

# ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS & HUNTERS



*Ontario Conservation Centre*

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April 21, 2016

Ms. Monique Rolfvondenbaumen-Clark  
Director, Integration Branch  
Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry  
300 Water Street  
Peterborough, Ontario  
K9J 8M5

Dear Ms. Rolfvondenbaumen-Clark:

Subject: Intra-Ministry Communication and Publically Accessible Information

On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH), its 100,000 members, subscribers and supporters, and 735 member clubs, I am writing to draw your attention to an issue that has been present since the introduction of the Crown Land Use Policy Atlas (CLUPA). The CLUPA can be an effective tool for the general public, especially the outdoors community, to determine the presence of public lands, provincial parks, conservation areas, and determine some land use policies. This program has helped many people determine where to go hunting, fishing, and camping without constantly engaging provincial employees. This has led to a more efficient transfer of knowledge and information from government to the general public. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) and groups like the OFAH work to promote the use of CLUPA and help inform the general public of this extremely valuable resource.

OFAH members throughout the province have expressed dissatisfaction with some current shortcomings with CLUPA. Members of the public are using CLUPA to plan camping, fishing and hunting trips on public lands, often requiring significant travel and investment, only to discover the roads shown in CLUPA are not accessible when they arrive. This occurs because CLUPA only contains the area specific Crown Land Use Policy used by Resource Management and Lands and Waters staff, which often differs from the specific road use/restrictions as it relates to the Forest Management Plan (FMP) used by the Management Foresters and Forest Management staff. This disconnect between the data sets (FMP and the Crown Land Use Policy in CLUPA) is resulting in individuals and organizations becoming confused and frustrated, in more cases of non-compliance, and more complaints and questions taking up regional MNRF staff resources. Contacting MNRF staff about these issues detracts from the efficiencies of having CLUPA in the first place.

The OFAH believes there are numerous potential solutions to this issue. With the right server, the ArcGIS-based CLUPA can provide all relevant information related to land use policy, including road and access restrictions. Ultimately, this would provide a fully integrated information system that will benefit the general public, government employees and the private business sector (e.g. mining, surveyors, and outfitters), while increasing transparency. Another potential solution would be to use the current system but make roads an interactive feature, and provide links to the appropriate information that shows all potential access and road use opportunities and restrictions (e.g. links to FMP road information). Given the current revisions to the Forest Management Planning Manual, the Forest Information Manual, and the Forest Operations and Silviculture Manual, the OFAH believes this is a prime opportunity to promote and implement comprehensive data integration between forestry and general land use. Having road use information provided in a format compatible with the CLUPA program will help the ministry to integrate up-to-date land use data into a single user-friendly program for their clients.

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The OFAH is interested in working with the MNRF to enhance and promote public utilization of public lands for recreational purposes by providing a more complete resource for the public to use when planning resource use activities on public lands. The OFAH has a history of working with provincial ministries to ensure access and the utilization of lands for all outdoors enthusiasts across the province. In the past, the OFAH has worked with the MNRF to maintain and promote these opportunities through joint media distribution enhancing ministry-public communication.

We believe there is an opportunity to make some enhancements to CLUPA that will benefit the MNRF and all Crown land users, and we look forward to discussing this opportunity with you and ministry staff.

Yours in Conservation,



Robert Cole  
Land Use Policy & Habitat Specialist

RC/gh

cc: Chris Walsh, Director, Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch, MNRF  
Lisa Foucault, Acting Manager, Information Coordination Section, MNRF  
OFAH Board of Directors  
OFAH Land Use/Access/Trails Advisory Committee  
Angelo Lombardo, OFAH Executive Director  
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