

FOREST PLANING AID GUIDE
IMPLEMENTATION OF FPDO AND FOREST
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES SPECIFIC TO
THE ANRQC'S FOREST LAND

Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune

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INTRODUCTION

This Forest Planning Aid Guide was developed in collaboration with the Cree Regional Authority and the Cree-Québec Forestry Board to support contract holders who have to elaborate a General Forest Management Plan on the territory of the Agreement concerning a new relationship between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec (ANRQC)¹.

In addition to the provincial directives and orientations applicable to the ANRQC's forest land, the overall specific characteristics of the forest regime adapted to this territory make forest planning more complex. In order to facilitate the planning of forest operations on this territory, MRNF has therefore decided to develop a **Forest Planning Aid Guide** to assist contract holders.

Knowing, on one hand, that the *Instructions for the Development of General Forest Management Plans* are part of the revised forest regime which aims, among others, at providing more transparency and increased public participation in forest planning, and knowing, on the other hand, that Chapter 3 of the ANRQC specifically requires contract holders to consult with Cree tallymen during the preparation of the General Forest Management Plans, MRNF considers essential to support this participatory exercise between Cree users and TSFMA holders. The primary aim of the Guide is found in Section 3.2.3 (FPDO)² and 4.3.11 (FPDO 11) of these *Instructions* designed for contract holders, i.e. to establish, in collaboration with the Cree tallymen, a synergy in implementing the actions in order to simultaneously achieve several wildlife and forest objectives.

OBJECTIVE

The Guide, defined as a forest planning tool, is therefore primarily intended for Timber Supply and Forest Management Agreement (TSFMA) holders and applies exclusively to the territory of Chapter 3 of the ANRQC. The more specific objective is to assist contract holders in setting priorities for the application and optimal localisation of the different measures to be integrated during the development of their 2008-2013 five-year program. Basically, it consists in maximising the integration of wildlife habitat protection and development, and Cree trappers' concerns, while ensuring compliance with forest allocations provided by the contracts.

CONTENT

The present Guide aims at allowing a synergy between the pursued objectives and obligations related to the concerned territory. To this end, the Guide seeks to show how to maximise the positive impacts and mitigate the negative impacts that each measure could create.

The Guide brings into play the following reference tools:

- The modalities of the adapted forest regime of the ANRQC (pace of harvests, 75% in mosaic cutting, 1% sites of special interest, 25% sites of wildlife interest, etc.);
- The Forest Act and the Regulation respecting standards of forest management (RSFM);
- Forest Protection and Development Objectives (FPDO). Those that lend themselves to a certain synergy and could be interesting to implement on the ANRQC territory, i.e.:
 - FPDO 3: Protecting aquatic habitats by avoiding sediment input,
 - FPDO 4: Maintaining continuously a quantity of mature and overmature forests (Biological refuges, Extended rotation patches, Adapted silvicultural practices)
 - FPDO 6: Protecting the habitat of threatened or vulnerable forest species,
 - FPDO 7 : Controlling pre-commercial thinning practices (guidelines to come) (maximum 66% of admissible treated area),
 - FPDO 8: Conserving deadwood in managed forests: 20% protected riparian strips, retention of clumps on 5% cutting with regeneration and soil protection (CRSP),
 - FPDO 9: Maintaining a visual quality of forest landscapes (visual frame),
 - FPDO 11: Implementation of ANRQC;
- Mixed stands management guide (ref.: draft document produced by MRNF, June 8, 2006);
- Draft directive on wildlife habitats, March 29, 2005 and its pilot project on experimentation, January 31, 2006 (ref.: documents produced by CQFB);
- 2008-2013 General plans strategy.

TERRITORY’S SPECIFIC CHARACTERISTICS

The unique character of the territory covered by Chapter 3 of the ANRQC is one of the reasons that motivated the production of this Guide. In fact, this territory, where an adapted forest regime is applied to the Cree traditional way of life, is occupied and used by several groups of people (Jamésiens, outside vacationers, etc.) who also have specific interests and needs.

The Guide involves two types of interactions. The first one, of a more technical nature, is the interaction between the various reference tools presented in the “Content” section of the present document. The second one, equally important, is characterised by the use of these reference tools in relation to the territorial elements that derive, among others, from Cree land occupancy and knowledge. By establishing these relationships, we can really start to take into account the interests of the Crees and other users of the land in forest planning.

So, in a nutshell, here are the territorial elements on which each TSFMA holder could apply the reference tools of the “Content” section:

- Sites of wildlife interest (25%);
- Sites of special interest (1%);
- The elements that will be submitted by the Crees in their Forest Planning Support Tools);
- The land use planning recognised on the public land allocation map or the special ecosystems proposed by Québec’s Wildlife sector;
- Forest areas that already have a specific character: inaccessible, checkerboard cutting residual, etc.;
- Other elements that came up during the participation exercise with third parties and which allow for an increased harmonisation of the various land uses.

USING THE GUIDE

The following table constitutes the very core of the present Guide. It is built around the implementation of the FPDOs applicable to the ANRQC’s forest land. In this regard, it should be reminded that FPDOs must be carried out in compliance with their related guidelines, which have been defined by MRNF. Thus, the Guide does not replace in any case the documents produced on each FPDO. The Guide rather suggests advantageous localisations to the tallymen and contract holders, when these are accessible and respect the FPDOs’ guidelines.

Also, MRNF insists to inform the reader that only the measures indicated in the Guide’s table are presented in a way that reflects a logical order of priority. There is no order of importance to the elements presented under the “Optimal Localisation” heading.

However, beyond the priority order proposed by MRNF, the decisions regarding the relative importance of the various FPDOs and their implementation sites remain, on the whole, the outcome of the consultation between the contract holder and the tallyman, carried out with the assistance of the ANRQC’s Joint Working Groups.

1. ANRQC: Agreement concerning a new relationship between the Gouvernement du Québec and the Crees of Québec
2. FPDO: Forest Protection and Development Objectives

APPENDIX

FOREST PLANING AID GUIDE

**IMPLEMENTATION OF FPDO AND FOREST
MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES SPECIFIC TO
THE ANRQC'S FOREST LAND**

FOREST PLANNING AID GUIDE
Implementation of FPDO and Forest Management Strategies Specific to the ANRQC's Forest Land

Measures	Objectives	Application on the territory	Optimal location	Examples
<p>FPDO 4: Maintaining permanently a certain quantity of mature and over-mature forests on the basis of regional ecology.</p>	<p>Maintain integrally old-growth forests on part of productive forest areas.</p>	<p>Biological sanctuaries in 2% of productive forest areas included in FMU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In sites of wildlife concern to the Crees or MRNF (Wildlife), such as: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moose yards - Spawning areas - Woodland caribou calving areas - Moose calving areas - Along waterfowl habitats - Rare or endangered species - Beaver habitats - Areas of active trapping
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 25% areas of wildlife interest 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonized with residual blocks (present and future) 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Harmonized with the 20% of non-harvested riparian strips (FPDO 8) 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In other sites used by tallymen for social and cultural activities. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Near native-owned camps (productive area only) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steep slopes - Non-accessible or enclosed forests and orphan blocks - Exceptional forest ecosystems - Combined resort areas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In existing assigned territories or constraints 				

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Measures	Objectives	Application on the territory	Optimal location	Examples
<p>FPDO 4: Maintaining permanently a quantity of mature and over-mature forests on the basis of regional ecology.</p>	<p>Let stands grow older than harvest age normally determined for a given territory.</p>	<p>Patches of maturing forests in 3% of productive FMU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In sites of wildlife concern to the Crees or MRNF (Wildlife), such as: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moose yards - Spawning areas - Woodland caribou calving areas - Moose calving areas - Along waterfowl habitats - Rare or endangered species - Beaver habitats - Areas of active trapping
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 25% areas of wildlife interest 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Optimization with residual forests (present and future) 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - On outer border of 1% sites of special interest and near native-owned camps (productive areas only) 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In other sites used by tallymen for social and cultural activities 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In zones of mosaic cutting near lakes of minimum 5 square kilometers and along rivers of more than 5 meter wide. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In existing assigned territories or constraints, such as: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Steep slopes - Non-accessible or enclosed forests and orphan blocks - Exceptional forest ecosystems - Combined resort areas
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In strata of predominantly coniferous mixed stands 	

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Measures	Objectives	Application on the territory	Optimal location	Examples
<p>FPDO 8: Preserving dead wood in managed forests.</p>	<p>Generate veteran trees of various species that will eventually become large dead standing trees and wood debris.</p>	<p>20% of riparian strips withdrawn from forest operations...forever</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In sites of wildlife concern to the Crees or MRNF (Wildlife), such as: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moose yards - Spawning areas - Woodland caribou calving areas - Moose calving areas - Along waterfowl habitats - Rare or endangered species - Beaver habitat - Marten habitat
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water courses used for cultural or recreational activities 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traplines and neck/leg-snare trapping areas 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In biological sanctuaries 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In sites used by tallymen for cultural and social activities. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In existing designated territories or constraints 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Patches under TSFMA - Steep slopes - Non-accessible or enclosed forests, and orphan blocks - Exceptional forest ecosystems - Along fragile wetlands
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 25% areas of wildlife interest 				

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Measures	Objectives	Application on the territory	Optimal location	Examples
FPDO 3: Protecting aquatic habitats by avoiding sediment inputs	Direct the location of the road network so as to minimize the impacts on the aquatic environments.	Revision of the network planned according to the tallyman or Wildlife department (MRNF) information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In sites of wildlife concern to the Crees or MRNF (Wildlife), such as: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Spawning areas - Along waterfowl habitats - Beaver habitat - Sector actively used for trapping activities
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Near spots known as drinking water source 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zones specific to other forest users 	
ANRQC	Apply strictly mosaic cutting in 25% areas.	In consultation with tallymen, set location of residual blocks in existing 25% areas (sites of wildlife interest targeted in 2002).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In sites of wildlife concern to the Crees and MRNF (Wildlife) such as: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moose yards - Spawning areas - Woodland caribou calving areas - Moose calving areas - Along waterfowl habitats - Beaver habitat - Marten habitat
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Near native-owned camps 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other elements of social or cultural importance raised by tallymen - In synergy with FPDO 4 (patches of maturing stands) 	

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Measures	Objectives	Application on the territory	Optimal location	Examples
FPDO 7: Providing guidelines for PCT practices.	Preserve canopies of sapling trees to provide shelter to many animal species.	Preserve 34% of PCT treatable surface areas.	- In sites of wildlife concern to the Crees and MRNF (Wildlife), such as:	- Small game - Moose (feed) - Near beaver habitats
			- Near native-owned camps	
			- Other elements of social or cultural importance raised by tallymen	
			- In 25% areas of wildlife interest	
			- Areas with a high percentage of fruit trees	
- Areas of mixed fir stands (make link with mixed stands strategy)				
FPDO 8: Preserving dead wood in managed forests.	Maintain irregularity in stand structure; keeping some portions of stand intact in order to preserve the habitat of species of reduced dispersive capacity.	5% cutting with retention of tree clumps in HARP	- Mixed or deciduous strata	
			- Near wetlands or water courses (intermittent or permanent)	
			- In sites of wildlife concerns	- Small game - Moose (feed) - ...
- In land constraints	- Steep slopes - Non-accessible forests			

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Measures	Objectives	Application on the territory	Optimal location	Examples
<p>FPDO 4: Maintaining permanently a quantity of mature and over-mature forests on the basis of regional ecology.</p>	<p>Aim to harvest part of the trees while maintaining certain characteristics of mature and over-mature forests and accelerating return to those developmental stages.</p>	<p>Adapted silvicultural practices: keep a minimum proportion of forest cover (40% of recovery with merchantable tree crowns); maintain attributes specific to mature and over-mature forests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dead standing trees - Wood debris: fallen dead trees (with diameter exceeding 10 cm) - Stand structure (staging: trees and shrubs of various height within a single stand) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In 25% areas of wildlife interest 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In sites of wildlife concern 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Near native-owned camps 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Near 1% sites of special interest 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In sensitive landscapes 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other elements of social or cultural importance raised by tallymen 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Near inhabited zones 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zones specific to other forest users 				

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Measures	Objectives	Application on the territory	Optimal location	Examples
ANRQC	Ensure a minimum of 75% of mosaic cutting.	Application of 75% mosaic cutting (Agreement)	- In sites of wildlife concern to the Crees and MRNF (Wildlife), such as:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moose yards - Spawning areas - Woodland caribou calving areas - Moose calving areas - Along waterfowl habitats - Rare and endangered species - Beaver habitats - Marten habitats
			- In synergy with FPDO 4 (biological sanctuaries and patches of maturing stands) and FPDO 8 (20 % of non-harvested riparian strips)	
			- Zones of high wildlife potential in accordance with criteria set by Potvin <i>et al.</i> (and where tallymen have not made their concerns available) <i>Faune Québec will make available criteria of Potvin.</i>	
GFMP	GFMP	GFMP strategy		
FPDO 6: Protected threatened or vulnerable forest species (in this case, Woodland caribou)	Encourage dialogue and meeting between concerned parties to establish and implement a special forest management plan for those species.	The MRNF will begin a process , in collaboration with the concerned parties (QCNRA and JBNQA related nations or organisms) to examine how to modify and implement the QCNRA to better take into account the woodland caribou needs (could be ecosystemic management cutting patterns.)	- In sites of wildlife concern to the Crees and MRNF (Wildlife), such as:	- Actual or potential woodland caribou habitats.