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2010 - 2020
Forest Management Plan
Sudbury Forest

SECTION 7

Forest Management Plan Summary

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Any Other Environmental Assessment Matters		

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Local Citizens Committee Members:

Interest

Anglers and Hunters

Aggregate

Baitfish Harvesters

Canoeist

Cottagers Association

Education/ Heritage

Environmental Concerns

Forest Industry

Local Business (Sudbury East Board Of Trade)

Municipalities

Naturalists

Prospectors and Development

Snowmobilers

Tourism

Trappers

Wahnapiatae First Nation

Primary Member

Bob Boyuk

Harold Cheley

Mike Loney

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Norm Hein

Local Citizen Committee Support for the Forest Management Plan for the Sudbury Forest

In general the Sudbury Forest Local Citizen Committee (LCC) supports the Forest Management Plan for the Sudbury Forest. The LCC feels that Vermilion Forest Management has followed the established principles and guidelines outlined in the Forest Management Planning Manual. Vermilion Forest Management and Ministry of Natural Resources staff has worked closely with the LCC to educate the members on the Forest Management Planning (FMP) process.

After the LCC members reviewed the Forest Management Plan for the Sudbury Forest, the LCC members highlighted the following areas of concern:

- the continuing high levels of age class substitution, especially in the SPF component.
- the proposed silvicultural levels and the reduction in funding.
- the LCC held strongly divergent views with respect to the Sturgeon River bridge crossing decision and also the decisions regarding the primary road in the Spanish Arm area.
- the requirement to have strong compliance plans and road strategies to deal with access, access restrictions, road decommissions, protection of identified values, etc.

1 General Description of the Forest

2 *Overview*

3
4 The Sudbury Forest is located in Northeast Region. It is primarily in the Sudbury District, but a small
5 section in the northeast part is in North Bay District and a section in the northwest is in Timmins District
6 (see Figures 1 & 2). The Sudbury Forest is managed by Vermilion Forest Management Company Ltd.
7 (VFM) under the authority of Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) No. 542442. The company is owned by
8 shareholders: Domtar Inc., Gervais Forest Products Ltd., Goulard Lumber (1971) Ltd., Grant Forest
9 Products Inc., G. W. Sutherland Contracting Co. Ltd., H & R Chartrand Lumber Ltd., Lahaie Lumber
10 Ltd. and The N'Swakamok Forestry Corporation.

11
12 The Sustainable Forest Licence, under the *Crown Forest Sustainability Act*, is administered by the
13 Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Sudbury district office. Sudbury District reports
14 administratively to the Regional Director of the Northeast Region, based in Timmins, Ontario. The
15 Sudbury District MNR is responsible for forest management operations on the whole Sudbury Forest.
16 North Bay District is responsible for all other values and uses east of the Sturgeon River, within the
17 Sudbury Forest. The Timmins District is responsible for all values and uses in the northwest portion of
18 the unit.

19
20 Two independent operators also conduct forestry operations on the Sudbury Forest. Both independent
21 operators and shareholders have overlapping licences with MNR for harvesting rights, and agreements
22 with VFM for management services. The Vermilion Forest Management Company is the primary forest
23 resource licence holder for the entire Sudbury Forest.

24
25 The Sudbury Forest is 11,450 square kilometers in size. Approximately 26% of it is private land, most
26 of which is concentrated within the City of Greater Sudbury and the rural areas of Hagar, St. Charles,
27 Alban and Noelville. In the Sudbury basin, there is a complex pattern of mining patents with three
28 categories of timber ownership. Private land does not fall within the mandate of the FMP.

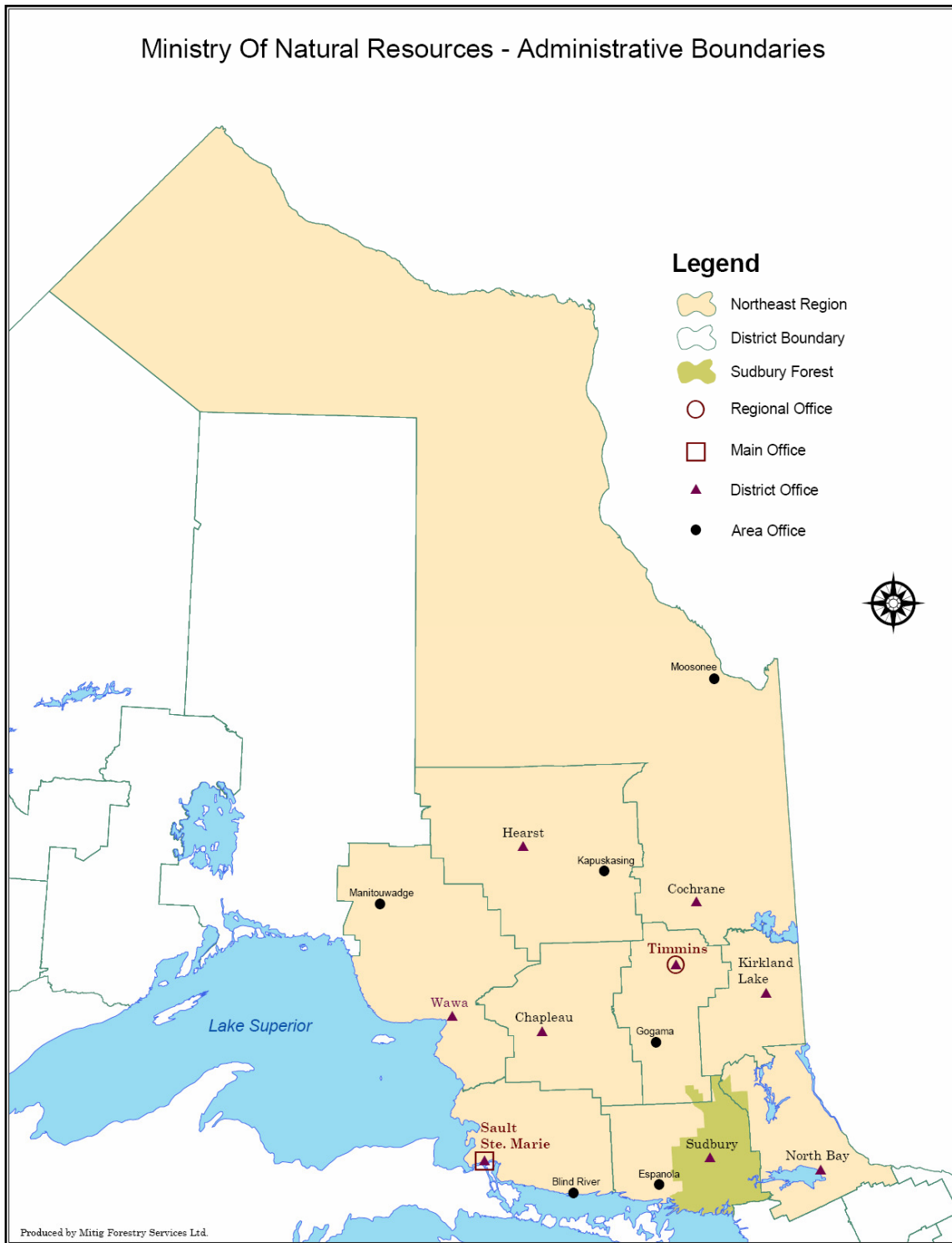
29
30 The Sudbury Forest is just over one million hectares including forested area, water and other non-
31 forested areas. 73% of the total management unit is Crown land (60% in managed plus 13% in parks);
32 24% is patent land; and 3% is other. The Crown owned land represents 832,787 ha and includes land
33 and water. Of this, 144,571 ha are in parks, protected areas and conservation reserves and 688,216 ha is
34 Crown managed area.

35
36 There are fifteen provincial parks, nine conservation reserves and three forest reserves (all or portions of
37 these forest reserves are in the process of being disentangled due to conflicts with mining tenure) within
38 the Sudbury Forest. These parks and protected areas are excluded from the land base available for
39 forestry activities but may contribute, where appropriate, to some of the landscape level objectives
40 identified within the forest management plan

41
42 Several first nations are located within or near the Sudbury Forest. These include Dokis First Nation,
43 Henvey Inlet First Nation, Whitefish Lake First Nation, Wahnapiatae First Nation and Wikwemikong
44 Unceded Indian Reserve. Point Grondine Indian Reserve #3 is located within the Sudbury Forest, on the
45 north shore of Georgian Bay between Killarney Provincial Park and highway 69. In addition, Temagami
46 First Nation has some traditional land use areas in the Sudbury Forest.

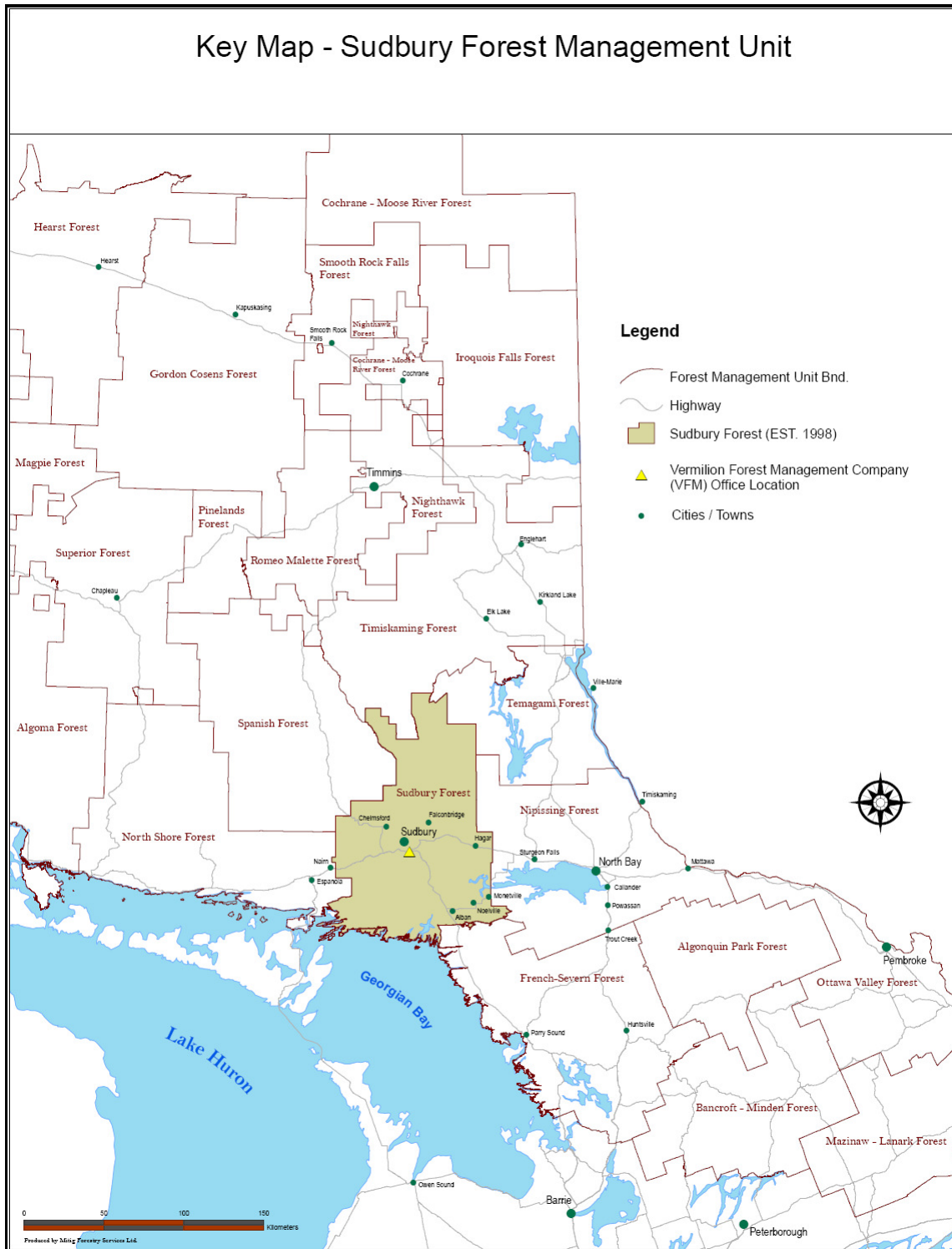
1
2
3

Figure 1: Map of the Sudbury Forest within the Northeast Region



4
5

1 **Figure 2: Key Map of Sudbury Forest**
 2



3
 4
 5 Ten Resource Stewardship Agreements (RSAs) have been developed between resource-based tourism
 6 operators and VFM and their relevant provisions have been incorporated into the Plan.
 7

1 There are three main industries on the Sudbury Forest: forestry, mining and aggregates. Forest
 2 management activities include logging, wood processing, road construction, hauling, renewal and
 3 maintenance of the forest, and monitoring and evaluation (inventory updating).

4
 5 In any given year there are 15 to 20 communities receiving wood fibre from the Sudbury Forest or
 6 provided employment to the forest industry. In addition there are Aboriginal communities within or
 7 adjacent to the Sudbury Forest of whose interests and traditional uses may be affected by forest
 8 management activities.

9
 10 There is only one formal ministerial wood supply commitment on the Forest and this is for 26,400 m³ of
 11 white birch and 12,000 m³ of poplar to Grant Forest Products Inc. Most of the rest of the wood is
 12 committed through shareholder agreements to shareholder mills or through business to business
 13 agreements. These types of arrangements account for the majority of the SPF and Pw/Pr volumes
 14 available from the forest, and a major portion of the poplar and white birch volumes.

15
 16 The utilization of wood from the Sudbury Forest is very important to the local, regional and provincial
 17 economies. The total volume of wood harvested in 2007 was 244,000 m³ and had an estimated market
 18 value of \$28,000,000 based on the average market value for wood products and the average Canada/US
 19 exchange rate for 2007. Based on the same factors the value of utilizing the full annual volume
 20 available from the Forest can be estimated at \$66,000,000.00.

21
 22 Wood from the Sudbury Forest is processed into pulp, paper, lumber, veneer, oriented strandboard,
 23 fuelwood, pallets, and other specialty products. The wood is delivered to over 20 mills in Ontario and in
 24 times of mill shut downs to some mills in Quebec. Figure 3 displays the mills receiving fibre from the
 25 forest, the number of employees (total of mill and woodlands) and a brief description of the products
 26 produced. All mills receiving wood from the Sudbury Forest directly employ just under 2000 people.

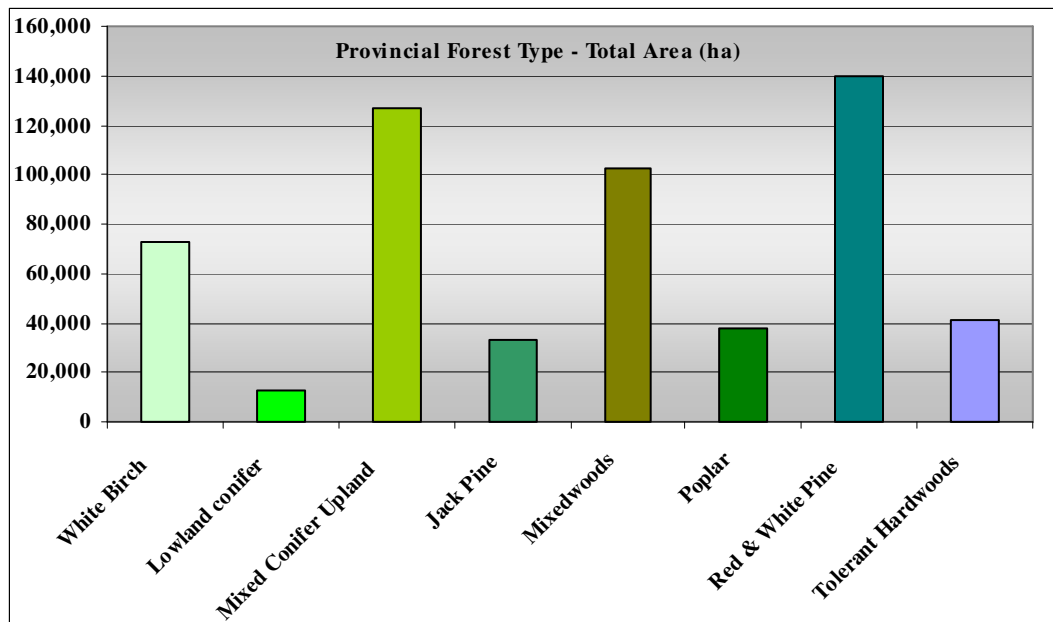
27
 28 **Figure 3:** Summary of receiving mills, their location, number of employees and products
 29

Mill	Location	Number of Employees (Facility & Woodlands)	Product Type
Domtar Inc.	Espanola	768	Pulp & Fine Papers
Domtar Inc.	Nairn and Hyman	242	Sawmill
Isidore Roy Limited	Hagar		<i>Closed</i>
Lahaie Lumber Ltd.	Alban	32	Sawmill
H & R Chartrand Lumber Ltd.	Noelville	22	Sawmill
R Fryer Forest Products Limited	Monetville	94	Sawmill
Goulard Lumber Limited	Sturgeon Falls	47	Sawmill
Grant Forest Products Inc.	Englehart	192	Strandboard
Gogama Forest Products Inc.	Ostrum	57	Sawmill
Gervais Forest Products Ltd.	Falconbridge	25	Sawmill
Portelance Lumber Ltd.	Capreol	12	Sawmill
Boniferro Mill Works Inc.	Sault Ste Marie	48	Sawmill
Northern Pressure Treated Wood Ltd.	Kirkland Lake	21	Pole Mill
St. Marys Paper Ltd.	Sault Ste Marie	397	Specialty Papers
TOTAL Direct Employment		1957	

1 **Forest Types**

2 The forest types on the managed forest that cover the greatest area are the red and white pines at 25%
3 and the mixed conifer upland at 22%. The mixed woods and white birch forest types at 18% and 13%
4 respectfully make up a sizable portion of the forest cover. Poplar and tolerant hardwoods are each 7% of
5 the Forest. These six forest types make up 92% of the managed forest. The pure jack pine and lowland
6 conifer make up a combined 8%. See figure 4.

7
8 **Figure 4: Provincial Land Type Summary**



10
11
12 There are 140,124 ha in the PWR forest type. Because of past heavy logging of white pine and red pine,
13 an objective is to increase the amount of area in this forest type. This objective has been carried forward
14 from the 2000 and 2005 plan (see Section 3.6, Objectives). Table FMP-2 shows a reduced number of
15 hectares in the 40-80 age class compared to the other age classes. This is the result of the combination of
16 poor historic harvesting practices in the 1930s to 1970s, as well as the predominance of mature white
17 pine in pure stands that lead to age typing of 80 plus when a 40-50 year condition exists in the
18 understory. Area has been planted for the last 30-40 year in red and white pine plantations as a result of
19 sustainable forest management practices being introduced to the unit. The current forest only has about
20 half of the red and white pine that there was at the beginning of the last century (around 1900). One of
21 the consequences of this is that there is much more area in the intolerant species, poplar and white birch.

22
23 Second in abundance on the landscape, covering 22% of the managed forest is the forest type MCU
24 (mixed conifer upland, made up of primarily spruce, pine and fir with the presence of some intolerant
25 hardwoods.

26
27 At about 18% of the managed Crown forest, the MIX forest type is the third most prevalent on the
28 Forest. This forest type is made up of areas with generally no more that 20% of any species dominating
29 the stand. This forest type is made up of all species of conifer and hardwood in both rich and dry soil
30 conditions.

31

1 The BWT forest type covers about 72,723 hectares of the Crown Forest. White birch can be found in
2 relatively pure stands, as well as associated with poplar, balsam fir, white spruce, black spruce, hard
3 maple and white pine on the Forest. White birch can be found on most soil types in the area, however
4 the best growth and quality is found on deep, fresh, loamy tills. BWT stands on dry sands are often the
5 result of wildfires. Many stands that used to be primarily white pine or red pine are now dominated by
6 white birch because of removal of the pine in past logging operations.

7
8 The POP forest type is found on 37,987 ha throughout the Forest on a wide range of sites from silty to
9 fine sands and tills. It is more common in the central portion of the management unit and to come
10 extent in the northern area of the Forest. The POP forest type contains mainly trembling aspen and large
11 tooth aspen. Balsam fir is also present, but to a much lesser extent. Most of the area in the poplar
12 working group is 60 to 100 years old. This is mainly the result of past logging practices where pine and
13 spruce were removed from these areas.

14
15 The tolerant hardwood forest type is made up predominantly of hard maple. This condition is found in
16 the southern portion of the management unit, most frequently on fresh to moist glacial tills. This forest
17 type is associated with maple, yellow birch, hemlock, ash, beech, balsam fir and white spruce. Maple
18 stands in the management unit are generally poorer in quality than those found in the south central
19 portions of Ontario, primarily due to differences in climate. Hard maple is represented in many age
20 classes with the majority between 60 and 140 years of age. Categorized into the TOL provincial forest
21 type is the area in pure hemlock on the forest. Although this is a small amount, hemlock is important to
22 several wildlife species. White-tailed deer, for example, make use of stands of hemlock as wintering
23 areas.

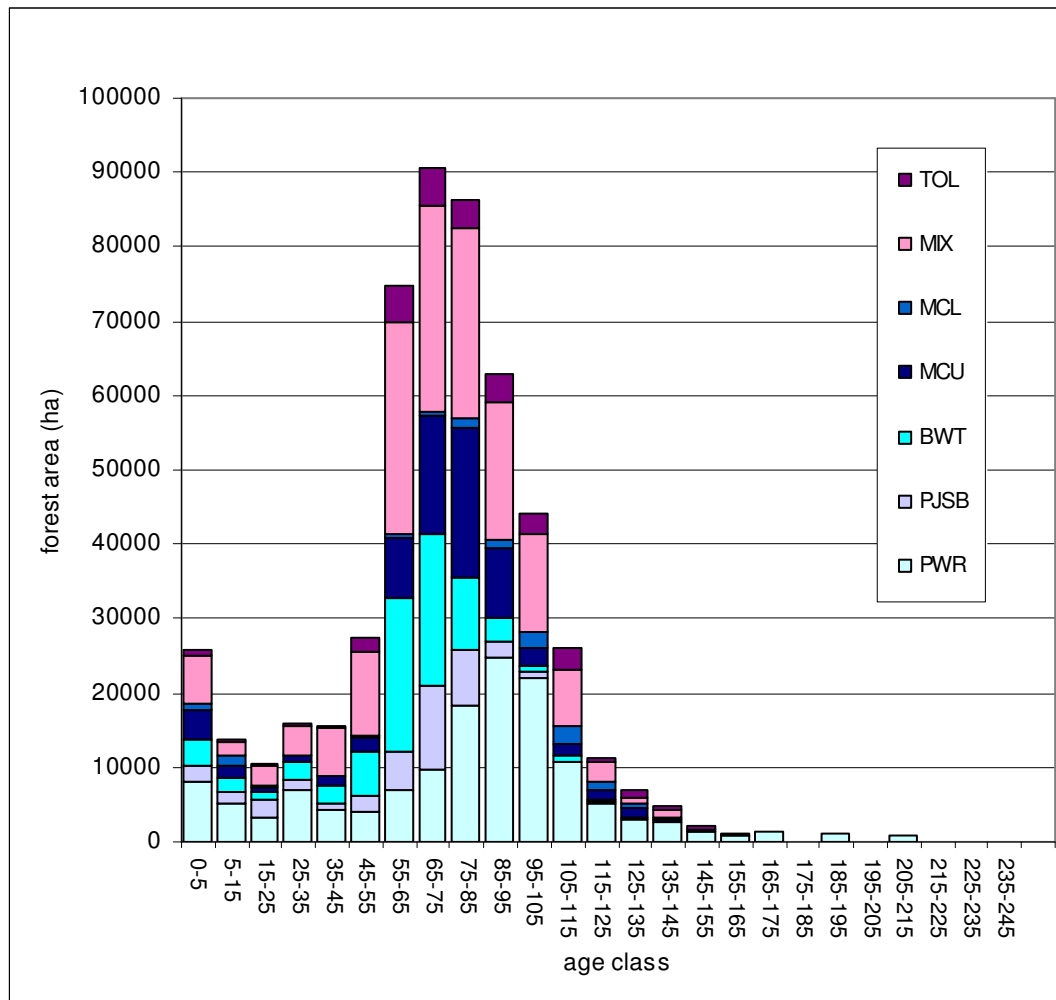
24
25 MCL is one of the smaller forest types on the Sudbury Forest, encompassing only 2% of the total Crown
26 forest. These low lying areas are dominated by spruce, cedar and larch.

27
28 The PJK forest type is found on only about 6% of the Sudbury Forest. The best jack pine is found in the
29 north of the district on coarse sands and gravels. Poor quality stands are found in different parts of the
30 district on dry shallow pockets of soil between exposed bedrock. Stands in the south and west are poor
31 quality due to site conditions and also because of attacks from the jack pine budworm in the early
32 1970's, and again in the mid-1990s.

33
34 Worth noting with regards to smaller forest conditions on the Forest, are the five working groups on the
35 managed forest that are 1,000 ha to 5,000 ha in size; these are yellow birch (3,224 ha), mixed spruce
36 (1,224 ha), mixed maple (1,771 ha), larch (284 ha) and ash (923 ha). The smallest working groups are
37 other hardwoods (75 ha), which includes beech, basswood, ironwood and black cherry.

38
39 The current forest has just over half of the total Crown forest area clustered in the 51-100 age classes
40 (68%). Approximately 20% of the area is in the age classes of 0-50 years and 2% in the oldest age
41 classes (141 years+). Objectives and strategies have been developed so that the future forest
42 composition will be more similar to the way it would occur naturally (See Section 3.6, Objectives). Age
43 class distribution for each forest type is displayed graphically in Figure 5.

1
 2 **Figure 5: Ageclass Distribution of the Current Forest Condition by Provincial Forest Type**
 3



4
 5
 6 The major management implications of the current forest condition are illustrated in section 3.6, Forest
 7 Diversity Objectives, where objectives and strategies are provided to attempt to move the forest toward
 8 a forest composition more similar to that at a time before fire suppression and before logging and to an
 9 age class distribution that has more area in the youngest and oldest age classes.

1 ***Habitat***

2 The Sudbury Forest covers a large geographic area and is endowed with a rich abundance of natural
3 resources. This natural wealth provides valuable ecological services to the region, and recreational and
4 other opportunities that attract users who derive benefits from resources directly or indirectly dependent
5 on forest cover. The FMP provides for provincially and locally featured wildlife species and others that
6 are afforded special consideration during operations.

7 ***Provincially Featured Species***

8 Moose occur throughout the Sudbury Forest and are treated as a featured species. Preferred moose
9 browsing habitat consists of recently disturbed (pre-sapling age) stands of red and white pine,
10 hardwoods, mixedwoods, or spruce-fir. Preferred winter cover consists of mature and older upland
11 spruce or spruce mixed with fir, cedar, jack pine, or poplar and birch. Road construction introduces
12 increased hunting pressure and disrupts moose activities, such as calving and the use of aquatic
13 feeding sites, if constructed at or near high use areas.

14 White-tailed deer and moose populations overlap in areas along the Highway 17 corridor and to the
15 south. In winter deer are more limited by snow depth and cold temperatures and may congregate in
16 traditional yards that offer access to high quality deciduous browse as well as good conifer cover.
17 Conifer provides thermal cover and intercepts snow, reducing its depth on the ground and enabling deer
18 to search for food more easily. If forest harvesting can maintain the quality of winter cover in proximity
19 to browse, it is generally beneficial to deer.

20
21 The American marten is a provincially featured species of boreal forests in Ontario, not only because
22 marten are an important furbearer, but because provision of marten habitat is expected to provide
23 conditions that will meet, or at least partly meet, the food and shelter requirements of many other
24 species that benefit from similar habitat types. Examples are: the red-backed vole, the barred owl,
25 northern goshawk, great grey owl, pileated woodpecker, blacked back woodpecker, three-toed
26 woodpecker, Canada warbler, and others. Marten will benefit over the long term from the retention of
27 residual trees and downed coarse woody material on harvested areas.

28 The pileated woodpecker is a provincially featured species that requires mature and older forest with a
29 supply of dead, declining, and downed trees for foraging, nesting, and roosting. It is common in the
30 Sudbury Forest and vicinity. This is our largest woodpecker, and it excavates the largest nesting
31 cavities. Large diameter trembling aspen trees with internal rot are preferred for nesting. The cavities
32 made by a pileated woodpecker may be used by a wide variety of other species, including ducks such as
33 the wood duck, bufflehead, common merganser, and common goldeneye, owls such as the boreal owl
34 and saw-whet owl, other woodpeckers such as the common flicker, birds of prey such as the American
35 kestrel, and mammals such as the northern flying squirrel and American marten.

1 **Species at Risk**

2 MNR biologists reviewed local records, COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered
3 Wildlife in Canada) and MNR’s Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC) records to determine
4 the occurrence of threatened and endangered species and species of special concern on the Sudbury
5 Forest.

6
7 **Figure 6: Species at risk on the Sudbury Forest**

Scientific Name	Common Name	Status
<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Peregrine Falcon	Threatened
<i>Ixobrychus exilis</i>	Least Bittern	Threatened
<i>Caprimulgus vociferus</i>	Whip-poor-will	Threatened
<i>Chaetura pelagica</i>	Chimney Swift	Threatened
<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Bald Eagle	Special Concern
<i>Asio flammeus</i>	Short-eared Owl	Special Concern
<i>Buteo lineatus</i>	Red-shoulder Hawk	Not on the list
<i>Wilsonia canadensis</i>	Canada Warbler	Special Concern
<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Olive-sided Flycatcher	Special Concern
<i>Vermivora chrysoptera</i>	Golden-winged Warbler	Special Concern
<i>Sistrurus catenatus</i>	Massasauga Rattlesnake	Threatened
<i>Elaphe gloydi</i>	Eastern Foxsnake ¹	Threatened
<i>Lampropeltis triangulum</i>	Milksnake	Special Concern
<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>	Wood Turtle	Endangered
<i>Clemmys gittata</i>	Spotted Turtle	Endangered
<i>Emydoidea blandingii</i>	Blanding’s Turtle	Threatened
<i>Chelydra serpentina</i>	Snapping Turtle	Special Concern
<i>Graptemys geographica</i>	Northern Map Turtle	Special Concern
<i>Acipenser fulvescens</i>	Lake Sturgeon	Threatened
<i>Myoxocephalus thompsoni</i>	Deepwater Sculpin	Not on the list
<i>Danaus plexippus</i>	Monarch Butterfly	Special Concern
<i>Chordeiles minor</i>	Common Nighthawk	Special Concern

8
9 The habitat requirement of these species can be found in section 2.2.4.9 of the FMP.

10
11
12 **Old growth species**

13 These species are representative of a range of over-mature habitat types on the forest landscape. The
14 long-term sustainability of habitat for American black bear (fall habitat), black-backed woodpecker,
15 Canada lynx, and ruby-crowned kinglet are a mandatory component of the planning process.

16
17 Black bears are common inhabitants of the GLSL and Boreal forest. They are a large, omnivorous
18 mammal that follows a variety of food crops (grasses, leaves, shoots, berries, fruits), and thus a wide
19 variety of forest habitats, through the seasons. Specifically, fall mast producing food crops (mature-to-

1 over-mature oak, beech and hazelnut) are a critical requirement for this and many other species that
2 need high calorie foods in order to put on weight to find a mate, successfully produce offspring and to
3 survive the winter. The use of wintering dens makes bears unique among large mammals. Dens can be
4 comprised of numerous downed trees in combination with deeper soils or slash piles from forestry
5 operations. Den areas are usually associated with lowland sites, the sides of hills, uprooted trees, and
6 crevices with less severe microclimates. The fact that mast producing species are limited on the Forest
7 (red oak in particular), means there is a low supply of this condition.

8 The black-backed woodpecker is an uncommon resident of North America. It is strongly associated
9 with boreal and northern areas of the GLSL forest. It prefers mature and over-mature conifer and
10 mixed-wood forest, and recently burned forests. Specifically, it prefers mature and over-mature black
11 spruce, tamarack and jack pine forests with a minimum stem density of 100-125 stems per ha and a
12 diameter at breast height of at least 23 cm. This is the preferred breeding habitat throughout Central and
13 Northern Ontario.

14
15 The Canada lynx is ranked as secure in Ontario by the Natural Heritage Information Centre. It is
16 common to the GLSL and Boreal Forests. It requires older coniferous or mixed forest with abundant
17 coarse woody debris, along with a mixture of regenerating stands with dense under-story, to support
18 their main prey species, the snowshoe hare. These species prefers openings and edge habitat in lowland
19 conifer areas.

20
21 Ruby-crowned kinglets are most often found in close proximity to water in open black spruce peatlands,
22 lowland and upland conifer forests of mature and over-mature stages of development. It requires
23 medium-to-large diameter spruce trees for nesting. This forest type is its preferred breeding habitat
24 throughout Central and Northern Ontario and the bird is considered common within this range. This
25 species tends to be found in association with opening and edge habitat and, therefore, can be a measure
26 of edge habitat. Like the lynx, ruby-crowned kinglets prefer openings and edge habitat in lowland
27 conifer areas

28 ***Species of special concern***

29 The habitat requirement of a number of other wildlife species found on the Sudbury Forest, including
30 those deemed sensitive and of special interest locally, can be found in section 2.2.4 of the FMP

31 ***Fisheries and Wetlands***

32 The abundance of water on the Forest provides habitat for a wide array of fish species and populations.
33 Fisheries represent an important resource in the area, providing opportunities for sport fishing, bait
34 fisheries, and providing a foundation for many tourism operations on the forest.

35
36 The Sudbury Forest has more than 6900 inland lakes ranging in size from 0.4 hectares to 13,000
37 hectares, with a combined area of 110,044 hectares. Surveyed watercourses are classified as either cold
38 water or warm water to facilitate protection of spawning fish, their eggs and young. A cold water fish
39 community is defined by the presence of lake trout, brook trout, F1 splake, and/or rainbow trout; these
40 species normally spawn in the fall. Other common cold water species include whitefish and lake herring
41 or cisco. Warm water species spawning in spring include walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass,
42 yellow perch, and the suckers and minnows. There are more than 500 kilometres of coldwater streams
43 and 755 kilometres of warmwater streams which contribute significantly to the fisheries resource.
44 Major lakes in the Sudbury Forest include Penache, Wanapitei, Vermilion, Trout, Nepewassi and the
45 Chiniguchi chain of lakes. Major river systems include the Vermilion, Wanapitei, Sturgeon and French
46 River systems.
47

1 The northern half of the Sudbury Forest contains more brook trout waters than the south, but the species
2 occurs throughout the Forest. Spawning occurs between September and December in areas with a gravel
3 substrate and upwelling groundwater. Brook trout require a year-round supply of clean, cold, well-
4 oxygenated water, adequate cover, and prey - insects, other invertebrates, or fish. Streams with cool,
5 quiet pools between runs of fast water or rapids, and ponds or small lakes associated with such streams
6 are typical brook trout habitat. Larger lakes with the presence of ground water upwellings can also
7 support the species. Introduction of non-indigenous fish is detrimental to brook trout populations.
8 Lake trout lakes are rare and only 1% of Ontario's lakes contain lake trout, but this represents 25% of
9 the lake trout lakes in the world. Self-sustaining trout lakes, containing naturally reproducing
10 populations of either lake trout or brook trout, are distributed across the Sudbury Forest, but especially
11 in the southern half. These fish species have stringent habitat requirements, e.g. lake trout require deep,
12 cold, well-oxygenated lakes with clean, windswept rock rubble shorelines for spawning; and are
13 commonly considered to be barometers of health in cold water ecosystems. Lake trout populations are
14 affected by a variety of factors including angling, nutrient enrichment of lakes, and introduction of non-
15 indigenous fish such as small-mouth bass, which compete with lake trout for food.

16
17 At present, three wetland areas have been evaluated and classified as provincially significant within the
18 Sudbury Forest: Muskrat Creek (Haddo Twp) and Sucker Creek (Haddo and Martland Twps) wetlands
19 are both associated with the west arm of Lake Nipissing while the third is located on the Vermilion
20 River. The Vermilion River wetland extends from the outflow of Onwatin Lake (Hanmer Twp.) to
21 Vermilion Lake (Fairbank Twp.), the Vermilion Lake delta is now part of the Dowling / Fairbank Forest
22 Reserve.

23 ***Other Forest Resources***

24 Provincial parks and conservation reserves provide a significant contribution to the protection of other
25 forest resources. These areas contribute to forest diversity and play a role in maintaining ecosystem
26 health. Enhanced management areas also help conserve natural resource values in fish and wildlife
27 areas, remote access areas, natural heritage areas, recreation areas and resource-based tourism areas. It
28 is also important that resource managers manage the intervening landscape in general use areas on a
29 sustainable basis.

30
31 In August of 2007 VFM released a report called High Conservation Values in the Sudbury Forest with
32 the subtitle Assessment, management and monitoring of forest conservation in the Sudbury Forest from
33 a global, regional and local perspective based on the Forest Stewardship Council's Principle 9. This
34 report is available by link on the VFM website, www.sudburyforest.com. Principle 9 says that high
35 conservation value (HCV) forests are forests that contain outstanding or critical biological,
36 environmental or social values. It uses six categories to assess for HCV attributes. The report identified
37 a number of high conservation values on the Sudbury Forest: Objectives have been developed to
38 consider all high conservation values and they are included in section 3.6 of the Plan. Through the
39 development of area of concern prescriptions and other operational strategies discussed in section 4.0 of
40 the Plan, operations in this FMP will not affect the conservation of any of the identified high
41 conservation values.

42
43 Consideration of other forest resources had an impact on the Plan primarily through two factors. The
44 location of parks and protected areas influenced the position of harvest allocations and roads. The
45 location of known and potential cultural heritage resources influenced the location of harvest
46 allocations, and in the latter case, the AOC prescription also influences the timing of operations.

1 **Long-term Management Direction**

2 The long-term management direction (LTMD) provides guidance for the levels of access, harvest,
3 renewal and tending activities required to achieve the desired forest and benefits. In the development of
4 the long-term management direction, management objectives and indicators were identified and
5 analytical methodologies, models, and tools regarding forest regulation, social and economic
6 assessment, wildlife habitat supply and landscape management were used. This information is
7 discussed in more detail in sections 3.2.1 through 3.6 of the FMP. All of this information is used in
8 developing a management strategy (section 3.7 of the FMP) that balances social, economic, and
9 biological objectives over the long-term.

10
11 Major considerations in the development of the LTMD were focused on social, economic and
12 environmental variables such as the future forest condition, spatial wildlife habitat and old growth
13 forests, emulating natural disturbance, climate change, utilization and harvest stability, aboriginal
14 interests and resource based tourism.

15
16 The construction of thirteen primary road corridors is proposed in the 2010-2020 FMP. These primary
17 roads will access harvest areas and allow for the conduct of silviculture treatments for the next 10 years.
18 The roads are also intended to provide long-term access to future harvest areas for the next 20 to 30
19 years.

20
21 The level of harvest, as well as the criteria used in the selection of harvest areas (sections 3.8 and 3.9 of
22 the FMP), are established for the 10 year period of the Plan. These criteria are based on forest
23 regulation, models and tools that determine the available harvest area for each forest unit (FU) on the
24 Forest.

25
26 The long-term management direction also provides a means of assessing the sustainability of the
27 management strategy through the measurement and monitoring of indicators that have been developed
28 for each management objective (Section 3.10 of the FMP). These management objectives have been
29 developed by the planning team and form the basis to achieve the desired forest and benefits.

30 ***Forest Units and Silvicultural Ground Rules***

31 A forest unit is an aggregation of forest stands for management purposes which has similar species
32 composition, develops in a similar manner (both naturally and in response to silvicultural treatments)
33 and is managed under the same silvicultural system. Forest units are among the fundamental building
34 blocks of a forest management plan. They are used to describe current, and project future, forest
35 conditions in the FMP.

36
37 Silviculture prescriptions for each forest unit are composed of a set of instructions or methods, compiled
38 into a silvicultural ground rule (SGR). The components of a prescription are harvest method, logging
39 method, site preparation, regeneration, and tending. For each of these components, there is a specific
40 instruction/method that is commonly used when managing each forest unit. The preferred silvicultural
41 ground rule is described below for each forest unit.

42 43 ***BW - White Birch Hardwood Mix***

44 The BW forest unit is a mix of intolerant hardwood species dominated by white birch of varying quality.
45 A significant portion of the area represented by this forest unit is the result of natural regeneration of
46 cuts from several decades ago, some of which were originally white/red pine forests. Silviculture
47 strategies consistent with the FMP objectives have been established to rehabilitate some of the BW
48 forest unit (targeting poor quality BW stands) to PWUS through intensive silviculture treatments.

1 Approximately 5% of the area harvested in the BW forest unit will be rehabilitated to PWUS. The
2 remainder of the areas will be treated extensively and regenerated to the BW forest unit. In these
3 situations, 7 to 12 white birch seed trees will be left for seed source to promote regeneration of single
4 stem, seed origin birch. White birch regenerates well naturally following a disturbance, as do poplar
5 and red maple, the other species associated with this forest unit.
6
7
8

9 ***MW1 - Mixedwood Dry***

10 An upland mix of white birch, poplar, jack pine, spruce, and white pine on well-drained sites makes up
11 the MW1 forest unit. Similar to the BW forest unit, stand origin was often natural regeneration
12 following a harvest decades ago. Many stands may previously have been mixed white and red pine
13 forests. Silviculture strategies consistent with the FMP objectives have been established to rehabilitate
14 some of the MW1 forest unit (targeting poor quality stands) to PWUS through intensive silviculture
15 treatments. Approximately 5% of the harvested area in the MW1 forest unit will be rehabilitated to
16 PWUS. The remainder of the areas are expected to regenerate naturally to the MW1 and PO forest
17 units. Natural regeneration to the PO forest unit will be discouraged by retaining some of the existing
18 mature and immature conifer trees during harvest and minimizing damage to advanced conifer
19 regeneration. Achieving a minimum of 40% conifer component is key to maintaining this forest unit, so
20 tending may also be necessary in some cases.
21

22 ***MW2 - Mixedwood Moist***

23 The MW2 forest unit occurs on richer sites compared to MW1, and includes lowland hardwoods
24 (primarily red maple) and balsam fir in the place of jack pine in the species mix. Similar to the BW
25 forest unit, stand origin was often natural regeneration following a harvest decades ago, and some stands
26 may previously have been mixed white spruce, upland black spruce and balsam fir forests.
27 Approximately 5% of the harvested area in the MW2 forest unit will be rehabilitated to PWUS.
28 Tending may be necessary in natural regeneration areas to achieve the minimum 40% conifer
29 component to maintaining this forest unit.
30

31 ***PJ - Jack Pine***

32 The PJ forest unit includes relatively pure jack pine stands typical of the Boreal forest region. This
33 economically important forest unit will typically be treated intensively. Doing so will most reliably
34 maintain its current extent on the Sudbury Forest. The PJ forest unit will provide a source of relatively
35 fast growing conifer trees suitable for pulpwood and sawlogs.
36

37 ***PJSB - Jack Pine Black Spruce***

38 The PJSB forest unit is upland black spruce combined with jack pine and minor components of
39 intolerant hardwood and other conifer species typical of the Boreal forest region. These sites will
40 typically be treated intensively to maintain availability of SPF.
41

42 ***PO - Poplar***

43 The PO forest unit is made up of poplar dominated stands of varying quality with minor components of
44 other mixed intolerant hardwoods and conifer species. Similar to the BW, MW1 and PWST forest units,
45 some stands within this forest unit are a result of past harvesting practices. Evidence of past occurrence
46 of white and red pine is sometimes noted in poorer quality PO stands. Modelling inputs reflect that the
47 PO forest unit is a commonly expected post-renewal succession result from other forest units. As such,
48 this forest unit is a good candidate for intensive silviculture treatments to maintain the SPF component
49 on the Forest.
50

1 ***PR - Red Pine***

2 The PR forest unit is made up mainly of pure red pine plantations but also includes some natural red
3 pine stands with a red pine component greater than 70 per cent. Plantations of red pine have been
4 established on the Sudbury Forest since the 1950s. These stands are most often isolated, small pockets
5 with good access. The plantations offer the opportunity for intensive forest management options
6 including pre-commercial and commercial thinning that result in aggressive growth and yield.
7 Harvested plantations will be renewed intensively in order to maintain high site productivity.
8 The area in this forest unit is expected to increase as areas within the BW, MW1, PO, and PWST forest
9 units as part of the PWUS restoration objective. White pine will be planted in areas with more residual
10 cover and red pine will be planted mixed with white pine and even on its own as an acceptable
11 alternative in more open growing conditions.

12
13 When naturally occurring, relatively pure red pine stand conditions are encountered, treatments
14 encouraging natural red pine regeneration, such as the seed tree harvest method, will be used if site and
15 cone conditions are favourable. If natural regeneration is not successful, artificial regeneration will be
16 implemented to maintain the pre-harvest species composition of the stand.

17
18 Red pine natural regeneration is generally considered to be unreliable given the many physiological and
19 environmental factors that need to simultaneously occur for successful germination and seedling
20 establishment. Adequate cone crop years for red pine are very few and far between and not easy to
21 predict. There are however, anecdotal observations of abundant natural red pine regeneration on
22 Sudbury Forest particularly in the Wolf Lake area seemingly contradicting the general body of
23 knowledge. Some local groups have clearly indicated to the planning team that natural regeneration of
24 red pine in the interest of genetic conservation is preferred over artificial.

25
26 The intrinsically narrow genetic diversity of the species, the collection of red pine seed for seedling
27 production from local sources, and the well-documented success of artificial regeneration as justification
28 to avoid relying heavily upon natural regeneration.

29
30 The strategy described above pertaining to naturally occurring stands in the PR forest unit is intended to
31 provide the opportunity for natural red pine regeneration to occur but also offer an alternative if it is
32 unsuccessful. Monitoring and reporting on the regenerative progress of these harvest areas will be
33 essential.

34
35 ***PWST - White Pine Seed Tree***

36 The PWST forest unit is a lower-stocked mixedwood forest condition with the dominant conifer species
37 most often white or red pine. Although a common, natural forest condition, some of these stands are the
38 result of past harvest practices where the majority of the white and red pine were removed.
39 Rehabilitation of the PWST forest unit to the PWUS forest unit is a key component of the strategy to
40 meet the targets for PWUS restoration on the Sudbury Forest. Most area harvested in the PWST forest
41 unit will be intensively treated for restoration to PWUS.

42
43 ***SBLC - Black Spruce Lowland Conifer***

44 The SBLC forest unit is characterized by both upland and lowland conifer ecosystems dominated by
45 black spruce, cedar and larch. Black spruce is semi-tolerant and cedar is tolerant to shade and can
46 therefore reproduce in the understorey of the canopy. The careful logging around advanced growth
47 (CLAAG) harvest method will be employed on any SBLC stands that have regeneration established in
48 the understory at the time of cutting as determined by pre-harvest inspections. Some SBLC areas will
49 require a fill plant to augment the natural regeneration with or without a follow-up tending to achieve
50 the regeneration standards. All area harvested in this forest unit are expected to remain in SBLC.

1
2 ***SF - Spruce Fir***

3 Rich, upland conifer sites consisting of a combination of spruce, balsam fir, intolerant hardwoods, and
4 occasional white pine describe the SF forest unit. It is one of the largest forest units on the Sudbury
5 Forest and has resulted largely due to absence of wildfire. Planting and tending treatments on about half
6 of the harvested areas will be required to prevent stands from converting to the MW2 forest unit
7 following harvest, and to gain SPF volume. The forest unit is the best candidate for prescribed burn site
8 preparation due to higher fuel loads and deeper duff.
9

10 ***CE - Cedar***

11 The CE forest unit is dominated by white cedar with black spruce, balsam fir, and white spruce with
12 some white pine. The market for cedar is typically weak, and harvesting in this forest unit is expected to
13 be limited. When harvesting does occur, a three-cut shelterwood approach will be taken with the seed
14 cut reducing crown closure to 60 to 70 percent.
15

16 ***HDUS - Tolerant Hardwood Uniform Shelterwood***

17 The HDUS forest unit can be further categorized into two types of conditions. The first is characterized
18 by relatively even-aged, low-quality tolerant hardwood stands (primarily hard maple) with a basal area
19 per hectare of acceptable growing stock less than 9 m². The second condition is characterized by
20 relatively even-aged forest stands with high components of mid-tolerant hardwoods such as red oak and
21 yellow birch. Prescriptions promoting yellow birch and oak will be applied when these species occur.
22

23 Past harvesting practices and marginal growing conditions for tolerant hardwoods have resulted in the
24 first condition described above. Stands that are harvested will typically undergo a two-stage uniform
25 shelterwood harvest with natural regeneration. Condition of advanced renewal will be noted in pre-
26 harvest inspections. Where renewal is vigorous and of good form, normal careful shelterwood
27 harvesting practices will be implemented. Where the renewal is stunted, diseased, or deformed, effort
28 will be made to knock down as much of this material as possible during skidding to allow fresh renewal
29 of quality stems.
30

31 The second condition described above will most typically be treated with a two-stage uniform
32 shelterwood harvest providing optimal light conditions to naturally regenerate stands dominated by mid-
33 tolerant hardwoods.
34

35 ***HE - Hemlock***

36 The HE forest unit is characterized by hemlock dominated stands with lesser components of yellow
37 birch, red maple, spruce, and white pine. The wildlife habitat provided by this forest unit is very
38 important particularly to ungulate populations in deep snow conditions. Poor marketability of hemlock
39 has resulted in reduced pressure on this forest type.
40

41 A serious forest pest, the hemlock looper, caused significant mortality in hemlock in the Killarney Park
42 and surrounding area during the 2000-2005 FMP term. Federal and provincial monitoring has resulted
43 in preliminary mapping, the true extent of the damage is uncertain. The most severe infestations are
44 within the park and near Tyson Lake.
45

46 Any living stands that are harvested will be cut under a three-cut uniform shelterwood harvesting
47 system.
48
49
50

1 ***LWMX - Lowland Mixedwood***

2 The LWMX forest unit is characterized by lowland hardwood dominated stands (i.e. black ash and red
3 maple) combined with a mix of other tolerant hardwoods, intolerant hardwoods, cedar and spruce. The
4 black ash and red maple component of the LWMX forest unit is expected to naturally regenerate without
5 difficulty.

6
7 Stands of LWMX will typically be harvested using a two-cut uniform shelterwood harvesting system.
8 To avoid site damage in these lowland areas, harvesting must be done in appropriate weather conditions
9 (e.g., driest part of summer or frozen conditions).

10
11 ***PWUS - White Pine Uniform Shelterwood***

12 The PWUS forest unit is characterized by white pine dominated stands with lesser components of red
13 pine, white spruce or red oak. The decline of white pine dominated stands in the Sudbury Forest
14 relative to historic levels has prompted a strategy to rehabilitate this forest unit over several decades, to
15 an extent closer to that of pre-European settlement.

16
17 The general goal of tree marking in the PWUS forest unit at the regeneration cut stage is to create 50%
18 crown closure following harvest. Depending on pre-harvest stand conditions, this may result in a two-
19 cut or a three-cut shelterwood approach. The two-cut approach will be used in stands where the pre-
20 harvest condition of the overstorey pine is relatively sparse and large-crowned. When this condition
21 exists, artificial regeneration (chemical site preparation followed by planting and tending) will be the
22 typical approach. The three-cut approach will be used in stands where the pre-harvest condition of the
23 overstorey pine is relatively dense with compact crowns. These sites are good candidates for
24 regeneration from local natural seed fall following mechanical scarification. Scarification is typically
25 timed with heavy cone crop years in white pine.

26
27 The first removal cut may be undertaken after the regenerating pine has reached a height of 30cm. This
28 is consistent with A Silvicultural Guide for the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Conifer Forest in Ontario.
29 With this relatively low height, damage during logging is minimized, particularly when harvest is done
30 when snow cover provides extra protection.

31
32 ***Tolerant Hardwood Selection***

33 The HDSEL forest unit is the only selection or uneven-aged forest unit. Species within this forest unit
34 are typically tolerant to shade and are ecologically well adapted to growing in the understorey of parent
35 overstorey trees.

36
37 The forest unit is characterized by a high proportion of hard maple with minor components of other
38 tolerant and mid-tolerant hardwoods. The estimated basal area per hectare of acceptable growing stock
39 in HDSEL is greater than or equal to 9 m². These stands will most typically be treated with a single tree
40 selection silviculture system with an expected return cycle of 25 years. With each successive harvest
41 the proportion of acceptable growing stock is expected to increase. Proper tree marking in combination
42 with minimizing root, bole and crown damage to residual trees during harvesting will be undertaken in
43 order to realize this expectation.

44
45 Selection silviculture system harvest operations will target the removal of poor quality trees often
46 showing signs of disease (known as unacceptable growing stock) thereby increasing the overall quality
47 of the stand and proportion of acceptable growing stock (AGS). An increase in AGS of 10% after a
48 selection harvest is targeted. Proper tree marking and minimizing logging damage to residual trees is
49 critical to increasing the proportion of AGS and quality of forest products within these stands.

1 ***Plan Objectives and Indicators***

2 Work completed by the planning team, the Sudbury LCC and the first nation representatives considering
3 and refining the desired forest and benefits workshop (DFBW) consultation, as well as the FMPM and
4 all other applicable forest management guides and guidelines, yielded 32 objectives and 64 indicators,
5 thus providing over 1000 measures of sustainability. The planning team set a desired level, or a specific
6 number, range or trend for each indicator to be achieved and maintained over time. Accompanying the
7 desired level is a target, with a specific number, range or trend and a timeframe for achievement. One or
8 more desired levels and targets have been identified for each indicator. The desired level is intended to
9 reflect the planning team's interpretation of moving towards the emulation of natural processes on the
10 landscape, or meeting a series of environmental, economic or social values. The target may be the same
11 as, or different from, the desirable level of the indicator, but it has remained consistent with or
12 established movement toward, the desired level. Rationale for all desired levels and targets has been
13 documented by the planning team, and is contained in section 6.1.26 of the FMP.

14
15 All indicators developed for the Plan are quantifiable. The establishment of a target for each
16 management objective often reflects the necessity to balance conflicting management objectives. The
17 strategic forest management model (SFMM) was used to develop a management strategy that balances
18 the achievement of related management objectives over time. In order to measure each objective and its
19 related indicators, one or more measures were assigned for each indicator. There are objectives for
20 forest diversity, social and economic values, silviculture, and provision of forest cover for those values
21 that are dependent on the Crown forest.

22 ***Management Strategy***

23 The management strategy is a balance in the achievement of management objectives. The management
24 strategy model run is included in digital format in the Analysis Package, a supplemental document to the
25 FMP. The development of the management strategy was supported by findings within scoping analysis
26 in SFMM as well as other forms of spatial analysis. The modeling outputs project how the Forest
27 develops through time, in terms of its structure and composition and the projected types and levels of
28 activities required to achieve the management objectives. The model outputs include:

- 29
30 a) Projected forest condition for the Crown productive forest (FMP-7)
31 b) Projected habitat for selected wildlife species (FMP-8)
32 c) Projected available harvest area by forest unit (FMP-9)
33 d) Projected available harvest volume by species group (FMP-10); and
34 e) Projected operations, revenues and expenditures (FMP-11).

35 ***Objective Achievement***

36 This subset of objectives and indicators that required measurement through time was assessed using
37 SFMM, GIS, NFRM tool (NDPEG) and OWHAM and balanced as part of the requirements of the
38 management strategy. A total of five objectives were assessed within the SFMM for achievement of
39 sustainability of the Plan. In addition, four other objectives were assessed, outside of the SFMM model,
40 to evaluate spatial disturbance pattern and preferred wildlife habitat as a result of selecting the preferred
41 allocation on the landscape. Tools used to evaluate these objectives included OWHAM, GIS and NFRM
42 tool (NDPEG analysis). The consideration of these four objectives will continue until the selected areas
43 of operations are in place and approved in the final Plan.

44
45 One objective was assessed during planning at the long term management direction stage using a tool
46 developed at the Ontario Forest Research Institute (OFRI) that evaluated carbon sequestering in the

1 management strategy. A final objective assessed at long term management direction was an evaluation
2 of the Sudbury Forest citizen's committee agreement with the management objectives developed in the
3 strategic direction of the Plan.

4
5 Certain parts of several objectives were assessed for the first time at the draft Plan submission, including
6 the Sudbury LCC and its self-evaluation, as well as certain indicators in the wood supply objectives that
7 deal with forecast and planned harvest area and volume.

8
9 Objective 31 will be assessed for the first time at the final Plan submission, again linked to the Sudbury
10 LCC's support for the final plan.

11
12 Many objectives are assessed in the annual reports following implementation of the forest management
13 plan. This is necessary as achievement is linked to how well VFM and Sudbury District MNR, as well
14 as all others involved in the management of the Forest execute the intentions of the forest management
15 plan.

16 The remainder of the Plan objectives will be tracked annually and assessed in the 7 and 10 year annual
17 reports, to prepare for the development of the next forest management plan (year 7), and to assess the
18 sustainability of the Plan. (year 10).

19
20 Corresponding to the timing of assessment, objectives not identified previously will not appear in
21 this assessment, but achievement will be documented as the Plan is implemented.

22
23 Representation of management objectives and how each has been represented in modeling is
24 summarized in the following section. A summary can also be found in 6.1.27. A refined set of
25 management objectives and indicators, as well as the full Assessment of Objective Achievement is
26 found in FMP-13 and Plan section 3.10.

27 ***Preliminary Determination of Sustainability***

28 The planning team and LCC were presented with the Preliminary Determination of Sustainability of the
29 Long-Term Management Direction on April 1, 2009. The strategic direction of the Plan was presented
30 to the Regional Director on May 4, 2009. Public review of the Long-Term Direction and Management
31 Strategy included an opportunity to comment at Stage Two - Review of Proposed Long-Term
32 Management Direction. Once alterations resulting from public comment and MNR review were
33 addressed, the preliminary endorsement of the LTMD was granted by the Regional Director, MNR
34 Northeast Region on July 7, 2009. Following shortly, on July 14, 15 &16, 2009 was Stage Three – the
35 First Information Centre Review of Preferred Operations. These took place in Sudbury and St. Charles,
36 with comment periods extending for 60 days following.

37 **Planned Operations**

38 Section 4.0 of the FMP describes the planned operations for the first five-year term. The text in the
39 following sections provides a summary of the selected operations in terms of harvest operations,
40 renewal and tending operations, roads planning, revenues and expenditures related to operations,
41 monitoring and assessment of operations, and finally compares the proposed operations to the LTMD.
42 Maps of the areas selected for operations are located in section 6.1.2 and the areas are summarized in
43 FMP-15 located in section 9.0 of the FMP. The selected primary and branch road corridors in the 2010
44 Plan are illustrated in a series of map products also located in section 6.1.2 of the FMP.

1 ***Harvest Area***

2 Section 4.3 of the FMP discusses the planned harvest operations for the first five-year term (2010-2015)
 3 and those preferred for the second five year term (2015-2020). The total projected available harvest
 4 area plus the mid-rotation tending figure from SFMM (commercial thinning of red pine plantations) and
 5 the total forecast harvest area for the ten-year period is 66,265 ha and 65,265 ha respectively. The total
 6 area forecast for harvest for the 10-year term is 66,219 ha, of which includes 973 mid-rotation tending
 7 (red pine plantation commercial thinning).

8
 9 The planned harvest areas are made up of the half way mark of the forecast figure, at 33,906 hectares.
 10 The planning team set a target that allowed some flexibility between terms, to allow for operational
 11 realities of block allocation over a ten-year period. The remaining half of the forecast has had all
 12 required area of concern and roads planning completed, however they will be confirmed and changed if
 13 necessary when Phase II planning and the associated public consultation are completed (consultation
 14 scheduled for the year 2013).

15
 16 **Figure 7:** Available, forecast, planned and contingency harvest areas

Forest Unit	Harvest area (ha)			
	Available 10-year	Forecast 10-year	Planned First 5-year Term	Contingency Area
BW	8274.5	8273.0	4339.9	1775
CE	31	28.8	15.1	6
HDUS	1299.8	1299.1	679.8	217
HE	673	672.5	347.9	115
LWMX	414	413.5	138.3	63
MW1	5175.2	5174.7	2791.0	1301
MW2	2976.8	2976.3	1460.1	783
PJ	3849.4	3848.8	2099.9	587
PJSB	9357.1	9356.9	5643.3	3195
PO	4826.9	4826.7	2468.0	1293
PR	1063.1	1027.2	703.6	57
PWST	3151.7	3151.5	1984.5	496
PWUS	14306.0	14304.0	8359.2	2989
SBLC	893.9	893.3	387.7	230
SF	8434.2	8433.2	3544.1	1743
HDSEL	1536.0	1539.6	846.5	250
Total	66,262.5	66,212.2	35,808.9	15,099
Source	FMP-15		FMP-20	

18
 19 Planned clearcuts are discussed in section 4.3.4 and are summarized in Table FMP-16 of the FMP. The
 20 discussion includes rationale for those that are greater than 260 ha in size. The FMP requires the FMP
 21 to achieve a ratio of greater than or equal to 90% of clearcuts in the first five year term to be less than
 22 260 hectares in size. In the first five-year term of this Plan, 90% (180 clearcuts) of planned clearcuts are
 23 less than 260 hectares while 10% (18 clearcuts) of planned clearcuts are larger than 260 hectares. In
 24 general, the majority of clearcuts on the Forest include a variety of forest units and are often mixed with
 25 other silviculture systems such as seedtree, shelterwood and selection. A variety of sizes of clearcuts
 26 were required to meet other landscape pattern objectives to emulate a natural disturbance pattern on the
 27 landscape. The maximum planned clearcut size is 6,533 hectares. This clearcut is comprised of 1562 ha

1 of planned harvest area in the first 5-year term and 4971 ha of existing clearcut disturbance. The average
2 planned clearcut size is 199 hectares.

3
4 There is currently no surplus harvest area being declared in the 2010 FMP.

5 ***Harvest Volume***

6 The forecast harvest volume for the 10-year period is 5,461,245 m³; 3,220,959 m³ is conifer and
7 2,240,286 m³ is hardwood. This information is provided in greater detail in FMP-17 and FMP18 in,
8 section 9.0 of the FMP.

9
10 Forecasted volumes satisfy most wood supply markets in the same manor as the strategic analysis has.
11 Further discussion on utilization is presented in section 4.3.6. Planned harvest volumes have been
12 summarized by species and licensee grouping in FMP-18, section 9.0.

13 ***Contingency Area and Volume***

14 Unforeseen circumstances such as blowdown, wildfire, insect damage or disease may cause some of the
15 planned harvest area to become unavailable for harvest during the ten-year period of the FMP. In order
16 to accommodate such circumstances contingency areas for harvest have been identified. The
17 contingency area is intended as replacement area for lost harvest opportunities. Often contingency areas
18 are later proposed as regular allocation harvest areas in the following FMP. The contingency areas are
19 identified and portrayed on the operations maps in the section 6.1.2. The stand listing of the
20 contingency areas is provided in section 6.1.14 of the Plan.

21
22 FMP-20, section 9.0, records the amount of contingency area by forest unit and age class with
23 associated conifer and hardwood volumes. The total contingency harvest volume equals 1,223,143 m³
24 which is comprised of both conifer and hardwood volumes of 726,630 m³ and 496,513m³ respectively.

25
26 There are 15,099 ha of contingency area identified in the Plan. This total contingency area represents
27 little more than two years (22.8%) of the available harvest area. In general, on a forest unit basis the
28 intent was to approach two years worth of contingency particularly in the clearcut forest units and white
29 pine shelterwood.

30 ***Revenues and Expenditures***

31 Table FMP-24 summarizes the forecast of estimated revenues and silvicultural expenditures for the
32 Sudbury Forest for Phase 1 and 2 of the 10-year planning term. The forecast for revenue includes an
33 estimate of the money generated through stumpage fees. The stumpage charges have been estimated by
34 multiplying the current stumpage charges by forecast harvest volumes for each species (Table FMP-17).
35 The stumpage rates and renewal rates are from the September 2009 rates as posted monthly on the MNR
36 website. Rates used in the model can be found in the analysis package in section 6.1.6. For hardwood
37 and red and white pine sawlogs, the estimated grade split was determined based on species product
38 proportions used in the modeling, and consistent with the assumptions used to develop product
39 proportions used for the forecast of wood utilization in FMP-18 and FMP-19, section 9.0.

40
41 The current renewal stumpage rates, when combined with forecasted harvest levels by species, results in
42 providing sufficient revenue to implement the planned renewal program. The poor market situation for
43 the forest industry prior to and during preparation of this FMP is causing rigorous reviews of all
44 operating costs. VFM and the Shareholders will be closely reviewing the current renewal rates as they
45 relate to the renewal program. The review will be done to ensure that the current rates for each trees

1 species and product are consistent with renewal expenditures required to maintain them. This process
2 may identify opportunities to possibly adjust and balance rates. If so, VFM will initiate discussion with
3 the MNR.

4 ***Renewal and Tending Operations***

5 The planned regeneration treatments that are proposed for the first five years of the plan include:

- 6 ○ natural regeneration in clearcut, shelterwood, and selection silviculture systems for a total of
7 14,529 hectares;
- 8 ○ planting in regular harvest areas for a total of 8,819 hectares;
- 9 ○ aerial seeding 300 ha of PJ forest unit area;
- 10 ○ there are no re-treatments planned at this time;
- 11 ○ supplemental planting for a total of 2,500 hectares.

12 Supplemental planting is scheduled for about one third of the PWUS depletion area. This typically
13 involves planting 1,000 to 1,200 white pine per hectare following ground chemical site preparation.

14 The planned site preparation treatments that are proposed for the first five years of the plan include:

- 15 ○ mechanical treatments for a total of 4,730 hectares;
- 16 ○ aerial chemical treatments for a total of 4,107 hectares;
- 17 ○ ground chemical treatments for a total of 4,423 hectares;
- 18 ○ potentially 200 ha of prescribed burning in the SF forest unit;
- 19 ○ an estimated 334 hectares of slash pile burning.

20

21 The planned tending treatments that are proposed for the first five years of the plan include:

- 22 ○ approximately 400 ha manual tending;
- 23 ○ aerial chemical treatments on 15,357 ha;
- 24 ○ ground chemical treatments on 2,155 ha;
- 25 ○ even-aged stand thinning/improvement on 200 ha (PR, PWUS)

26

27 Unlike areas selected for harvested, the selection of areas eligible for renewal and tending is not
28 required to be a precise identification of actual operations. More area is shown on the summary map
29 than is expected to receive renewal and tending operations. Final selection of areas and the identification
30 of specific treatments will be done at the AWS development stage.

31 ***Roads***

32 All information related to existing, primary, branch and operational roads are described in section 4.5 of
33 the FMP, including the forecast (ten-year) and planned (five-year) road construction and use
34 management strategies for each. FMP-22 in section 9.0 identifies each new primary and branch road to
35 be constructed anytime during the ten-year period of the forest management plan. Planned construction,
36 monitoring and maintenance responsibilities, access control requirements and future use management
37 are recorded in the table. The primary and branch road corridors are included on the operations maps in
38 section 6.1.2.8

39 ***Existing roads***

40 Existing primary, branch and road networks are recorded in the Existing Roads table (Appendix II) in
41 section 6.1.12. This table describes the planned maintenance, monitoring, access control, and
42 abandonment and decommissioning activities. Section 6.1.12 provides the use-management strategies
43 mentioned above in more detail. An overview map set identifies the location of the existing road
44 networks to date. This map set is located in section 6.1.2.

1 **Operational Roads**

2 Operational roads are contained within the boundaries of an area of operations. They provide short term
3 access for harvest, renewal and tending operations. Operational roads are normally not maintained after
4 they are no longer required for forest management purposes. FMP-22 lists the networks of operational
5 roads to be constructed during the ten-year period of the FMP. The operations maps in section 6.1.2
6 depict the boundaries of the areas of operations.

7 **Branch Roads**

8 Branch roads are roads that branch off existing primary and secondary roads or proposed new primary
9 roads. If a new road is required to provide access to, through, or between separate areas of operations,
10 the road will be classified as a branch road.

11 There are a total of fifteen branch roads forecast to be constructed during the period of the Plan with a
12 total construction length of 69.8 km. Thirteen branch roads are planned during the first term of the FMP
13 with a total construction distance of 61.0 km. The following are the branch roads and the associated new
14 construction lengths planned for the first five-year term of the Plan:

15		
16	Carlyle Road	(5.4 km) – partial reconstruction/upgrade of existing road
17	Creelman Road	(6.5 km)
18	Dieppe-Truman Road	(0.9 km) – providing access to adjacent FMU
19	Kilpatrick Branch Road	(2.4 km)
20	Knight Creek Road	(9.9 km)
21	Lampman Road	(5.3 km)
22	Limit Road	(5.7 km)
23	McNamara Road	(1.9 km)
24	Ministic Creek Road	(2.7 km) – providing access to adjacent FMU
25	Paul Lake Branch	(2.8 km)
26	Solace Branch Road	(5.9 km) – upgrade of existing road
27	Telfer Road	(4.6 km)
28	Turner Branch Road	(3.1 km)
29	Tyson Road	(7.0 km)
30	Vermilion Road	(5.7 km)

31 **Primary Roads**

32 Primary roads provide principal access for the Forest and are constructed, maintained, and used as part
33 of the main road system. Thirteen primary road corridors are proposed for construction in the 2010-
34 2020 FMP. These primary roads will access harvest areas and allow for access to conduct silviculture
35 treatments for the next 10 years. The roads are also intended to provide long-term access to future
36 harvest areas for the next 20 to 30 years. Below is a list of the primary roads and the associated new
37 construction length:

38		
39	18-Mile Island Road	(22.2 km) – partial reconstruction/upgrade of existing road
40	Beaumont Road	(9.6 km)
41	Cleland Road	(16.1 km)
42	Goulard's Road	(6.2 km) – new bypass section (realignment)
43	Hutton Road	(22.0 km)
44	Jennings Road	(10.2 km)
45	Kilpatrick Road	(8.1 km)
46	Lampman Road	(8.5 km)

1	North River Road	(4.0 km) – new bypass section (realignment)
2	Secord Forest Access Road	(15.2 km)
3	Spanish Arm Road	(26.9 km) – two separate sections
4	Turner Road	(34.9 km) – partial reconstruction/upgrade of existing road
5	<u>White Oak Road</u>	<u>(12.6 km) – partial reconstruction/upgrade of existing road</u>
6	Total:	196.5 km

7
8 For each new primary road corridor, an environmental analysis is provided in section 6.1.12. This
9 analysis includes a description of each corridor, advantages and disadvantages, road use management
10 strategy, and a cost analysis.

11 ***Monitoring and Assessment***

12 The monitoring and assessment program will focus on forest operations inspections, silvicultural
13 effectiveness monitoring, exceptions monitoring, assessment of regeneration success and monitoring of
14 roads and water crossings.

15
16 There are two exceptions to the silviculture guides proposed. One is full tree skidding of soft limbed
17 trees in seeding cuts of forest units managed under shelterwood silviculture systems; the other is a
18 modification to the recommended approach to white pine strip shelterwood harvest. They are discussed
19 in section 4.7.2 of the FMP.

20
21 Section 6.1.11 of the Plan includes methodologies, timing and duration of monitoring, the
22 documentation and reporting of results, and the opportunity for LCC members to participate in data
23 collection for each exceptions monitoring program.

24 **Determination of Sustainability**

25 Based on FMP-13, the vast majority of the indicators of sustainability that were assessed at this stage of
26 the Plan development were within, or moving toward, the desired levels. Rationale for setting targets at
27 different than desired levels has been documented, and additional analysis has been conducted to ensure
28 no negative impact to the sustainability of the Forest.

29
30 In all cases, the indicators that are not within or moving toward the desired level are a result of the
31 current forest condition (ageclass gap, limiting wood supply into the medium terms) or balancing
32 multiple objectives (limiting wood supply vs. certain ecological objectives). In cases where indicators
33 are not moving toward the range for each desirable level, rationale has been provided.

34
35 Social and economic analysis for the proposed management strategy evaluated the 6% reduction in
36 timber supply from the past (2005) approved forest management plan. The assessment concluded that no
37 immediate impact to employment would result, as historic harvest levels have traditionally been lower
38 than planned levels. It is important to note that anticipated reductions SPF timber supply in the next 4 to
39 6 planning terms could place strain on employment if resources are fully utilized.

40
41 The Sudbury Forest planning team concludes, on balance, that plan objectives are being met and
42 progress is being made towards the desired forest and benefits. The determination of sustainability for
43 the forest management plan has been achieved. The Plan continues to have regard for the plant life,
44 animal life, water, soil, air and social and economic values, including recreational and heritage values.

45
46 The Final Plan was presented to the LCC on April 21, 2010.

Appendix A: Summary of the LCC Report

Summary of LCC Activities for the 2010-2020 FMP April 2010

The Local Citizens Committee (LCC) was established 20 years ago. The purpose of the committee is to assist MNR in understanding topics of public concern on Crown Land, and to advise and provide recommendations to the District Manager when decisions need to be made. The detailed overview of the LCC activities and list of members is located in the Supplementary Documentation (6.1.16).

One strength of the Sudbury LCC is the widespread, overlapping interests and knowledge of the members. Though each member represents a specific interest group, every member also has extensive experience and interest in several other areas. Nearly every one has an outdoors card, most are active anglers or hunters, many own a cottage and all enjoy some sort of recreation on Crown land. Several members have business enterprises that depend on healthy forests.

LCC concerns include:

- **herbicides:** a desire to reduce their use, the impact on forage for wild life, and the impact on blueberry production (which may be a factor in the increasing numbers of bears looking for food in northern cities.)

- **access roads:** specifically, plans for the Spanish Arm, a new crossing of the Sturgeon River, and road networks east of Killarney. Throughout the Sudbury Forest, there was a high degree of discomfort at the large number of roads being proposed as ‘primary’, the lack of planning for winter roads, and that four of the roads were being proposed as ‘linking’ roads. After several task team and LCC meetings, it was felt that our comments were not being heard.

In the final plan however, the most controversial roads will not be linked, the Spanish Arm Road will be open to public use, and the Sturgeon River bridge will not be built.

- **harvest levels:** One strong concern of LCC members is the seemingly very high levels of spruce-pine-fir (SPF) that is expected to be cut in the new plan (nearly twice the historic use). Future plans will have a scarcity because there is not enough SPF forest in younger age classes. While the allocations in the Final Plan still pass the modelling tests for sustainability, concern remains that age-class substitution will impact future plans for SPF.

Concerns for high allocation levels include pressure on the other values. The LCC fears that if the full allocation is utilized in this term, other values will suffer i.e.: older future forests, wild life, remote recreation, and tourism.

The impacts of all the new roads on remote and semi-remote values dominated the issue resolutions requested for this plan. Industry contends that the number of roads into remote areas is unavoidable. At the issue resolution meetings, the LCC observers heard only a few objections to the logging. The public desire expressed at the IR meetings sought to maintain the remote character of the land during and after the logging is completed.

Early in the planning, the LCC expressed serious concerns and felt unheard (at Task Teams and monthly LCC meetings). A number of these concerns have been better addressed in the Final Plan. The LCC fulfilled its role in bringing the public’s concerns to the attention of the planners. Some of the time delays might have been avoided if the planners had paid more attention to the early LCC concerns.

1
2 On a final note we would like to add that trust is a major part of this exercise. Most individuals have
3 no concept of how forest management planning works nor do they care unless it impacts them
4 directly. A great deal of trust is placed on VFM and MNR that they will develop a plan that is
5 sustainable and protects the resources of Ontario for future generations.
6
7 Prepared by Viki Mather, LCC representative to the Planning Team

1 Appendix B: Resolution of Issues

2

3 When concerns cannot be resolved through meetings and discussions with the planning team, a formal
4 process is available to resolve issues. As a first step, the concerned group or individual must identify the
5 issue to the plan author in writing and offer a proposed solution.

6 The plan author then meets with the concerned party to attempt to resolve the issue. If it cannot be
7 resolved, the matter is referred to the next level of authority, which is the MNR District Manager, and if
8 needed, to the MNR Regional Director. If the issue is still not resolved after the formal issue resolution
9 process, the concerned party can appeal the decision of the MNR Regional Director by making a request
10 to the Director of the Environmental Assessment and Approvals Branch, Ministry of Environment for an
11 individual environmental assessment of specific proposed forest management activities.

Appendix C: Summary of Major Issues

A number of issues have been identified and resolved through the planning process. Issues were identified by the public, the local citizens committee and planning team members. Many issues were resolved by meeting with concerned individuals or groups, as described in various sections of the Plan (see Section 4.2.1, Prescriptions for Areas of Concern, Section 4.5, Access Roads, and the accompanying supplementary documentation for both sections). The responses to all issues raised by the public are provided in the summary of public correspondence, which is located in the supplementary documentation of the Plan.

The public correspondence summary is organized by issue. These are:

- Access
- Administrative
- Areas of Concern
- Harvest
- Roads
- Values

Please see the summary of public correspondence section of the supplementary documentation of the FMP for more detail on these issues.

Requests for Issue Resolution:

Request #1 @ Plan Author Stage

Proponent concerned around access into the “Spanish Arm” far northwestern portion of the management unit, and how this harvest and access activity in the Beresford, Beaumont, McNamara and Lampman townships will impact remote tourism in the area.

Request #2 @ Plan Author Stage

Proponent concerned around access into the “Spanish Arm” far northwestern portion of the management unit, and how his harvest and access activity in the Beresford and Beaumont townships will impact values around particular lakes and other values in the area.

Request #3 @ Plan Author Stage

Proponent concerned around access into the “Spanish Arm” far northwestern portion of the management unit, and how his harvest and access activity in the Beresford and Beaumont townships will impact values around particular lakes and other values in the area.

Request #4 @ Plan Author Stage

Proponent concerned around access into the “Spanish Arm” far northwestern portion of the management unit, and how his harvest and access activity in the Beresford and Beaumont townships will impact values around particular lakes and other values in the area.

1
2 Request #5 @ Plan Author Stage
3
4 Proponent Concerned with proposed access restriction (gate) on the Spanish Arm Primary road that
5 accesses crown land as listed in the Crown Land Use Atlas as "General Use".
6
7 Request #6 @ Regional Director Stage
8
9 Proponent dissatisfied with rationale provided in the District Manager in the decision related to the
10 Spanish Arm road issue resolution process. Proponent's position that the selected road corridor and
11 mitigation measures contained in the draft FMP are superior to the District Manager's decision.
12
13 Request #7 @ Regional Director Stage
14
15 Appealed the District Managers Decision based on the provision to allow construction of the Spanish
16 Arm Road as well as the removal of the access restriction at Frog Creek.
17
18 Request #8 @ Plan Author Stage
19
20 Proponent Concerned with proposed harvest and access activity in the Beresford, Beaumont, Frechette,
21 McNamara and Lampman townships (Spanish Arm). Proponent's preferred solution to the issue is to
22 leave the area free of forest management as he/she feel that this type of activity in the area will have
23 adverse effect on the natural resource values present today.
24
25 Request #9 @ Plan Author Stage
26
27 Proponent concerned with proposal to access Lampman, Leask, Frechette and McNamara townships and
28 initiate harvest, renewal and tending activities within the 2010-2020 forest management plan. Proposed
29 solution is to find other less environmentally sensitive areas on the Forest and/or implement a 5 km no
30 road buffer zone around the self sustaining trout lakes in the area as well as a 3 km selective cut buffer
31 zone to reduce the logging/road footprint in the area.
32
33 Request #10 @ Plan Author Stage
34
35 Proponent concerned that the 120m no cut reserve is not sufficient protection to the lakes of concern.
36 Proposed solution is a 1 km no cut reserve around the lakes.
37
38 Request #11 @ Plan Author Stage
39
40 Proponent concerned about the need to preserve the present semi-remoteness of the Halifax/Atlee area,
41 and the effects that new four season access roads would have on fish and wildlife conservation as well
42 as the enjoyment and security of his/her camps. Proponent asked for written assurance that for the full
43 ten years of the new FMP, that forestry access to the south half of Halifax township or the north half of
44 Atlee township, east of the Halifax/Atlee Road will be by winter access only.

1
2 Request #12 @ Plan Author Stage

3
4 Their issues relate more specifically to:

- 5
6 1) Recognition of “remoteness” as a value that requires planning to prevent further loss.
7 2) Need to identify the location of these areas.
8 3) Strategies for decommissioning all operational roads on the Forest to protect remote and semi-remote
9 values.
10 4) Increased protection on the west side of the Sturgeon River.
11 5) Increased protection on Parks in general, specifically with road set-backs.
12 6) Reduce size of disturbances adjacent to the Sturgeon River
13 7) Strongly oppose the Draft Plan for a new bridge across the Sturgeon River.
14 8) Concern that public process will be compromised if replacement allocations (for Solace area) are not
15 shown at the December Open House.

16
17 Request #13 @ Plan Author Stage

18 The proponent is specifically concerned with how the Plan currently deals with the following elements:

- 19
20 1) Historic Trails
21 2) Ecological Integrity of Protected Areas
22 3) Campsite, Canoe Routes and Viewpoint values on the Forest and area of concern prescriptions in the
23 FMP.

24
25 Request #14 @ District Manager Stage

- 26
27 1) Restriction of new access to a lake in the Secord township area through old logging roads, existing
28 roads and planned roads
29 2) Protection of viewscapes for lakes in the Secord township area.

30
31 Request #15 @ Plan Author Stage

32
33 Proponent concerned with use of an existing road for hauling and wishes to see specific commitments
34 made related to conditions on road use for this existing road.

35
36 Request #16 @ District Manager Stage

37
38 Proponent is dissatisfied with the current protection of a lake in the southeast area of the management
39 unit, particularly in terms of reserve widths and aerial herbicide buffers.

40
41 Request #17 @ District Manager Stage

42
43 Proponent feels that the FMP does not consider the protection of Parks, protection of ecosystem
44 integrity or the protection of remoteness and non-motorized recreational values.

45
46 Request #18 @ District Manager Stage

47
48 Proponent is concerned with the following:

- 49
50 1) having private, for profit corporations drafting or reviewing Forest Management Plans

1 2) terms of reference for the FMP does not reflect the Ontario Governments 2006 passage of the
2 Provincial Park Conservation Reserves Act.

3 3) Plan should be revised to honour past land-use agreements and provincial legislation.

4

5 Request #19 @ Regional Director Stage

6

7 Proponent feels that the decision to replace the gate at Frog Creek should be voided because the stated
8 reasoning supporting the decision does not justify the conclusion. Argues that scientific studies and
9 experience have demonstrated road closures will not work after the public has had previous access to the
10 area; proponent adds that the proposed AOC for lake trout lakes is not adequate to restrict access and
11 has insufficient scientific data supporting it. Proponent concludes that it is inappropriate to proceed with
12 such an important AOC change and gate removal without clearly determining the consequences, and
13 before providing meaningful opportunities for public comment.

14 Request #20 @ Regional Director Stage

15

16 Proponent feels that the Plan does not adequately consider the impacts of harvesting on watersheds,
17 particularly the disposition of calcium.

1 **Appendix D: Estimated Schedule of Remaining Formal Public**
2 **Consultation Opportunities**

3

4 Inspection of MNR Approved Forest Management Plan

- 5 • Notice of Inspection ~ May 19, 2010
6 • Public Inspection period ends ~ June 17, 2010
7 • If no EA Bump Requests, Forest Management Plan potentially ready for implementation ~ June
8 17, 2010
9 • Operations Commence ~ July 7, 2010



Sudbury Forest
2010 – 2020
Forest Management Plan



Comment Sheet

13

Date:	
Comments:	
Name:	
Address:	
Organization:	
Telephone:	Fax:

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You can also send your comments directly to:

Ministry of Natural Resources	Vermilion Forest Management Company Ltd.
Sudbury District	311 Harrison Drive
3767 Highway 69, Suite 5	Sudbury, Ontario
Sudbury, Ontario	P3E 5E1
P3G 1E7	Bus: (705) 560-6363
(705) 564-7875	Fax: (705) 560-7887
Attention: Tim Lehman, Sudbury Area Forester	Attention: Mark Lockhart, Planning Forester and Plan Author

The Ministry of Natural Resources is collecting your personal information and comments under the authority of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act. Any personal information you provide (address, name, telephone, etc.) will be protected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, however, your comments will become part of the public consultation process and may be shared with the general public. Your personal information may be used by the Ministry of Natural Resources to send you further information related to this forest management planning exercise. If you have questions about the use of your personal information, please contact Don Mark at 705-564-7360