

# Supporting Public Participation in Forest Management Planning

## Northwatch's Work with Local Citizens Committees and the Public is Part of a Multi-Year Effort

Building on more than a decade of experience in working with local people involved in forest management planning, in 2003 Northwatch re-launched the *Forest Project*, a multi-year effort aimed at building skills and experience in forest management planning across northeastern Ontario.

Addressing forest management planning in general, the Project is particularly focused on supporting public involvement in the planning process. The *Project* works with members of local citizens committees which have been established to provide advice to district managers in the Ministry of Natural Resources, as well as with members of the general public who participate in forest management planning, or would like to do so.

There are 21 Local Citizens Committees in place across northeastern Ontario, offering advice and public input into the development and implementation of their local forest management plan. Forest management plans are prepared for five year terms for each of the 23 forest management units in the region.

The *Project's* goals are to increase levels of public participation in forest management planning and decisions, to support members of local citizens committees by providing access to information and expert advice, and to develop a network among forest management planning participants across northeastern Ontario through which planning participants can share experiences with each other.

One key activity of the *Project* is to track the development of forest management plans across the region, and maintain a planning schedule with contact information and opportunities for public involvement for each forest management plan in the region. A summary of the planning schedule is included in each newsletter, and posted on the *Project's* web site.



A three person project team supports the Project, with team members sitting in on local citizen committee meetings, helping members access information and expert advice on planning issues, offering workshops on forest issues and the forest management planning process, and supporting the development of forest planning networks.

During its startup year in 2003, the *Project* developed a number of core services, including a web site, resource centre, quarterly newsletter, and an introductory workshop on forest management planning. Additional workshops are under development in 2004, and the Project Team is working to develop both local and regional networks among northeastern Ontario residents interested in forest management planning.

The Forest Project supports public participation in the forest management planning process in northeastern Ontario with a number of education and information services, including a quarterly newsletter, a web site, workshops, regional and local networking, and an email list-serve, as well as one-on-one support and assistance.

## Workshops Available Around the Region

The Forest Project's first workshop was released in June 2003, and serves as an excellent introduction to forest management planning. With its obvious title of "Forest Management Planning 101", the workshop is designed to give those who are new to forest management planning an overview of how plans are developed, who is involved, and how the public can participate. Developed with a general audience in mind, this workshop is available to Local Citizens Committees, community organizations, schools and church groups and is recommended in particular for those groups who have a member sitting on an LCC, such as trappers, cottagers, naturalist or recreational groups.

Two new workshop are under development for 2004. The first, focusing on the development of ecological objectives in forest management planning, will be ready for local delivery in the spring of 2004. The second, looking at the use of computer models in forest management planning, will be ready for local delivery in the early summer.

### The Forest Project

### Project Introduction



Supporting and Enhancing Public Participation in Forest Management Planning in Northeastern Ontario

# WELCOME TO THE WORLD WIDE WEB!

## Forest Management Planning has a home at [www.northeastforest.net](http://www.northeastforest.net)

Whether we're experienced internet users or newcomers to the world wide web, finding information on-line can be both fun and exhausting. But it's a great way to stay in touch!

To try to make it a little easier for us all to find information and communicate about forest management planning in northeastern Ontario, the Forest Project has set up a web site with information about forest management plans and Local Citizens Committees from across the region, as well as background information about forest policy, planning tools, and issues we all deal with related to crown land use.



To visit the web site, go to [www.northeastforest.net](http://www.northeastforest.net). From the opening page, you can find "links" to information on:

- C the basics about forest management planning
- C the planning schedule for FMPs in northeastern Ontario
- C links to pages about each Forest Management Unit
- C links to pages for each Local Citizens Committee
- C a Calendar of Events and Consultations
- C information about Forest Policies and laws
- C issues, like roads, forest fragmentation, pesticides, etc.
- C links to other sites and contact information
- C forest related postings on the Environmental Bill of Rights electronic registry

Local Citizen Committees can post meeting minutes, news items and announcements on their web page, as well as LCC profiles, and other information the LCC might want to make available to the public.

## Forest File Brings Quarterly News & Info

A quarterly publication of Northwatch's Forest Project, the *Forest File* is a four page newsletter filled with news and information about forest management planning in northeastern Ontario. Profiles of Local Citizens Committees and an updated forest management planning schedule are regular features, with the planning schedule giving a snapshot update on plans that are currently under development across the northeast, including information about what stage the plan is at in its development, the next or current opportunities for public participation, and who to contact for more information. The *Forest File* also carries feature stories on important planning issues, including wildlife strategies and changes to forest management and planning rules. The *Forest File* is distributed through Local Citizens Committees and is posted on [www.northeastforest.net](http://www.northeastforest.net). To be sent a copy directly, contact us to be added to the mailing list.

## Email List Lets LCC Members Stay in Touch

A list serve is an e-mail based discussion group that lets members ask questions or share information with each other through a single email address. As part of a list serve, you can send an e-mail to a single email address (e.g. [northeastforest@list.web.net](mailto:northeastforest@list.web.net)) and your message will be forwarded to everyone else on the same list serve. It is a great way to get advice from several people at one time or to share information with a group of people - such as LCC members across northeastern Ontario!

The Forest Project has set up a list-serve for members of Local Citizen Committees and the Regional Advisory Committee in northeastern Ontario. To sign up, send an email to [forests@onlink.net](mailto:forests@onlink.net) with your name, email address, and the name of your LCC. You'll receive a "welcome" email explaining how to send and receive emails from the list serve. Your email will never be made public, and you will not be added to other lists.

Forest management planning is the means to several ends: approval and construction of logging roads, the logging itself, and the followup work done after a logging operation, including tree planting and thinning and any application of pesticides. Important stuff, which affects not only the forest and its health and ecological sustainability, but also the livelihoods and pastimes of many who live in northeastern Ontario, or come to visit. The Forest Project supports public participation in forest management planning across northeastern Ontario.

To be added to the mailing list, contact Northwatch at tel 705 497 0373, fax 705 476 7060, Box 282, North Bay, ON, P1B 8H2, Email us at [northwatch@onlink.net](mailto:northwatch@onlink.net) or visit our website at [www.northwatch.org](http://www.northwatch.org).

**Contact the Northwatch Forest Project at 1-877-553-0481 or visit [www.northeastforest.net](http://www.northeastforest.net)**

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