

ATTENTION: Joel Martineau
Margaret Hatton
Tom Sheppard

CC: Suzanne Shalla, Acting District Manager, MNR Bancroft,
Mayor Ron Higgins, and North Frontenac council,
Reeve Henry Hogg, and Addington-Highland Council,
Randy Hillier, MPP for Lanark, Frontenac, Kingston,
Daryl Kramp, MPP for Hastings—Lennox and Addington,
John Yakubuski, Minister for Natural Resources & Forestry,
Janet Mason, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Mississippi Valley
Conservation Authority,
Marlin Horst FOCA President,
Terry Rees FOCA Executive Director

**RE: Review of Long-Term Management Direction, Mazinaw-Lanark Forest 2021 - 2031
Forest Management Plan**

On behalf of the lake associations below, we are requesting an amendment to the current Forest Management Plan, as well as permanent changes to future long-term (10-year), short-term (5-year), and annual forestry management and operation plans.

Lake associations in the Addington Highlands and North Frontenac regions have a shared mission to protect the local environment, which is home to various protected vegetation and species at risk, as well as the interests of permanent and seasonal property owners. Our associations are run by passionate volunteers who do their best to support this mission and stay informed on topics of interest and concern.

It was therefore disturbing for many lake associations to learn that they were not informed directly about the opportunity to participate in the current 10-year management plan. The sole correspondence received was by a generic email sent on July 28th (see below), with no mention of the direct and/or indirect impacts that this plan could have on the ecological preservation of our lakes and the cottage experience of our members. Upon further review, the current plan contains little information besides low-quality maps of future operations that are directly adjacent to the lakes our associations represent, the roads and trails frequented by our members, and in some cases directly adjacent to or even including landowner properties.

The correspondence also included a deadline of 30 days to respond. This deadline during a normal year is insufficient for volunteer associations to review the limited material and provide any meaningful input. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is nearly impossible.

While we appreciate and understand the challenges of large-scale, long-term planning with so many stakeholders, we believe the process is flawed. Seasonal property owners in the region represent a significant portion of the local population and investment in the local economy. The associations that represent cottage owners are volunteer-run with frequent executive turnover making it difficult to monitor, enforce, and participate in complex forestry planning and operations. We therefore are requesting that all local landowners' rights and benefits be protected and that the ecological preservation of the lakes they reside near be preserved *by default*.

The undersigned associations are requesting that the following conditions be included in all planning and operations activities, **as an absolute minimum**, for the lakes represented below.

1. No logging or forestry activity should be conducted within 150m from all lake shores, rivers and streams, and nearby wetlands
2. No logging or forestry activity should be conducted within 300m from designated lake trout lakes (See below)
3. To preserve the current viewscape, there should be no forestry activity within the highest ridge lines visible from the lakes, if beyond the setbacks referenced above
4. There should be no alteration to, or use of, primary access roads and recreational trails, or visible activity of forestry operations from the roads or trails near the lakes below
5. There should be no forestry activity within hearing range between May 1st and November 1st from the lakes listed below
6. No logging or forestry activity should be conducted within 500m from private property.

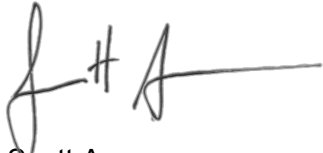
Additionally, we request that any deviation from these conditions require consultation with the affected lake association representing local property owners.

These conditions should not prevent the consideration of additional amendments and requests from individual lake associations, given unique circumstances and ecological situations, but should be the standards from which any discussions begin.

In short, we are requesting that the protections above become standard operation, and be included in the Forest Management Plan(s) and should not be the ongoing responsibility of associations and cottage owners to negotiate and enforce on a 10-year, 5-year, and annual basis.

The Mazinaw-Lanark lake associations have a long-standing, positive relationship with the MLFI and Ministry of Natural Resources. We have appreciated the ongoing support and mutual co-existence in protecting the local environment while promoting the interests of various stakeholders. By implementing the requested conditions in the forestry management operations, we can continue to maintain a positive relationship while ensuring that the interests of everyone, and the rights of local cottage owners, are preserved.

Sincerely,



Scott Annan,
VP, Ashby Lake Protective Association
scott.annan@gmail.com
613-261-8942

And the following, on behalf of their respective associations (and approximate properties in their area).

Stephen Wavryk,
President,
Ashby Lake Protective Association
65 Property Owners
** Designated as a Natural Lake Trout lake by the OMNRF*

Larry O'Donoghue,
President,
Brule Lake Community Association
91 Property Owners
** Designated as a Natural Lake Trout lake by the OMNRF*

Russ Brown,
President,
Buckshot Lake Cottagers' Association
150 Property Owners
** Designated as a Natural Lake Trout lake by the OMNRF*

Gordon Hunter,
President,
Kashwakamak Lake Association
500 Property Owners

Bob Reid,
President,
Mazinaw Property Owners Association
371 Property Owners (and over 200,000 visitors annually to Bon Echo Provincial Park)

Joel Arthurs,
President,
Skootamatta District Ratepayers Association
400 Property Owners

Bruce MaGee,
Director,
Lake Weslemkoon Conservation Association
420 Property Owners
**Designated as a Natural Lake Trout lake by the OMNRF*

REVIEW

Review of Long-Term Management Direction Mazinaw-Lanark Forest 2021–2031 Forest Management Plan

The Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR), Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. (MLFI) and the Mazinaw-Lanark Local Citizens' Committee (LCC) invite you to review and comment on the proposed long-term management direction for the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan (FMP) for the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest.

The Planning Process

The FMP takes approximately three years to complete. During this time, five formal opportunities for public consultation and First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation are provided. The first opportunity (Stage One) for this FMP occurred on October 31st, 2018, when the public was invited to 'Participate' in the development of the plan. This 'Stage Two' notice is:

- To invite you to review and comment on:
 - the proposed long-term management direction for the forest;
 - the areas which could reasonably be harvested, and the preferred areas for harvest operations, during the 10-year period of the plan;
 - the analysis of alternative one kilometer wide corridors for each new primary road which is required for the next 20 years.
- To request your contribution to background information to be used in planning.

How to Get Involved

To facilitate your review, a summary of the proposed long-term management direction for the forest can be obtained electronically on the Ontario government website (www.ontario.ca/forestplans). A summary map(s) of the preferred and optional harvest areas for the 10-year period of the plan and alternative corridors for each new primary road which is required for the next 20 years will also be available electronically.

In addition to the most current versions of the information and maps which were available at Stage One of public consultation, the following information and maps will be available electronically:

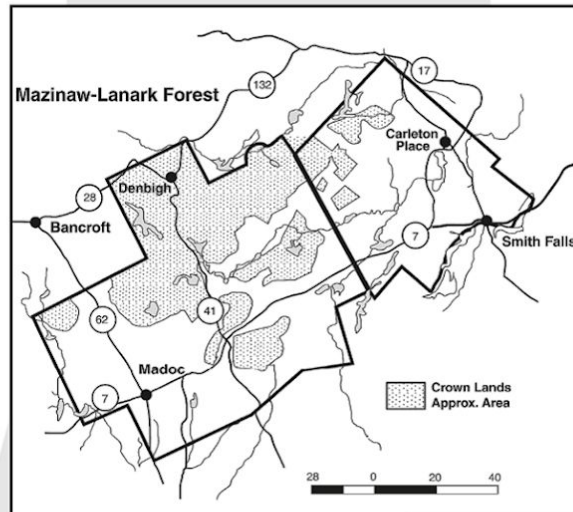
- Draft First Nation and Métis Background Information Report (only if the First Nation and Métis community(ies) agree);
- Summary of public comments and submissions received to date and any responses to those comments and submissions;
- A summary report of the results of the desired forest and benefits meeting;
- Environmental analysis, including use management strategies of the alternative corridors for each new primary road;
- Maps that portray past and approved areas of harvest operations for the current forest management plan and the previous 10 years;
- Criteria used for the identification of areas that could reasonably be harvested during the 10-year period of the plan;
- The rationale for the preferred areas for harvest;
- Summary report of the activities of the local citizens' committee to date.

The above information can be made available electronically by contacting the Company and/or the MNR contact listed below, during normal office hours for a period of 30 days **July 28, 2020 to August 27, 2020**.

Comments on the proposed long-term management direction for the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest must be received by Joel Martineau of the planning team by **August 27, 2020**.

Remote meetings with representatives of the planning team and the LCC can be requested at any time during the planning process. Reasonable opportunities to remotely meet planning team members during non-business hours will be provided upon request. If you require more information or wish to discuss your interests and concerns with a planning team member, please contact one of the individuals listed:

Joel Martineau
District Management Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Bancroft District Office
e-mail: joel.martineau@ontario.ca



Margaret Hatton
Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc.
tel: 613-336-0816, ext. 225
e-mail: mhatton@mlfi.org

Tom Sheppard
Mazinaw-Lanark Forest
LCC Chairman
e-mail: tom@snowbase.ca

During the planning process there is an opportunity to make a written request to seek resolution of issues with the MNR District Manager or the Regional Director using a process described in the *2017 Forest Management Planning Manual (Part A, Section 2.4.1)*.

Stay Involved

There will be three more formal opportunities for you to be involved. These stages are listed and tentatively scheduled as follows:

Stage Three - Information Centre: Review of Proposed Operations
December 2020

Stage Four - Information Centre: Review of Draft Forest Management Plan
April 2021

Stage Five - Inspection of MNR-Approved Forest Management Plan
August 2021

If you would like to be added to a mailing list to be notified of public involvement opportunities, please contact Joel Martineau, District Management Forester, at joel.martineau@ontario.ca.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry 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 and Forestry 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 Shari MacDonald by e-mail: shari.macdonald@ontario.ca.