

February 18, 2020

Jeff Cameron, R. P. F.
Armstrong Forest Planning Team
C/O Marek Klich, Partner Specialist
Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry
Thunder Bay District
435 James Street South, Suite B001
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 6S7



Dear Mr. Cameron & Mr. Klich,

I am writing in regard to the Contingency and Forest Management Plan for the Armstrong Forest. I am a canoeist and the Conservation Chair for the Friends of Wabakimi (FOW). This organization is building on the work of the Wabakimi Project, started by the late Phil Cotton of Thunder Bay. The Project explored and mapped canoe routes in Wabakimi Provincial Park and adjoining Crown Lands from about 2004 to 2018.

In the final year of operation (2018), our Wabakimi Project crews explored and mapped a traditional canoe route from Kellar Bay of Caribou Lake north to Raymond Lake. This route is on Crown Lands in the Armstrong Forest Unit until it reaches Maddy Lake on the Raymond River.

The proposed Armstrong Forest Plan includes the westward extension of the Hollingsworth Road to provide access to the northwest corner of the Armstrong Forest. If this road is built north of Kellar Bay, it may cross one of the two traditional portages that link Howie Lake to Kellar Bay. These portages are shown on the attached map with field notes from the 2018 trip. The northern portage (154 meters) links Howie Lake to Fletcher Lake. The southern portage (243 meters) connects Fletcher Lake and Kellar Bay.

It should be noted that this is an active canoe route as witnessed by the field notes which show campsites on Howie Lake. A road(s) north of Kellar Bay is necessary to achieve the objectives of the Armstrong Forest Management Plan. However, this road(s) has the potential to negatively impact portage(s) on this canoe route. It is important that these portages be located, flagged, and protected during the road building process. The FOW hopes that the best management practices will be observed when this road crosses these portage(s).

When the logging is completed, the plan calls for decommission of the road at far northwest end. If a goal of logging work is to create future caribou habitat, removing this segment of the road will help to reduce predator pressure on future caribou populations. These comments and other observations will be included when the FOW submit our Armstrong Forest Survey.

Respectfully,

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