



Natural Resources Values Information System
(NRVIS)

Data Class User Guide
for

FOREST MANAGEMENT UNIT

Version 1.0
Issued: November 27, 2007

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Introduction

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Additional Information

For more information about this document, please contact NRVIS Support at (705) 755-1650 or nrvis.support.mnr@ontario.ca

Published November 2007
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Preface:

History and Purpose:

For the purposes of forest management, Ontario's Crown forest is divided into geographic planning areas known as Forest Management Units (FMU). Forest management plans are prepared for each of these management units and are periodically renewed based on the forest management planning cycle. Forest Management Units are designated and administered by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Forest Management Branch (Information Owner) under the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA, Section 7).

Legislation with respect to forest management planning has been in effect in Ontario since 1947, since forest management planning required the designation of Forest Management Units. Under the legislation, The OMNR designated 'Crown Management Units', while issuing large licenses in other areas of the province to forest industry companies. These individual large license areas were, in effect, management units.

In the mid 1990's, the Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) project was initiated. The SFL project initiated partnerships between the OMNR and forest companies to transfer the operational responsibility for forest management from the Crown to forest industry. Operational responsibility, within a forestry context, refers to activities such as planning,

renewal, evaluation, compliance and reporting. SFL negotiation is a process of developing new licensing arrangements with existing harvesting and processing plans, and does not involve land use planning or resource allocation. The transfer of operational responsibility for forest management to forest companies is one of the key elements in OMNR's Forest Management Business Plan (FMBP). As such, the SFL project is the OMNR's top priority in forest management business activity. The majority of Ontario's Forest Management Units are currently administered under SFL agreements.

There has been a reduction trend of the total number of Forest Management Units in Ontario, especially since the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) was legislated in 1995. This reduction is generally achieved through the amalgamation of 2 and sometimes 3 existing Management Units to create a new Forest Management Unit. Management Unit names/numbers will change as these amalgamations occur. The savings generated by amalgamation are primarily represented by forest planning and administrative efficiencies.

In all cases, new FMU designations occur during the same period as the implementation date of a new Forest Management Unit plan. This list of Forest Management Units is organized by the scheduled plan renewal year (e.g. scheduled year of implementation) and includes the applicable lead MNR District and MNR Region. New plans are normally scheduled to be implemented in April of the applicable plan renewal year. For those planning processes being initiated this year (i.e. scheduled for implementation in 2006), an "Invitation to Participate" notice will normally be issued between January and May of 2004. ∞

Management Unit Rationalization since April 1, 1995:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Total # of FMU's</i>
April 1, 1995 (CFSA comes into effect)	81*
April 1, 1996	78*
April 1, 1997	71*
April 1, 1998	69*
April 1, 1999	68*
April 1, 2000	63*
April 1, 2001	56*
April 1, 2002	54
April 1, 2003	50
April 1, 2004	49

∞ Information and charts provided courtesy of Richard Raper – RPF.

April 1, 2005	48
April 1, 2006	47
April 1, 2007	47
April 1, 2008	47

Note: The 'Total # of FMU's' reflected in the previous chart include the following...

- 1) Although a designated management unit, Southern Ontario (990) is a non-typical management unit. This management unit is outside of the Timber Class EA 'Area of the Undertaking'¹, and is primarily private land. Southern Ontario **will not** be spatially represented in the NRVIS/OLIW Forest Management Unit Data Class.
- 2) * Kiashke River: is a very small MU whose status as a designated FMU was revoked effective April 1st, 2002. The area is now a 'hole' within the Provincial FMU fabric. It is still the intention of the OMNR North-West Region to negotiate its eventual inclusion into the surrounding Black Sturgeon Forest FMU.

Further management unit rationalization may occur beyond 2008/2009.

How Forest Management Units are created:

An assigned official name and a unique numeric code primarily identify a Forest Management Unit (FMU). The Forest Management Branch, Forest Management Planning Section of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources approves FMU boundaries, codes, official names, and maintains a set of file of designated management units signed by the Director of Forest Management Branch. SFL technical and administrative information is collected and maintained by the Wood Allocation and Measurement Section, Industry Relations Branch. These sections have a close working relationship with one another and with corporate forest industry and OMNR Districts.

Through this relationship, individual FMU boundary locations are negotiated and verified, and any required alterations/amalgamations take the established locations of adjacent and shared FMU boundaries into consideration. The Wood Allocation and Measurement Section interprets the FMU boundary locations into metes and bounds, and this information, along with a small-scale map of the FMU (1:100,000 – 1:350,000) is included as part of Appendix 'A' of the Sustainable Forest License (SFL) official file. Forest Management Branch uses a copy of these license files for the management unit designation. These files are stored individually on an FMU by FMU basis, and are accessed primarily by OMNR staff that has Forest Resource Inventory or Forest Management Planning requirements.

During the early stages of the Ontario Living Legacy project, a comprehensive review of each FMU boundary was completed. A number of gaps, overlaps, and other inconsistencies were resolved. The review included research of the old license files, older 15,840 FRI maps and district and company consultations in some locations. With the numerous changes made to each FMU to achieve an accurate (and sometimes negotiated)

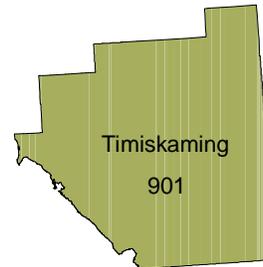
¹ Area of the Undertaking (Forestry) (AOU): The area within the geographic boundaries of the area of the undertaking is all land and water within forest management unit boundary lines. The northern boundary is generally the northern limit of current commercial timber operations; the southern boundary is generally the limit of the forest on Crown land. Of that area, 385,000 square kilometers (or 38.5 million hectares) is Crown land subject to the undertaking, and is referred to as the "Area of the Undertaking" in this Decision. [Source: Ontario Environmental Assessment Board, April 1994. Reasons for Decision: Class Environmental Assessment by the Ministry of Natural Resources for Timber Management on Crown Lands in Ontario. Toronto: Ontario Environmental Assessment Board, report number EA-87-02.]

spatial representation, it is not recommended to return to the historic files for future boundary interpretations. The mapping standards of the 1960's, 70's and 80's resulted in different interpretations of the boundaries for forest operations. Adjustments have been made to reflect those operational conditions (predominantly completed in the Northwest Region).

General Business Area Rules:

The following section attempts to describe, by example, the spatial and attribute rules involved in the creation of a Forest Management Unit boundary.

- *An FMU may increase its spatial extent and still retain its original FMU Code and Name.*

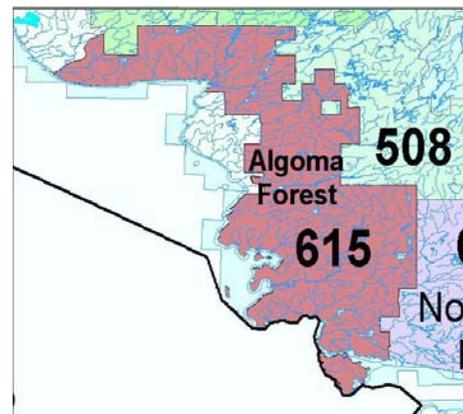
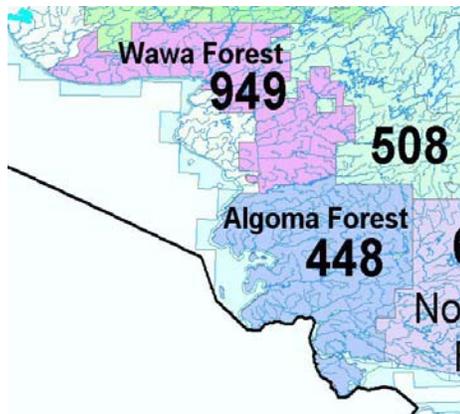


Pre - 1997 – Timiskaming (901) and Walter Plonski (550) Forest Management Units.

In 1997-04-01, Timiskaming has absorbed Walter Plonski, and retained its original FMU name and Code.

In this example, Timiskaming FMU has absorbed the Walter Plonski FMU, yet retained its original FMU Code and Name. **NOTE:** The practice of retaining an original FMU code seen in this example is the one exception to the rule.

- *An FMU may increase its spatial extent and still retain its original Name, but is assigned a new FMU Code.*



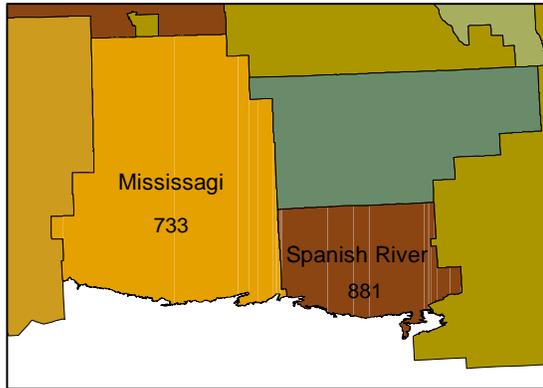
Current Wawa Forest (949) and Algoma Forest (448) Forest Management Units

New April 1st, 2005 Algoma Forest (615) Forest Management Unit

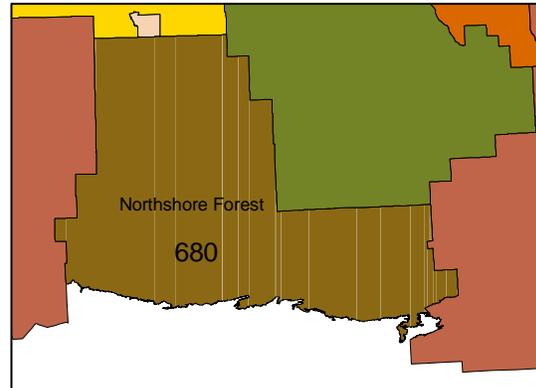
The proposed consolidation of the present Wawa Forest (949) and Algoma Forest (448) into the new Algoma Forest (615) is scheduled for April 1st, 2005. In this case, the new FMU retained the name of the larger FMU and was assigned a new FMU Code. The April 1st, 2005 implementation date of this new amalgamated FMU coincides with the start date of the new Forest Management Plan for the area 2005-2025. A newspaper ad

inviting the public to attend the Second Information Centre regarding this plan can be found at the end of the introduction. It is also noteworthy to add that a single FMU may span across 2 OMNR Districts (Wawa District and Sault District).

- *An FMU may be ratified with an adjoining FMU and receive a new FMU Code and Name.*



Pre-2000 Mississagi (733) and Spanish River (881) FMU's

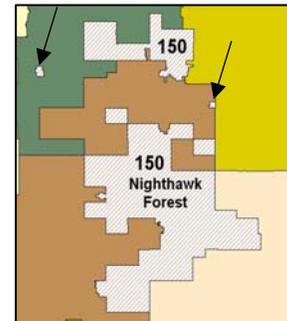


As of April 1st, 2000 FMU Ratification – Note that resulting FMU is assigned a new FMU Code and Name.

In this example, Mississagi FMU (733) and Spanish River FMU (881) were ratified into one FMU. This new FMU has been assigned a new Name and FMU Code. (Northshore Forest, 880). This is the 'norm' for FMU consolidation.

- *One FMU may consist of several separate parcels.*

In this example, the Nighthawk Forest (150) Forest Management Unit consists of 6 separate parcels of land. Within the Natural Resources Values Information System (NRVIS) environment, the portion of the prescribed abstract class for the FMU Data Class is 'Multi'. In layman's terms, it simply means that where desired, one object (FMU) may be defined by several features (polygons). In NRVIS, there would only be 1 tabular record created in the Forest Management Unit table for the Nighthawk Forest.



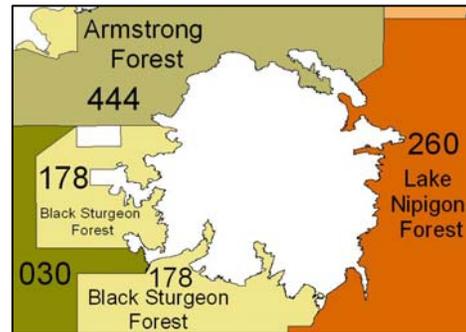
The Nighthawk Forest (150) FMU consists of 6 separate parcels of land.

When a user spatially selects one of the parcels that make up the FMU, the remaining parcels that make up this FMU are also selected, and are treated as 1 object in NRVIS.

- *Holes' may exist in the FMU Coverage.*

'Holes' may exist in the Forest Management Unit fabric. 'Holes' are simply areas completely enclosed by valid Forest Management Units and do not have any attributes.

In this example, Lake Nipigon (Center) is enclosed by the Armstrong Forest, Black Sturgeon Forest and Lake Nipigon Forest FMUs. The former Kiashke River FMU is enclosed by the Black Sturgeon Forest and Armstrong Forest FMUs.



Lake Nipigon, and the former Kiashke River FMU are 'holes' within the NRVIS FMU fabric.

Access and Security:

The spatial and tabular information found in this data class are deemed to be non-sensitive by the Information Owner without any access restrictions.

This data class has one Geographic Unit Type (GUT): Forest Management Unit

Maintenance:

The spatial and tabular information for FMUs will be managed by the Resource Information Specialist, Forest Management Branch, Forest Management Planning Section, Forest Analysis and Modeling Unit.

Any questions or concerns about FMU boundary locations and their attributes should be directed to the Forest Management Planning Section in order to be properly addressed and/or resolved.

Using NRVIS Forest Management Unit data:

This section describes the use and context of the information being collected for a forest management unit.

Forest Management Unit (main feature class table)

FMU Name (mandatory)

The official designated name assigned to a Forest Management unit (FMU) by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Forest Management Branch.

FMU Code (mandatory)

A numeric character code (with leading zeroes e.g. 011) which uniquely identifies each Forest Management Unit (FMU) within the province of Ontario. The FMU Code is assigned to each designated FMU by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Forest Management Branch.

Licensee Name (optional)

The name of the main Licensee (Sustainable Forest Licence) authorized by the Crown to conduct forest harvest operations within the geographical area of a forest management unit. For example "Iroquois Falls Forest".

Licensee Number(optional)

The number assigned to the Licensee (Sustainable Forest Licence) and filed with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. The number is prefixed by the license type:

SFL: Primary Sustainable Forest License (SFL) e.g.: SFL-542531 (Licensee Name: Iroquois Falls Forest)

SA: Supply Agreement e.g.: SA-490000 (Licensee Name: Algonquin Forest Authority)

FRL: Forest Resource License for Crown Management Units e.g.: FRL-NNNNNN

FMP Period Start Year (optional)

The assigned start year for the Forest Management Plan (FMP) period that is directly associated to a Forest Management Unit.

FMP Period End Year (optional)

The assigned end year for the Forest Management Plan (FMP) period that is directly associated to a Forest Management Unit.

Lead MNR District Name (optional)

The name of the lead Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) District Office that is responsible for managing the Forest Management Unit (FMU). In some instances, an FMU is bisected by an OMNR District where one of the District Offices is identified as the business lead contact.

The Values for this field will come from a lookup table that lists MNR District and Region Names.

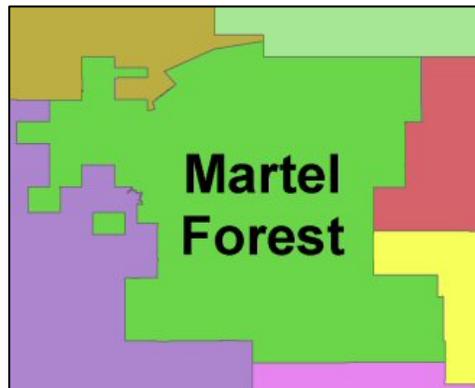
Lead MNR Region Name (optional)

The name of the lead Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (OMNR) Region within whose boundaries the Forest Management Unit (FMU) resides.

The Values for this field will come from a lookup table that lists MNR District and Region Names.

EXAMPLES

Examples of Forest Management Units in NRVIS with attributes populated.



FMU_NAME: Martel Forest
 FMU_CODE: 509
 LICENSEE_NAME: Tembec Inc.
 LICENSEE_NUMBER: 550390
 FMP_PERIOD_START_YEAR: 2006
 FMP_PERIOD_END_YEAR: 2026
 LEAD_MNR_DISTRICT_NAME: Chapleau
 LEAD_MNR_REGION_NAME: Northeast

Example below is where an FMU is bisected by an MNR District, with one of them being identified as the lead.



FMU_NAME: Northshore Forest
 FMU_CODE: 680
 LICENSEE_NAME: Northshore Forest Inc.
 LICENSEE_NUMBER: 542521
 FMP_PERIOD_START_YEAR: 2000
 FMP_PERIOD_END_YEAR: 2020
 LEAD_MNR_DISTRICT_NAME: Sault Ste. Marie
 LEAD_MNR_REGION_NAME: Northeast

Document Control

Version	Date	Author/Editor	Comments
DRAFT	Nov. 27, 2007	James Gratton	Draft version of Users Guide.
1.0	Dec. 13, 2007	James Gratton	Incorporated Al Tomberg's new information.

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Approvals

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