

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



Ontario Conservation Centre

P.O. Box 2800, 4601 Guthrie Drive, Peterborough, Ontario K9J 8L5
Phone: (705) 748.6324 • Fax: (705) 748.9577 • Visit: www.ofah.org • Email: ofah@ofah.org

OFAH FILE: 345/794
December 22, 2014

Ms. Kelly Pike, Planning Forester
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
Regional Operations Division
5520 101 Highway East
South Porcupine, Ontario
P0N1H0

Dear Ms. Pike:

Subject: EBR # 012-2119 - Forest Management Plan for the Magpie Forest for the 10-year period; Phase II, Stage Two – Review of Draft Planned Operations

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), its 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 725 member clubs, we have reviewed the draft operations plan for the Magpie Forest. We have identified some concerns regarding the proposed erection of new access restriction signs within the forest.

The OFAH appreciates the opportunity to review the phase two Forest Management Plan for the Magpie Forest. After reviewing the document and speaking with local membership, our main concern is the proposed erection of a number of signs stating "Unauthorized motorized vehicular travel prohibited beyond this point." We feel that the wording of these proposed signs is both overly restrictive and inconsistent with the signs already present within the forest. It is important that the intent of the signs be clear to avoid user confusion and unnecessary restriction of forest access road users. If the intent of the sign is to protect remote tourism values, this has traditionally been done by clearly identifying the individual lakes that are prohibited. Clear messaging ensures that road users know they can still use the road and surrounding land, but must refrain from accessing the identified lake(s). If the signs are intended to restrict access for other reasons, these reasons need to be identified and communicated to the public for review and comment prior to their installment. The OFAH does not support implementing access restrictions on forestry roads once they are no longer required for operations. Instead, these roads should either continue to be maintained as valuable access routes to Crown resources, or left to naturally regenerate.

The OFAH appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the draft operations plan for the Magpie Forest. We would be happy to meet with the MNRF and any stakeholder groups to further discuss the issues we have identified.

Yours in Conservation,

Chris Godwin
Land Use Specialist

CG/jb

cc: OFAH Zone C Executive
OFAH Land Use/Access/Trails Advisory Committee
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Director
Matt DeMille, OFAH Manager of Fish and Wildlife Services