpie/Martel FMP

They are directly impacted and involved

- Climate Change has become an emergency.
- Climate Impacts hit local Communities hard: fires, floods, wildlife displacement
- Forests in and around the Communities have a critical role to play in adapting to, and mitigating climate change.
- Communities can play a lead stewardship role in helping manage these forests for better climate outcomes.
- Communities can directly benefit from managing for better climate outcomes.

Opportunities for Forest Carbon Management

The management decisions that Communities and other stakeholders engaged in the FMP process make will have important impacts on how much forest carbon is stored in the Magpie and Martel forest. Key Forest Carbon Management opportunities include:

- Forest Conservation
- Intensifying Forest Management
- Wildlife and Pest Management
- Increased Fibre Utilization
- Biomass for energy
- Salvage harvest after disturbances.
- Increase long-lived harvested wood products

Community co-benefits

Many forest carbon management measures have important community co-benefits including:

- Increased protection of community priority areas
- Conservation of wildlife habitats
- Increased employment through improved utilization
- Payments from governments for reductions in GHG emissions
- Reduced risks of wildfire

Resources and Progress Today

Wahkohtowin DGPI and Ecotrust Canada have worked for the last two years to help build resources and momentum for forest carbon management in the Magpie/Martel. This includes engaging key shareholders and community members, and raising additional funds that can support evaluation of options for carbon management.

Consultation Stage 1

Desired Forest Benefits / Condition

The desired forest benefits are determined at the beginning of the planning cycle through consultation with the First Nations – where notification that a FM planning process is going to start occurs 8 months before a planning team is organized. The default process normally will see meetings with the MNR and plan author, value holders are asked to provide resource values information. This information may

include (but is not limited to) tourism establishments, canoe routes, mining claims, archaeological sites, traplines, cabins, trails, wildlife habitat areas, etc.

Additional values First Nations should consider including:

- Hunting and fishing – where forest harvesting may impact Treaty Rights
- Gathering and harvest sites of significance
- Spiritual sites
- Areas of historical importance
- Culturally significant species (flora and fauna)
- Road use

Using the input gathered from the meetings, the planning team will create a list of management objectives for the upcoming 10-year plan and develop a set of indicators. Indicators are used to assess the effectiveness of forest management planning and/or activities in achieving management objectives, and the sustainability of the forest. An example of an objective is to reduce the application of aerial herbicide, and the indicator would be the amount of active ingredient used per year.

Providing input during the desired forest benefits meetings is an opportunity to influence the management objectives which will be the backbone of the entire 10-year plan. Values that are included in the management objectives are then within the scope of the plan or are deemed “known” – ensuring that harm or damage is less likely to occur on the values. Participation of First Nation communities can also help decide the indicators that will be used to measure the achievement of the management objectives.

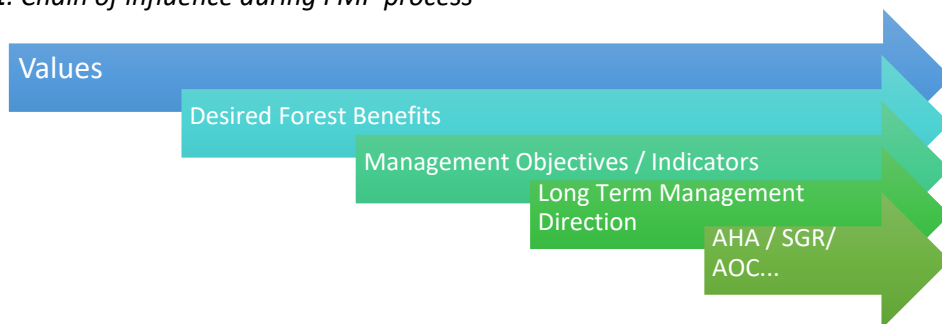
With the aid of computer models, strategic analysis is conducted to determine the types and levels of access, harvest, renewal and tending activities required to balance the achievement of management objectives. For example, the silvicultural ground rules (SGR) and areas of concern (AOC), which serve as the prescriptions for regular operations on areas being harvested within the 10-year plan, are set using the management objectives. The result of the strategic analysis is the long-term management direction of the forest.

Consultation Stage 2

Long Term Management Direction

Once the management objectives have been set using the desired forest benefits, the long-term management direction (LTMD) will be developed by the planning team. The purpose of the LTMD is to determine the sustainable harvest level, or Available Harvest Area (AHA), which represents the maximum area that can be harvested during the 10-year plan period. The planning team must consider both timber and non-timber values when calculating the AHA. This is why it is important to incorporate First Nations values into the planning process as early as possible, see Figure 1 below.

Once a draft LTMD has been prepared, it will be sent out to First Nation and Metis communities as well as the public for review along with areas that may be harvested, and primary (long-term) roads that may be built during the 10-year planning period. Once the review period is complete and comments are considered the MNRF must approve the LTMD before any detailed planning of forest operations can begin.

Figure 1. Chain of influence during FMP process

As seen in Figure 1, the values that are brought to the table at the beginning of the planning cycle have the opportunity to influence the development of all subsequent parts of the FMP. Effectively incorporating these values through meaningful consultation will help keep the plan moving along with fewer revisions and amendments once the plan has been approved and implemented.

Forest management planning is a long and complex process, with numerous external pressures driving the plan author to be as quick and efficient as possible. This can make it nearly impossible to try to fully include new values once the cascading planning process has been put into motion. This is why full participation from the inception of the plan is important to create a strong foundation for sustainable forest management planning.

Customized Consultation Approach* framework

Process for achieving meaningful consultation

- A mutually agreed to process available to First Nations and OMNRF to achieve meaningful consultation.
- Allows the Crown to act honorably and resource the complicated process with affected communities
- Meant to cover the development of a plan but also its implementation - mainly through Annual Work Schedules.
- The end goal - allows permanent resourcing as part of forming a lands and resources department.
- Your First Nation is actively negotiating a CCA framework to address multiple FMP's and AWS implementation Schedules.

Community members have an important role in the future stewardship of your Nation's Territory.

*NOTE: The term Customized Consultation Approach exists in the Forest Management Planning Manual – which is a regulation under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act of Ontario. The term has no definition nor a template meaning it requires the Crown to act honorably and use all juris prudence when discharging its obligations to consult with your First Nation – AND IS STILL UNDER DEVELOPMENT AS OF THE DATE OF THIS BULLETIN.

TAKING ACTION - 2019 Desired Forest Benefits

Martel/ Magpie 2021 Forest Management plan

Submitted to the OMNRF as part of the Stage 1 inputs as outlined in the Forest Management Planning Manual – 2017.

Since the discussions started over the Forest Tenure reform and amalgamation of the forests affecting the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve the First Nations in the region began building a stronger understanding of how to increase Full Participation in benefits derived from Forestry and Forest Management Planning. This is also resonated under Section 20 of the Sustainable Forest License document – Aboriginal Opportunities where the Minister and Industry shall work with affected First Nations.

The amalgamation process has an established framework set out to April 2021 with a final Shareholder Agreement, Business Plan, and single Forest Management Plan for the amalgamated Martel Magpie Forest.

The resulting 10-year Forest Management Plan and its implementation will be a focus for Chapleau Cree First Nation and Missanabie Cree First Nation, including the following Desired Forest Benefits.

<p>Forest Planning and Operations that maintain long term sustainability of forest ecosystems to which our membership derive access to their rights of hunting, fishing, and trapping.</p>	<p>Reflects a motherhood statement similar to that found in the Crown Forest Sustainability Act.</p> <p>*Note: These rights also translate into broader Natural Law systems at the landscape scale associated with use and occupancy.</p>
<p>Include – Conservation Planning that allows for the area to achieve Canada’s Target 1</p>	<p>Wahkohtowin has submitted to MOECCC Target 1 intake and are still waiting for a response.</p> <p>*Note: Received letters of support to explore from RYAM and HLLP.</p> <p>*Note: This requires conversation and analysis on approaches to allow intensification of forest productivity and harvesting as global demand for wood resources are set to triple in the next decade.</p>
<p>Forest Carbon Project – 2019</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With new FRI across both forests it now provides a more accurate picture of the forest cover than ever before. - Wahkohtowin and RYAM have committed to explore Forest Carbon and opportunities using Patchworks scenarios. - NEED: Access and input to OMNRF Offset Feasibility work.
<p>Moose Recovery Strategy 2018</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to collaborate with District and Region associated with transparency of

	<p>information exchange and its use for WMU 33 (CCGP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to build into the 2021 plan the algorithm and Moose Enhancement Area criteria as part of the FMP.
<p>Complete the Current Condition Report and Continue to monitor the Chapleau Crown Game Preserve – baselines – species, ecosystems, water, wetlands, etc.</p>	<p>Through the Northeast Superior Chiefs Forum, a desire to manage for the ecological integrity of the CCGP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify any trends, issues or concerns found in the baseline that the current FMP should manage for i.e. – 10 years of harvesting focus in confer dominated stands without a large-scale hardwood user in the forests.
<p>Species at Risk</p>	<p>Prevention, Recovery and monitoring must be properly maintained. *Note: Also integrates well with the Guardian Program goals – see further below.</p>
<p>Cease – Use of Herbicide</p>	<p>Commitment across the Martel / Magpie forests to cease the use of herbicide in this FMP cycle under a multi-phased approach. *Note: A collaborative body is being formed for Herbicide Alternative Program 2.0 that can act as the vehicle to interact with this desired outcome.</p>
<p>Establish joint monitoring responsibilities that support the growth of the Guardian Program</p>	<p>Implementation of the FMP requires monitoring and follow up to measure success on targeted and/or assumed outcomes from the FMP process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The launch of the 2019 Guardian Program is designed to engage the implementation of the FMP and provide ongoing feedback into the required reporting processes. - And, is a path to support more equal participation in the benefits derived from Forest Management Planning.

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