

CONSTRUCTION, UPGRADING AND RELOCATING OF CABINS

BEST ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

These best environmental management practices aim at proponents undertaking a project under the Hunting, Fishing and Trapping rights of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement. Building, upgrading or relocating a cabin incurs, in several cases, impacts on the environment. Hunters' and trappers' cabins are probably the most common examples of cabins that are built in the bush. Implementing best practices listed in this document will help mitigate impacts.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF THE ACTIVITIES OR WORKS

Site selection and tree felling/ brush cutting for the installation of a new cabin

When choosing the site and tree felling/ brush cutting for the installation of the cabin, the activities that you undertake can lead to certain impacts:

- Loss of wildlife habitat;
- Soil erosion or compaction;
- Risk of oil spills through the use of motorized equipment (i.e. loader, chainsaw, small wood chipper, snowmobile and ATV).

Cabin construction or upgrading

The construction or upgrading of a new cabin can lead to certain impacts:

- Build up of construction waste;
- Risk of oil spills through the use of motorized equipment (i.e. loader, snowmobile and ATV).

Cabin occupancy

The presence of hunters and their families will:

- Generate domestic waste;
- Require water supply in a waterbody close to the cabin;
- Require the presence of an outhouse close to the cabin;
- Require the use of a generator with oil that may pose a risk of spill into the soil.

CONSERVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Activities and work that you undertake to build or upgrade your cabin may affect the environment. Several components are sensitive and need to be preserved.



Fauna and flora

Some areas or ecosystems, whether legally protected or not, must be preserved when work is undertaken due to their unique features and because they fulfill an important function for animal and plant communities.

Soil and water quality

Soil and water sustain life. Protecting their quality is essential in order to avoid any negative effects on human health and direct impacts on fish and other living organisms.

CABIN OCCUPANCY

What to do

- Bury or burn your domestic waste at least 10 meters (33 feet) away from any river, stream, lake or wetland and downstream from the location where you take your drinking water; ①
- Consult the brochure *Fire Protection Plan for Cabins on Eeyou Istchee* and implement the appropriate measures;
- Bring dangerous waste such as batteries, paint, wood treatment products, oil and gas containers or any chemical products back to your village for proper storage; ①
- Take your drinking water upstream from the location of the cabin; ②
- Dispose of kitchen and bathroom water and any water coming from appliance other than a toilet in a sump hole, at least 10 meters (33 feet) away from any watercourse;
- Store fuel in a safe place away from any waterbody, trees and wood logs;
- Keep the outhouse from overflowing;
- Keep snow and rain from entering the outhouse;
- Use a dedicated bucket for drinking water only.

What to avoid

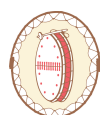
- Avoid burying or burning dangerous waste such as batteries, paint, wood treatment products, oil and gasoline containers or any chemical products;
- Avoid leakage of generator oil into the ground or in the environment;
- Avoid disposing solid or liquid waste in any waterbody;
- Avoid disposing other matter than fecal matter, urine, hygienic paper and lime in the outhouse.

Available best environmental management practices

Construction or upgrading of trails
Construction, upgrading and relocating of cabins
Construction of boat ramps and boat landings
Construction and clearing for a goose pond or goose corridor
Restoration of abandoned roads

For more information, contact your Local Niskamoon Coordinator or your Forestry Programs Officer

The leaflet has been produced by the Cree Nation Government, the Forestry Programs Prioritization Committee and Niskamoon Corporation with the collaboration of Tecsalt Inc.



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CONSTRUCTION, UPGRADING AND RELOCATING OF CABINS



In order to keep works and activities from affecting the environment, several practices must be respected or avoided. These practices do not deal with the use of heavy machinery, if heavy machinery is needed to complete your project, please contact your Local Niskamoon Coordinator or your Forestry Programs Officer.

CHOOSING THE SITE AND CLEAR-CUTTING FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A NEW CABIN

What to do

- Respect the Sopfeu requirements concerning forest fires when clearing trees around the cabin; **A**
- Choose a site with stable soil, not exposed to erosion (without signs of landslide);
- Use the smallest motorized equipment available to clear trees (i.e. chainsaws, ATV's and snowmobiles);
- Whenever possible, undertake activities and work during the dry seasons (summer and winter) to limit erosion;
- Use felled trees for firewood.

What to avoid

- Avoid clearing wood within 10 meters (33 feet) of any permanent stream, lake or wetland; **B**
- Avoid piling wood waste within 20 meters (66 feet) of any stream, lake or wetland; **C**
- At all time, between the cabin and any watercourse or wetland, avoid leaving unattended motorized equipment or vehicles, avoid refuelling and avoid changing oil. Never wash any motorized equipment in or near a watercourse or wetland. Avoid oil spills in the ground or in the water. Never encroach on any watercourse or wetland when manoeuvring your motorized equipment or vehicles; **D E**
- Avoid removing rare plants or destroying habitats of rare wildlife species; **F**
- Whenever possible, avoid clearing large standing hollow trees and mature trees as they often inhabited by birds and animals;
- Keep wood debris from falling into a stream or lake; **G**
- Avoid burning small wood debris except when used as firewood; they will be used as shelter by small animals; **H**
- Avoid smoking while brush cutting and tree clearing to reduce the risk of forest fire.

CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADING OF A CABIN

What to do

- Construction waste generated must be managed properly and sent outside the natural environment in an authorized landfill (dump);
- Worker's domestic waste (garbage) must be buried or burnt at least 10 meters (33 feet) away from any waterbody and downstream from the location where drinking water is taken; **I**
- Bring plastic wastes to the village for proper disposal;
- Bring dangerous waste such as batteries, paint, wood treatment products, oil and gas containers or any chemical products back to your village for proper storage; **J**
- Install your outhouse:
 - At least 10 meters (33 feet) from the cabin and from any stream or waterbody, in a place which is not higher than the cabin; **K**
 - In a permeable soil (well-drained soil);
 - In a location with a low angle slope;
 - With a pit. The pit must be at least 1.2 meter (4 feet) deep, 1.2 meter long and 1 meter wide. The side-wall should be lined with boards but not the bottom; **L**
 - With a construction sill. The construction sill will be built with lumber around the perimeter of the pit at ground level to keep vermin from entering. The base of the shelter will be built over the construction sill; **M**
 - With an impervious floor to keep gases from entering the shelter;
 - With good ventilation to limit odours;
 - With a seat and a shelter;
 - With a mound. The base of the shelter will be banked with earth to keep runoff water from entering the outhouse;
 - Downstream from the location of the place where drinking water is taken; **N**
 - Once the pit is filled with fecal matter reaching 40 centimeters (1.5 foot) below ground surface, the pit must be filled with earth and the shelter installed in a new location.

What to avoid

- At all time, between the cabin and any watercourse or wetland, avoid leaving unattended motorized equipment or vehicles, avoid refuelling and avoid changing oil. Never wash any motorized equipment in or near a watercourse or wetland. Avoid oil spills in the ground or in the water. Never encroach on any watercourse or wetland when manoeuvring your motorized equipment or vehicles. **D E**

