

THE FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS IN ONTARIO

- Forest Management Planning in Ontario goes beyond what might normally be considered planning (i.e. an act of formulating a program for a definite course of action)
- FM planning in Ontario encompasses elements of:
 - Planning
 - Implementation of Legislation and Policy
 - Public Consultation and Public Accountability
 - Control and allocation of resources
 - Permitting
 - Compliance
 - Enforcement

- The aforementioned complexity can be a very great source of frustration for the practicing forester or forest technician; ... but it is somewhat understandable given the fact that we are managing a public resource in a political environment
- While classical European style “sustained yield”, forest regulation and management may be fully appropriate for a large tract of private land it is equally inappropriate for public (Crown) lands

Components

- DRIVERS (DIRECT OR INFLUENCE FMP)
 - **Legislation** esp CROWN FOREST SUSTAINABILITY ACT
 - **Policies** e.g FOR 07 02 04 Forest Compliance Information and Planning Procedure
 - **Guidelines** e.g. Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales
- DIRECTLY RELATED COMPONENTS
 - Forest Management Plan
 - Compliance Plans
 - Annual Work Schedule
 - Annual Reports
- INFLUENCED BY OR IN SUPPORT OF FMP
 - Compliance Inspection and Reports
 - Independent Forest Audits
 - Issuance of Licenses and Cut Approvals

The Forest Management Plan

- FMP is written for a specific management unit (forest) land base
- FMP must be approved before operations can proceed.
- FMP is written for a 10 year term (i.e. 2011 – 2021) and is subdivided into two 5 year periods (more operational planning done within the 5 year time frame)
- FMP (all Gov On approvals) runs on the MNR fiscal year basis (i.e. April 1st – March 31st)
- FMP is written in an open and public consultative process
- A local citizens committee must monitor the development of the plan
- Specific opportunities are provided (if requested) for First Nations communities to participate in the FMP process

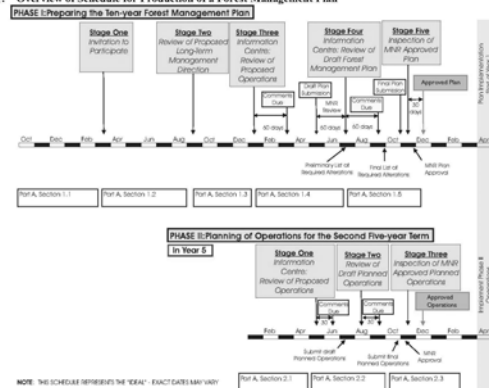
The Forest Management Plan

- Content prescribed by the Forest Management Planning Manual (most current one is 2009), one of the four regulated manuals under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act
- There isn't a lot of *wiggle room* in the content requirements therefore the organization and content of every plan is somewhat similar; flexibility and variation occurs within the components of the plan

The Forest Management Plan

- Preparing the 10 year FMP is a 30 month process with specific milestones, deliverables and public consultation opportunities
- The FMP is huge, and cumbersome
- The 2009 FMP for the Dog River-Matawin is an average size and is 2800 pages long
- Lots of repetition
- Lots of citation and reiteration of elements of policy

Figure A-1: Overview of Schedule for Production of a Forest Management Plan



The Forest Management Plan

- Plan contains:
 - History, and contextual description of the management unit
 - Strategic Long Term Management Direction
 - Based on comprehensive computer modeling and analysis and public consultation regarding management options
 - Objectives and Indicators *
 - Operational Planning
 - Harvest areas and volumes, forest renewal treatments, prescriptions for operations in regular areas as well as areas of concern
 - Assessment and Determination of Sustainability
 - Documentation
 - Forest Management Plan Summary

Objectives and Indicators

- A great deal of emphasis is place on the establishment of objectives and the identification of “measurable” indicators of progress towards those objectives
 - e.g. There may be an objective to increase the amount of a particular forest unit on a forest and the indicator would be the area of that forest unit. Based on analysis (computer modeling) targets would be established and the progress towards those targets would be monitored and reported on during the plan term, and beyond (i.e. many objectives will take more than 10 years to achieve)

The Forest Management Plan

- Forest Management Plans can be changed through plan “amendments”
- The level of complexity and public involvement in this process varies with the extent of changes required
- Amendments are classified by the local district manager as either a) administrative, b) minor or c) major

The Annual Work Schedule

- One might well ask, “with all the complexity and detail that is in the FMP why bother with an annual plan?”
- The Annual Work Schedule (AWS) serves at least three purposes:
 1. Provides another level of control for the MNR; allows them an annual approval rather than a 5 year approval to deal with unforeseen circumstance which may arise
 2. Shows the public what will happen in a given year rather than what might happen over a 5 or 10 year period
 3. Allows for an additional opportunity for fine tuning and operational planning; includes some elements not in the FMP (i.e. like an aerial spray plan)

The Annual Work Schedule

- Specific content in the AWS:
 - Annual Schedule of Harvest Area
 - Annual Schedule of Wood Utilization (volume)
 - Annual Schedule of Renewal and Tending
 - Annual Schedule of Road Construction, Maintenance, Monitoring, Water Crossings
 - Annual Schedule of Revenues and Expenditures
 - Annual Schedule of Assessment of Regeneration Success
 - Prescribed burn plans
 - Aerial Herbicide and Insecticide plans
 - Insect Pest Management projects

The Annual Work Schedule

- The AWS is also subject to public scrutiny through an opportunity for public review, and the activities of the Local Citizens Committee
- Specific opportunities are provided (if requested) for the First Nations communities to provide input to the AWS
- Changes can be made to an AWS through an AWS revision

Annual Reports

- An annual report is required each year governing the activities and progress towards management plan targets which occurred in the previous year
- Special, enhanced, reports are required at year 3, 7 and 10 during a plan period
- The objective of annual reports is primarily to monitor progress towards the accomplishment of objectives set out in the FMP.

READING ASSIGNMENT

- Skim Read Part A-1 ~ A-76 of the FMP manual
- Familiarize yourself with the content requirements and the process flow of preparing the document