

2.0 CULTURAL HERITAGE VALUES DATA

Cultural heritage planning begins with the development of comprehensive planning datasets. Recognizing that few complete datasets currently exist, developing the necessary datasets will be an ongoing task. It is expected that the quantity and quality of cultural heritage values data will increase over time. This will result in better information for each successive forest management plan.

In planning, four main classes of data are required: Aboriginal values, cultural landscapes, archaeological sites and archaeological high potential areas. As data for each of these classes is compiled, it is necessary to review it for completeness and accuracy, identifying gaps in the available data, noting specific issues surrounding data sensitivity or the significance of specific values and providing the appropriate data to the planning teams for incorporation into the FMP. Since some of this data is provided to the planning teams by agencies other than MNR, it is important that data requirements and FMP timelines are communicated to the providing agencies at the start of planning.

The terms *confirm*, *verify*, and *mitigate* have specific meaning within this Guide. The terms *confirm* and *verify* represent separate actions required in reviewing values data and distinguish the roles and responsibilities of the MNR and SFL holders (plan holders). Mitigation refers to measures to lessen or reduce adverse impact to a value.

Appendix II should be referred to to find out when data is collected and assessed during the forest management planning process.

2.1 Data Sources

Sources for data to build a comprehensive cultural heritage values planning inventory are diverse; however, MNR is not the principle custodian for much of this data. Archaeological site records are maintained by MCL and Aboriginal values reside with the community or individuals. Some data can be gathered from primary and secondary historical sources as part of the assembly of background information by MNR, although developing comprehensive data in this way represents a long term project. In developing a cultural heritage values planning inventory be aware of potential sources including the ones in Table 1.

Table 1: Some sources of cultural heritage values.

Ministry of Culture

- registered archaeological sites database;
- unverified site files; and
- reports of regional inventory surveys, excavations or collections.

Ministry of Natural Resources/ SFL Holders

- archaeological high potential mapping;
- FMP related archaeological or heritage assessment reports (verification, mitigation);
- district Sensitive Area files, Crown Land Use Atlas and Reports on removal of unauthorized occupations;
- district Natural Resource Values Information System (NRVIS) cultural heritage information;
- Ontario Parks – park management plan background studies, park libraries or archives;
- information from district or area staff on unverified sites; and
- old forest inventory and topographic maps, and aerial photos.

Aboriginal Communities

- Aboriginal values mapping (e.g. Aboriginal Background Information Report);
- community consultations, individual or family interviews; and
- other primary or secondary historical documents.

Planning Team

- company records;
- information from Company Staff, LCC on unverified sites;
- FRI maps; and
- SFL holder records, known info.

Other Data as Available

- primary and secondary historical sources (books, journals, maps, atlases);
- Ontario Bureau of Mines Reports, MNDM closed/abandoned mines database; and
- community museum societies, historical societies, Women's Institutes, etc.

2.1.1 Ministry of Culture Archaeological Data

MCL maintains a database of registered and unverified archaeological sites that is to be provided to the MNR cultural heritage specialist prior to the start of planning in support of archaeological high potential modelling. Secondary sources of archaeological site data may be found in published and manuscript archaeological reports, Ontario Parks files, local knowledge and local histories.

2.1.2 Aboriginal Data

Aboriginal Background Information Reports include a values map describing past land use by the community which is the key source of Aboriginal values data pertinent to this guide. Aboriginal data is provided on a voluntary basis, but when it is provided it must be considered in the planning process. The MNR planning team member assigned the role of contact with Aboriginal communities will be the primary contact for this data. Although Aboriginal data can be submitted in at any time, it is encouraged during the early part of the planning process. MNR needs to work with Aboriginal communities to improve data.

2.1.3 Cultural Landscapes Data

Collecting information in order to develop a cultural landscapes planning inventory is beneficial for the protection of these values. This information is typically available from secondary historical sources in books, journals, atlases and maps. Local information will also be useful in compiling this data. Local Citizens Committee members may have affiliations with community museums, historical societies or other groups holding documents pertaining to the history of communities. Individuals with a good working knowledge of the land may be aware of locales of potential interest in cultural heritage data compilation and planning.

Cultural landscapes datasets should be developed. MNR's *A Topical Organization of Ontario History* (1972) is a good example of this. Cultural landscapes data will be integrated into the archaeological high potential modelling, as appropriate.

2.1.4 Archaeological High Potential Data

The archaeological high potential data to be used in planning is prepared by the MNR cultural heritage specialist and provided to the planning team. The archaeological high potential maps are developed using a variety of geospatial map layers as base data for modelling and includes consideration of both the MCL registered site information and the available cultural landscapes data as the basis for calibrating the model. The methodology MNR currently uses in developing the archaeological high potential maps is described in greater detail in Appendix I.

2.2 Sensitive Information

All cultural heritage information used in forest management planning should be reviewed by the planning team to determine whether the information is to be classified as sensitive data. The MNR is responsible to ensure that sensitive data is protected, secure and managed in accordance with the Ministry of Natural Resources *Policy for the Management of Classified Data in the Ontario Land Information Warehouse* (in prep). Sensitive data should only be made available for specific purposes to specific people on a “need to know” basis. The MNR should also determine if additional data loan/sharing agreements are needed to cover information provided from other sources such as an Aboriginal community.

Where MNR provides information about sensitive values on a need to know basis, the receiver of the information, whether a member of the planning team, a representative from the SFL holder or a licensee will be considered an “Agent of the Crown” and must maintain the confidentiality of the sensitive data.

2.2.1 Archaeological Sites

MCL is the custodian for all registered archaeological sites. The information must be classified as sensitive data.

Archaeological sites are not to be shown on the public versions of maps used for forest management purposes. Archaeological site areas of concern should be documented in the plan in such a manner to not disclose the value or the location of the site.

The MNR district staff person who has access to archaeological site data should review all proposed forest management activities during the preparation of the forest management plan and any amendments to it. If field staff are unable to locate a site in the field with the information available, the MNR district should be contacted for further direction.

2.2.2 Archaeological High Potential Areas

Archaeological high potential areas are not considered sensitive information even though unknown sensitive sites may be contained within their boundaries. Archaeological high potential areas are required to be shown on MNR values maps and on maps showing proposed management activities. Areas of concern for archaeological high potential values should be distinguished from overlapping protection areas through the use of a distinct symbology.

