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WABIGOON FOREST COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

October 2023

The following information is a summary of recent and proposed changes to the current Annual Work Schedule (AWS) and Forest Management Plan (FMP), and current and planned operations. This notice is broken up into four (4) sections, Planning, Operations, Silviculture, and Safety. For convenience, selected relevant map products have been made available at the page hosting this notice or by following the below link. These maps are also available online through the Natural Resources Information Portal (NRIP).

ATTENTION: Please be advised that the current and planned operations listed in this update are subject to change without warning or notice unless otherwise required. Circumstances may arise which may cause operations to change quickly (such as weather or fire). The intent of this document is to supplement the reader with up-to-date information regarding operations that are likely to occur within the next few months of the AWS year. The reader should always consider any blocks in the AWS as eligible for harvest at any time (subject to any AOC prescriptions or specific agreements).

PLANNING UPDATE

The following section provides an update to the 2019-2029 FMP and amendment to the plan. It also briefs progress on Annual Report (AR), AWS and revision of the AWS.

Amendment 001 (Approved) Amended the 2019 FMP to include changes to the text of the plan – In the event that a block has been harvested but not brought to roadside for processing by March 31, 2020, the block will be re-designated as regular harvest to enable skidding and processing. There will be no changes to tables and spatial data. As a result, Block 2540 was changed from bridging to regular harvest on the map.

Amendment 002 (Approved) Changes were made to the 2019 FMP regarding Operational Road Boundary (i.e., 18 added and 5 removed). Road use management strategy (RUS) assigned RUS-5 (i.e., SFL retain roads responsibility) in the 2008 FMP and the contingency plan was changed to RUS-T or RUS-2 (decommissioned) in Table FMP-18. Addition of four Aggregate extractions Areas (AEA) to allow the establishment of gravel pit area to access gravel for purposes of road construction. Table FMP-11b included for non-water AOC crossing, such as specific location on Beaver Road where the crosses into W01 AOC due to no other feasible alternative available to access allocated wood.

Amendment 005 (Approved) Text of the FMP updated with new wording stating that bridging areas must be completed by March 31, 2023. Bridging block 2540 was changed in amendment 1 to regular harvest and was changed back to bridging area to be consistent with its original intent.

Amendment 006 (Approved) The amount of total bridging area in the text of the FMP is being amended by adding new bridging blocks. The blocks (i.e., block 1949, 1950, 2079, 2244, 2537, and 2605) were in the 2018 Contingency Plan (CP) as regular harvest. These bridging areas were planned to be depleted in the CP before implementation of the 2019 FMP, but harvest was not completed in the blocks. Three new operational road boundaries were also added to access the bridging areas.

Amendment 007 (Approved) Addition of a primary road corridor for extension of Joli Road on the Dryden Forest to connect with the White Pine Road on the Wabigoon Forest. The amendment will provide future access to harvest areas on the Wabigoon Forest and access for harvest blocks on the Dryden Forest.

Amendment 008 (Approved) Operational Road boundary (ORB) expansion for access to sections of harvest blocks DO106.

Amendment 009 (Approved) Operational Road boundary expansion on the Wabigoon Forest off the Ghost Lake North Road to facilitate access to harvest blocks on the Dryden Forest.

Amendment 010 (Approved) Operational Road boundary (ORB) expansion on the Wabigoon Forest off the Ghost Lake North Road to facilitate access to harvest blocks on the Dryden Forest.

Amendment 011 (Approved) Addition of Ila primary road corridor to facilitate access to harvest blocks on the English River Forest and expansion of ORB within AOC T90 to access allocated wood on the Wabigoon Forest.

Amendment 012 (Approved) Area of Concern prescription changes in Table FMP-11 and changes to text of the plan for Conditions on Roads, Landings and Aggregate Pits (CORLAPS) which relates to Moose Emphasis Areas (MEAs): In particular, the FMP text was changed within the section under MEA CORLAPS that Sneak and Peak roads, the Desserre and Savage roads are not to connect to make a loop road.

Amendment 013 (Approved) Agimak road length in Table FMP-11 corrected from 0.1 km to 9.4. The total length of 9.4 km consists of about 4 km of operational road reclassified as a branch road.

Amendment 014 (Approved) Changes include amendment to AOCs prescriptions in Table FMP-11. AOC M18 (MAFAs) updated by removing MAFAs ranked 1 and 2.

Corrections to planned harvest area (FMP-12), and corresponding changes to volumes estimates in FMP-13 to FMP-15.

Amendment 015 (Approved) Operational Road boundary (ORB) expansion to facilitate access to block RB49.

Amendment 016 (Approved) Operational Road boundary (ORB) expansion to access harvest block (25937) on the border of Wabigoon and English River Forests. Resolute harvest operation will access the block via Maple Road on the Wabigoon Forest.

Amendment 017 (Approved) Operational Road boundary (ORB) expansion to access harvest block (25937) on the border of Wabigoon and English River Forests. Resolute harvest operation will access the block via Maple Road on the Wabigoon Forest.

Amendment 018 (Pending) This amendment adds the Atikwa Road corridor to the Wabigoon Forest Management Plan which will provide access to planned and approved harvest and subsequent renewal in the Kenora Forest Management Plan. The corridor begins off the Canal Bay Road on the Wabigoon Forest and connects with the Atikwa Road corridor on the Kenora Forest.

Amendment 019 (Approved) The change is to adjust wording for AOC prescription W01 in FMP-11 to better reflect the intent of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry *Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales* (the Stand and Site Guide).

Annual Work Schedule:

We are currently operating in the **2023/2024 Annual Work Schedule (AWS)**. The AWS is a summary of planned forest operations which includes harvest area, road construction, forest renewal and tending activities. Below are recent revisions to the 2023/24 AWS:

AWS Revision 507 (Approved) brings into the AWS four culverts for replacement at Camp 33 Road to access allocated wood.

AWS Revision 508 (Approved) brings into the AWS low complexity prescribed burn plan for slash piles. Slash pile burning to start October 12th, 2023.

AWS Revision 509 (Approved) adds water crossings to request the adjustment of the fall timing restriction for culverts 1910 and 1912 on Camp 33 Road.

AWS Revision (Pending) Block BB131 at Bear Narrows Road in revision 510 and culvert 2320 in revision 511 will be added to the AWS.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

This section briefs current and planned operations on the Wabigoon Forest such as road maintenance, road building (ROW clearing, sub-grading, grading), and harvest operations. The main forestry operations to be aware of currently are:

- Chipping operations finishing up in blocks at Chaval Road and Thaddeus/Fawcett Road area. Moving operation to Rugby/Meridian blocks (e.g., blocks CO18/CO16). Roundwood operation is ongoing at Reveen Road area for next few weeks.
- Road work — Cooks/oval, Melgund/Gundy, Osbourne Roads done. Road construction ongoing at Ross Lake Road to link up with buller Road. Graveling Wachope/Meridian Road and culvert replacement work at Chaval Road. Construction/graveling work still happening at Larson/snowfall Roads.

SILVICULTURE UPDATE

This section briefs current and planned renewal activities (planting, seeding, etc.), tending activities (e.g., spray), and burn plans.

- Site preparation is ongoing at Lone Hand/Melgund Road area.
- Slash pile burning to start Oct 12th, depending on weather conditions.

SAFETY NOTICE

“Nothing we do is worth getting hurt for; with this mind set we entreat every forest user to make safety a priority at all times”.

- Please report any road safety issues to *Rob Hoedl, Operations Forester*, through email (Robert.Hoedl@domtar.com) or by phone on 807-2218986. Road safety issues include but are not limited to washouts, missing signs (km markers, road signs, bridge tiger tails, etc.), and unsafe driving by haul truck drivers. Together we can keep the forest safe. Hunters should proceed with caution and look out for no hunting restrictions sign in active operations areas.
- Please be careful when approaching workers and corners. Vehicles with radios please maintain good communication with traffic in the areas. Vehicles without a radio are reminded to approach and proceed with caution.
- Always keep a safe distance from vehicles ahead of you allowing time to respond to changes in the lead vehicles pace. Not all roads will be plowed. Keep an eye on soft shoulders.

For all approved maps, text, and other related products please visit the NRIP website: https://nrip.mnr.gov.on.ca/s/?language=en_US. Up to date maps may also be viewed at the Dryden MNR District office, or the Dryden Fibre Canada Forestlands Office. If you have questions, or comments contact me at your convenience (contact information below).

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