



Nedaak Inc. Quarterly Newsletter

WINTER 2021



Ne-Daa-Kii-Me-Naan Inc.
Forest Management

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Why the Porcupine has Quills, by Mike Swan



A NOTE FROM THE GM

We are happy to put this newsletter together as another way to communicate with community members and share some of the great things that have been going on here at Nedaak. Every year our regular business keeps us busy, however over the last couple of years we have been extra busy working on some great initiatives to advance our forestry business. Forest Management Planning has been ongoing and we are drawing near to final approval of a new 10-year plan. At the same time, we have been working on behalf of our communities on a long-term tenure arrangement which is now also underway with the establishment of Ogwiidachiwaning Sustainable Forest Management Inc. This company, led by our communities, will be a vehicle to drive our involvement and growth in the forestry sector for years to come.

Spring is just around the corner which will see us kick off our annual renewal program on the forest. For students looking to gain some exposure and experience in forestry, check out our Employment Opportunities at www.nedaak.ca and apply now for jobs this summer. I encourage you to continue reading our winter edition to learn more about what is going on at Nedaak. Also, be sure to check out the Trappers' Corner as well as the Teachings From The Land. We are always looking for stories to share so please share any stories or interesting pictures from the Kenogami Forest with us at info@nedaak.ca

While we have been working as essential workers in forestry, we know this has been a tough year on all of us with the Covid-19 pandemic impacting on our work and home life. It is challenging times like this that require us to pull together and support one another. That's always our goal here at Nedaak. Look for the next newsletter later this spring. Until then, stay safe and enjoy the rest of winter.

- Scott Boone, Nedaak Inc. General Manager

COMPANY UPDATES

OPERATIONS DURING COVID-19

We at Nedaak understand that it is important to do our part to minimize the spread of Covid-19. That is why our **Thunder Bay and Longlac offices will remain closed to the public until further notice.** If you wish to contact us, give us a call or e-mail us using the information listed below:

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SUMMER STAFF PROGRAM

This year will be our 9th year running a Summer Staff Program on the Kenogami Forest Management Unit. Every summer we recruit seasonal employees to work on sustainable forest management projects like:

- Conducting surveys to determine the success of regeneration on the land
- Working on LiDAR plots
- Ensuring quality control in manual tending and other related forestry activities

The Summer Staff Program will run from May 3 to August 31. We offer 4-month seasonal contracts and 2-month seasonal contracts (great for high school and post secondary students). Join us this summer to get out on the land and gain practical experience in sustainable forest management procedures.

Application information and additional employment opportunities will be updated on our website on a regular basis and can be accessed by using the following link:

<http://www.nedaak.ca/employment-opportunities>



Photo Credit: Brittany Spense

OUR JOURNEY IN THE FOREST STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL (FSC) PROCESS

Nedaak Inc., in stride with our industry partners, is currently leading the process for certifying the Kenogami Forest to the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) standard. Though Nedaak already maintains the highest standards in our commitment to First Nations with territories within the Kenogami Forest, our participation in the FSC forest management certification process reinforces our duties to the sustainable management of the Kenogami Forest. As we move forward in the certification process, we would like to share our progress so far.

"THE GOAL OF THE FSC IS TO FOSTER RESPONSIBLE FOREST MANAGEMENT..."



First and foremost, what is the FSC and how does it ensure sustainable forest management?

The FSC is an independent, non-governmental organization created to encourage the responsible management of forests globally. The FSC was established in 1993 in response to the failing efforts of non-government organizations and government-led initiatives to prevent deforestation worldwide. The goal of the FSC is to foster responsible forest management based on stakeholder involvement, development and implementation of recognized global framework of standards, and third-party control. Since the FSC was founded, over 200 million hectares of forests, throughout 80 countries worldwide, have been certified.

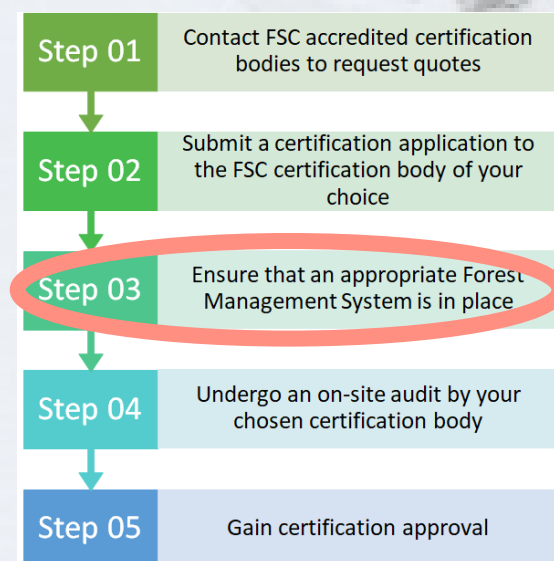
In order to achieve their vision of sustainable forest management, the FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada is based on 10 principles defined by FSC International:

- 1 - Compliance with Laws
- 2 - Workers Rights and Employment Conditions
- 3 - Indigenous Peoples Rights
- 4 - Community Relations
- 5 - Benefits from the Forest
- 6 - Environmental Values and Impacts
- 7 - Management Planning
- 8 - Monitoring and Assessment
- 9 - High Conservation Values
- 10 - Implementation of Management Activities

By obtaining a FSC Forest Management Certification we can say that the Kenogami Forest is being managed in a way that preserves its natural ecosystems, benefits the lives of community members and employees, and ensures economic viability for now and into the future.

So far we are at Step 3 in the forest management certification process. We have spent many hours compiling and organizing data on our management of the Kenogami Forest and most recently entered into the pre-audit stage. It is our plan that by March 15, 2021 we will undergo the Registration Audit and hopefully achieve FSC certification soon after.

For more information on the Forest Stewardship



Council, visit their website at: <https://ca.fsc.org/en-ca>.

KENOGAMI FOREST UPDATES

TRAPPER'S CORNER

The 2021-2022 Annual Work Schedule has been developed. Please check your mail box for notification of operations in your area. They will be sent by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). If you have any questions or want a sneak peak please contact the Longlac Office and we will be happy to go over maps with you.

One of the most often asked questions is: when are they going to cut? Our answer is: Operational plans can change with weather (too hot, too dry, not cold enough) and with the resources that are available. Be prepared for harvest at any time if there are areas indicated on your map (i.e. please remove your traps and boxes before they are destroyed or lost).

The harvest areas for the 2021-2031 time-frame are being planned right now. Please contact our Longlac Office if you have areas you are concerned about (access trails, trap cabin, etc.) so we can discuss options with you before operations move into the area.



2021-31 FOREST MANAGEMENT

The 2021-31 Forest Management Plan (FMP) development is still underway. Since reviewing the Long-term Management Direction (LTMD) for the Kenogami, many comments indicated that our forest management plan needs a greater emphasis on managing moose habitat. In response, we have been working on a strategy to incorporate this very interest. To accommodate the interests of LTMD for moose habitat, our strategy for "moosification" includes: creating an objective to increase potential moose habitat, stagger harvest years within areas, decommission roads within 250 m of harvest area boundaries, and apply input from nearby communities regarding known locations of moose calving areas.

The FMP completed Stage 3 - Public Input of Proposed Operations is scheduled and we plan to submit the Draft FMP on March 12, 2021. Input on the FMP is always welcome and encouraged. It is easier to adjust the FMP during production than when operations have started.

TENDING PROGRAMS

Tending is the removal of competing vegetation in areas that have been renewed to conifer (black or white spruce or jack pine). This is important because competing vegetation provides unwanted shade and absorbs nutrients and water the seedlings require to grow, which reduces their survival and growth rates.

Conifer are important as they provide habitat for wildlife that prefer these types of forest. There are species that prefer mixed wood and hardwood forests (poplar and birch) and, as these are some of the first species to regenerate after a disturbance (harvest or a fire), they may need to be managed in some locations.

Manual tending is planned for 274 hectares south and east of Longlac. The aerial tending program is 1,581 hectares in various locations over the Kenogami Forest. **Manual tending will start early July and be completed by September 15th, with aerial tending starting early August until Sept 15th.** Changes to the blocks may be made in early July if blueberry crops are identified in an area.



Manual and aerial tending methods are important, however manual tending for competition control may not be feasible and suitable for all areas. Areas with herbaceous species (grass, raspberry) are not suitable as brush saws are not adept at removing these species. When using manual tending methods, there is also potential for increasing competition through suckering of poplar, alder and willow.





A feller buncher can hold up to 8 trees at a time with an average 15" diameter.



A haul truck can carry approximately 50 cubic meters or 20 cords of wood (approximately 528 trees).



A good tree planter can plant one tree every 15 seconds, which is 2000 seedlings per day; experienced planters can plant over 4000 per day!



Between 1951 and 2019, a total of 279,987,376 seedlings were planted on harvested areas.

Yes, over 279 million seedlings planted on the Kenogami Forest!

STORIES OF THE LAND

The following story is one that has been shared orally for generations. As a result, there are often many ways to tell this story. This version in particular was written by Mike Swan, of the White Earth Reservation, and was shared in *Ojibwe Myths and Tales* by George E. Laidlaw (2018).

WHY THE PORCUPINE HAS QUILLS

"Long, long ago, the Porcupines had no quills. One day, a Porcupine was out in the woods. A Bear came along and would have eaten Porcupine, but he managed to get up a tree where the Bear couldn't get him.

"WENEBOJO TOOK SOME THORNS AND PEELED THE BARK OFF THEM UNTIL THEY WERE ALL WHITE."

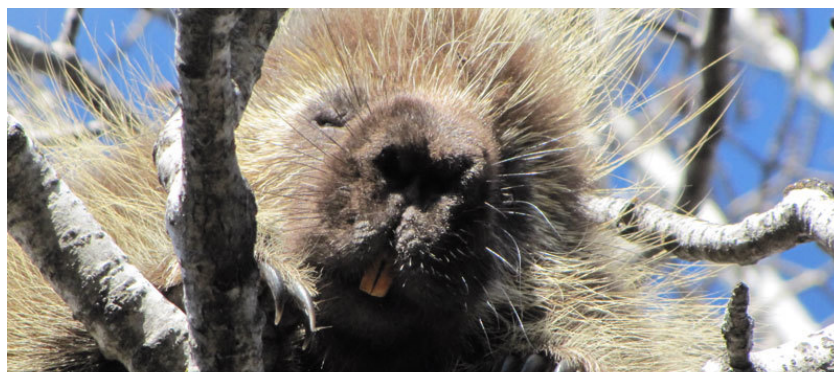
The next day, Porcupine was out again and he went underneath a hawthorn tree, and he noticed how the thorns pricked him. He broke some branches off and put them on his back, then he went into the woods. Along came Bear and he jumped on Porcupine, who just



curled himself up. The Bear just left him alone because the thorns pricked him so much.

Wenebojo was watching them. He called to Porcupine and asked "How did you think of that trick?" Porcupine told him that he was in danger when Bear was around.

Then, Wenebojo took some thorns and peeled the bark off of them until they were all white. Then he got some clay and put it all over Porcupine's back and stuck the thorns in it. Wenebojo used his magic to make it into a proper skin, and told Porcupine come with him into the woods. When they got there,



Wenebojo hid behind a tree. Wolf came along and saw Porcupine and jumped on him, but the new quills pricked at him and Wolf ran away. Bear was also afraid of the quills and Porcupine was safe. That is why Porcupines have quills. "

NE-DAA-KII-ME-NAAN INC.

ABOUT US

Ne-Daa-Kii-Me-Naan Inc. (Nedaak) was established in 2012 by the Chief and Councils of Ginoogaming First Nation, Long Lake #58 First Nation, Aroland First Nation, and Constance Lake First Nation and later joined by Pays Plat First Nation, Red Rock Indian Band, and Animbiigoo Zaagi'igan Anishinaabek First Nation to manage the Kenogami Forest, one of the largest Sustainable Forest Licenses (SFL) in Ontario, to provide economic development opportunities for surrounding First Nations.

Since that time, Nedaak has successfully lead Forest Management planning, regeneration, and local workforce training and capacity building. Nedaak works in partnership with the Province of Ontario, industry, and First Nations on the forest.

www.nedaak.ca



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