

May 2nd, 2011

To: Gordon Cumming,
A.F.A. Chief Forester

From: Algonquin Backcountry Recreationalists
113 Temperance Street, Aurora, ON L4G 2R2

Subject: YEAR 10 ANNUAL REPORT for the ALGONQUIN PARK FOREST (Plan Period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2010 .. for the year April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010)

The Algonquin Backcountry Recreationalists hereby expresses serious concern over two recommendations contained within the **YEAR 10 ANNUAL REPORT for the ALGONQUIN PARK FOREST (Plan Period April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2010 .. for the year April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010)** .. located at the MNR eFMP website ... <http://www.appefmp.mnr.gov.on.ca/eFMP/file?fid=156183> .

The two recommendations in question are located on pages 26 and 27, within the section titled **“2.3 Analysis of Renewal and Tending Activities”**.

Recommendation point 5 - **“Restrictions on summer logging should be minimized. Seasonal restrictions are resulting in economic hardship for contractors, unsustainable wood supplies for mills relying on wood from Algonquin Park, reduced opportunities for natural regeneration and increased silvicultural costs.”**

Recommendation point 6 - **“Access restrictions should consider silvicultural treatment requirements and follow-up monitoring requirements. Removal and re-installation of access is increasing renewal and tending costs and silvicultural effectiveness monitoring costs.”**

Regarding recommendation point 5, the restrictions on summer logging are established on page 42 of the current Park Plan, as follows ...

“9.2.3 Noise Standards

Noise standards are maintained by the Ministry, designating the timing and locations of operations.

- **Forest management operations (including road construction) carried out between the last Saturday in June and Labour Day (both dates inclusive) are prohibited within 1.6 kilometers of canoe routes and recreational trails.**
- **During this same period, the moving of hauling trucks and other heavy equipment to, from, and through these areas is restricted to between 7:30 a.m. And 6:30 p.m. Daylight saving time (Monday to Friday inclusive, statutory holidays exclusive) with the exception of the Achray/Lake Travers Road and the roads north of the Petawawa River. (see Appendix F).”**

These noise standards' restrictions were established expressly to minimize the intrusion of logging related noises upon recreational canoe routes and trails. If these standards were reduced, the wilderness-like experiences of recreationalists in the backcountry of Algonquin Park would be very seriously damaged.

Regarding recommendation point 6, the strategy for roads crossing canoe routes are established on pages 43, 44, 72 and 73 of the current Park Plan, as follows ...

“9.2.7 Road Crossings of Waterways and Portages (pg. 43)

... are limited to those essential for timber harvesting activities and are subject to other resource protection considerations.

- **Sections of roads that cross portages, trails and navigable or publicly used streams and rivers will be rehabilitated after use to hasten the return of vegetation, thereby minimizing the impact on the recreational use of the Interior and ensuring greater site protection. (pg. 44)**

Appendix F – Forest Management Strategies for Recreation/Utilization Zone/Road Construction (pg. 72)

- **roads no longer needed that cross portages, trails, and navigable or publicly used streams will be rehabilitated to natural vegetation.**

Appendix F – Forest Management Strategies for Recreation/Utilization Zone/Strategy for Roads Crossing Canoe Routes (pg. 73)

ii) temporary winter crossing:

- **road built to harvest forest products and to conduct silvicultural operations at the time of cutting only. Road access for later tending operations is not considered.**

iii) temporary crossing:

- **road built to harvest forest products over an entire block using one silvicultural system or at intervals by another system. Road access for silvicultural operations at other than the time(s) of harvest should not be considered.**

These limitations were established to minimize the impact of logging roads on areas used by recreationalists and also to achieve **“other resource protection considerations”**.

These “other resources” requiring protection include the backcountry's “wilderness-like” fisheries, solitude, peace and quiet. These resources are threatened by the illegal and/or disruptive impacts of those who would use logging operations' accesses to penetrate deep into the park's backcountry.

The Algonquin Backcountry Recreationalists maintain that any compliance with either of these two AFA recommendations would be contrary to the preservation and protection of wilderness-like experiences in the backcountry of Algonquin Park.

Thank you,

Barry Bridgeford
President of Algonquin Backcountry Recreationalists