



January 16, 2020

Re: Comment to EBR posting ERO #19-1715

Thank you for providing an opportunity to comment on the changes to the Forest Manuals enabled by the Crown Forest Sustainability Act.

These changes will streamline the information submission to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and provides a pragmatic forward looking approach to planning forestry activities through the forest management plan process.

The changes reduce the time to produce a forest management plan without compromising the opportunity for public participation. Once a plan is approved the improvements will enable a more fully implemented plan with the practical approach to plan extensions and the ability to bridge harvest areas into a subsequent plan. Contingency planning requirements have been reduced which reflects their immediate need and shorter term function.

The recognition that some timelines and mechanisms were too restrictive will greatly reduce the need for redundant amendments and unnecessary activities. The changes to aggregate pits, wood holding yards and operational road boundaries will definitely reduce red tape. Relying on the FIM technical specifications to provide information requirement details will enable a nimble approach. As information requirements evolve they need to focus on the intent to set clear targets, confirm progress and analyze key trends.

We encourage the MNRF to quickly develop information sharing processes to provide the citizens of Ontario and Indigenous Peoples with simple to use tools and easy to understand, consistent representations of forestry information. The forest industry welcomes the participation from the public of Ontario in developing the best approach to forestry activities possible.

These changes will provide positive environmental, social and economic consequences.

Sincerely,

Janet Lane, RPF
SFL Leader