

TRANSLATION

Québec, December 17, 2010

Ms. Nathalie Normandeau
Minister
Ministère des Ressources naturelles et de la Faune
5700, 4^e Avenue Ouest, A-308
Québec (Québec) G1H 6R1

**Re: Modified 2008-2013 General Forest Management Plan of
Forest Management Unit 86-65 - 2nd modification**

Dear Minister:

On June 15, 2010, the General Director of Northern Quebec of your Ministry sent a second modification to the General Forest Management Plan (GFMP) of Forest Management Unit (FMU) 86-65 to the Cree-Québec Forestry Board for analysis.

Thus, this letter aims at informing you of our recommendations on this second modification.

In accordance with its mandate, the Board proceeded to analyze the modifications to the plan presented as well as related documents provided by the Ministry and the Joint Working Group of Waswanipi. Several discussions were also held with the stakeholders concerned in order to clarify and validate certain aspects of the modifications.

Two important issues appeared from the revision process and could not, up to now, be properly addressed and with all necessary information, by the members of the Board. These issues concern the northern part of the FMU, namely traplines W-4, W-5c and W-6.

First, the information exchanged with the Cree party highlighted that new road sections and new harvesting blocks have been added in areas of the FMU where road plans are currently submitted to the Environmental Assessment process, under Section 22 of the James Bay and Northern Québec Agreement and as part of the Environmental Quality Act. We consider very important that the Board can include into its deliberation this new information on the development of the access roads network because of its impact on the implementation of the adapted forestry regime.

The second issue concerns maintaining habitats favourable to the recovery of the woodland caribou, which is designated as “vulnerable species” by the gouvernement du Québec under Québec’s Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species.

The Cree party recently received data from your Ministry that confirms that the woodland caribou is present in the northern part of the territory of the FMU and expresses serious concerns in this respect.

It is already planned that the Board deal with caribou file at its next meeting. Let us recall here that the Board is identified as collaborator to the implementation of the Caribou Recovery Plan (2005-2012). Moreover, we approached your Ministry to have necessary information so that an enlightened contribution is brought to you on this important issue of the territory of the Agreement.

In a correspondence dated December 9, 2010, the General Director of Nord-du-Québec of your Ministry informed the Board that if the Ministry did not receive an advice by Friday, December 17, 2010, it would proceed to approve this second modification to the GFMP of FMU 86-65. Considering the important and sensitive issues raised above, we consider that it would not be desirable to proceed this way at the moment.

It is thus in this urgent context, where the Board must provide you with an advice as fast as possible for operational reasons we fully understand and respect, and also take into account the strategic issues related to this GFMP, that we submit the following recommendations to you.

1. *The Board recommends you approve the planned modifications in traplines W-13, W-1, W-3 and W-4A to the 2008-2013 GFMP of FMU 86-65.*
2. *The Board recommends you grant it an extension of the analysis period so that we can, at the next Board meeting, address the proposed modifications and forest planning in force in traplines W-4, W-5c and W-6 of this FMU, in consideration of the above mentioned issues.*

The members of the Board believe that these recommendations will preserve the beneficiaries’ operational capacity in the near-term while providing the necessary time for the Board to discuss, as prescribed for in the Agreement, the issues described herein. You will find enclosed a map specifying the traplines in FMU 86-65, as well as current and planned 2008-2013 forest management activities.

In accordance with section 3.31 of the Agreement and in preparation of our next Board meeting, we will appreciate being informed, as soon as possible, of your position with regards to the recommendations herein presented.

Be assured, Minister, that we intend to carry on the analysis of these important issues highlighted with all the consideration it requires so as to be able to advise you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

The Chairman of the Board,

Original signed

Albin Tremblay