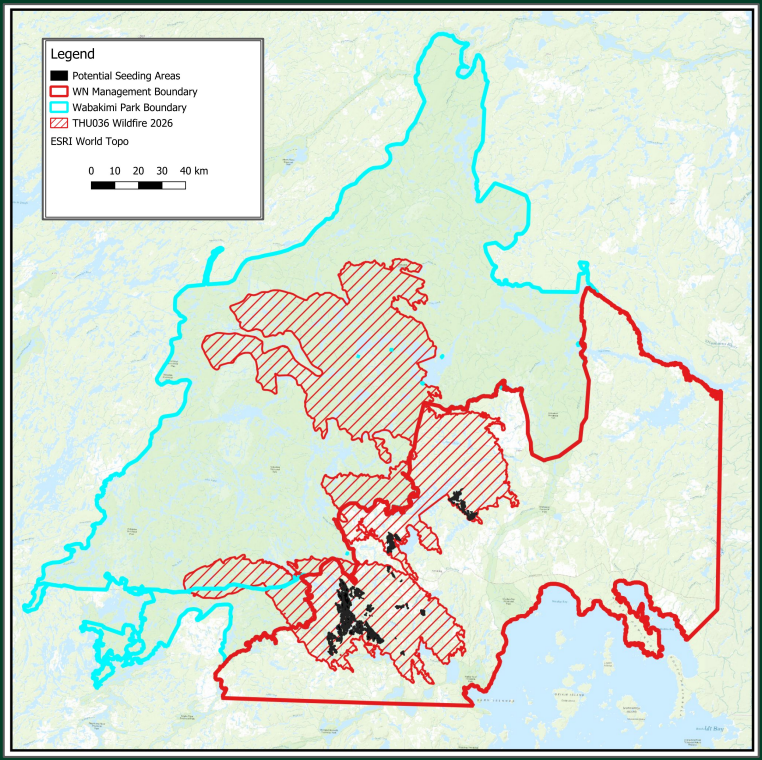
Flash Forest




# THE WABADOWGANG NOOPMING FOREST WILDFIRE RESTORATION

The **Wabadowgang Noopming** (WN) forest is located northwest of Lake Nipigon in northern Ontario.

An estimated **120,000 ha** of forest burned in summer 2026.

Flash Forest is seeking corporate partners to support a seeding project to plant **one million trees** in spring 2027.

The project will deliver environmental benefits as well a social benefits through direct local  community employment.

# DISTURBED AREA & IMPACT

On July 13, 2026, Thunder Bay Fire 36, the largest wildfire in Ontario's recorded history at approximately 300,000 hectares, forced the evacuation of Whitesand First Nation and surrounding communities to Thunder Bay. The community remained evacuated well in to August

An estimated 120,000 hectares of forested area on the Wabadowgang Noopming Forest has burned. The remainder of the fire footprint fell within Wabakimi Provincial Park.

### 3000 hectares

Young forest not yet free-to-grow and/or with no natural seed source.

**Requires seeding**

### 5000 hectares

Free-to-grow but still young with some natural seed.

**Recommended for seeding**

## IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

**BIODIVERSITY, CARBON SEQ.**

It is estimated that 3000 ha of young forest (younger than 10 years) with little to no natural seed source has been burned and will need substantial multi-year regeneration efforts.

5000 ha of recently regenerated area (between 10 and 20 years) has been burned and may need multi-year regeneration efforts.

The remaining burn area is established forest (20+ years) and likely regenerate naturally over time BUT may need need multi-year monitoring and possible intervention as the extent of natural regeneration becomes clear.

## IMPACT ON THE COMMUNITY

**SOCIAL, EMPLOYMENT**

While the Whitesand reserve itself did not burn, the surrounding area sustained significant damage. Many homes and seasonal camps were lost. The community of Collins, where many Whitesand members have family and homes, was burned on July 13. Local tourism operators lost their businesses and cabins, a source of local employment. Five bridges providing access to the forest were destroyed. Trappers, including Whitesand members, lost cabins, equipment, and access to their trapping grounds. The full extent of the damage is still being assessed.

The fire has also significantly reduced current wood supply on the WN Forest. Harvesting activity is expected to decline in coming years, affecting local forestry work, fibre availability, and related economic opportunities for the community.

# PROJECT SCOPE

Target Trees to be planted

**1,000,000**

Target Area to be planted

**625 – 750 ha**

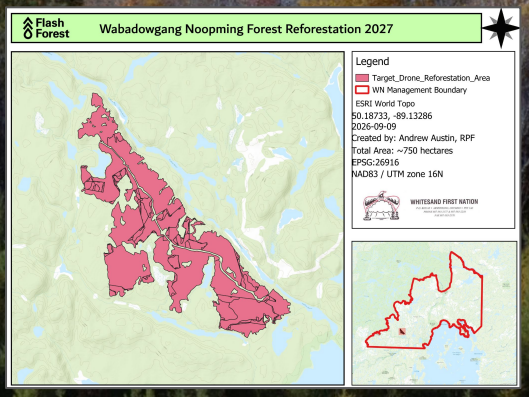
Target SPH (stems per hectare)

**1600**

Number of seedpods

**25,000,000**

Target Area to be planted




## Species mix

The two species will be jack pine and black spruce. The ratio will be determined after initial surveys and seed collection programs in fall 2026.

Thirteen forest unit types are targeted for regeneration on the WN Forest, several of which contribute to **caribou habitat** once they reach maturity, typically over 40 years.







## Seed collection project (local):

Ontario, seed sourcing for forestry is governed by the Ontario Tree Seed Transfer Policy (2020). This requires use of seed from areas with climatic and ecological conditions similar to the planting site. We will therefore conduct a seed / cone collection campaign in fall 2026 to ensure the project has sufficient seed stock as well as provide approx. 2000 hour of employment to local community.



# PROJECT GOALS & MEASUREMENT

## 01

### *Environmental Outcomes*

Lifetime Carbon Captured ($tCO_2e$): 1.5 million*

Biodiversity: The WN Forest lies within caribou habitat, and forest management on the WN Forest is designed to meet caribou habitat objectives. Additional biodiversity objectives include maintaining biological diversity, emulating natural disturbance patterns to produce natural landscape composition, and eliminating herbicide use.

**assumes lifetime of 100 years*

## 02

### *Social/Community Outcomes*

Local Community Employment: 100 person-days

Restoration will support future forest health and wildlife habitat, maintain traditional land uses including hunting, fishing, gathering, and access to culturally important areas, and create near-term local employment through site assessment, seed collection, planting, tending, and monitoring. It will also help rebuild long-term economic opportunities tied to sustainable forest management.

## 03

### *MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, Verification) Approach*

On-site assessments: Multi-year monitoring

- Year 1, site visit in fall to measure germination at flagged permanent plots.
- Year 3, site visit in summer/fall to estimate stocking/stems per hectare using circular plots or flag-transect estimates.
- Year 5, drone-based forest inventory & health assessment. Intervention recommendations as needed to restore forest to its natural state.



# PROJECT TIMELINE & MILESTONES

**Early fall 2026**

Confirm partnership and investment levels

**Late fall 2026**

Cone collection and spring seeding planning

**Spring 2027**

Seed approximately 700+ hectares

**Fall 2027**

Year 1 review

**Spring/Summer 2030**

Year 3 review

# ESG ALIGNMENT

**Mapping to Corporate ESG Frameworks:**

UN Sustainable Development Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

This project also aligns with Whitesand First Nation Community Sustainability Initiative, established in 2009, which includes core goals of addressing climate change at the community level and meeting core recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Action Plan. Corporate partners with reconciliation commitments have a direct alignment point here beyond environmental frameworks alone.

# SPONSOR RECOGNITION

Media Kit:

- Social Media collaboration
- Press Release collaboration
- High-quality photo/video package

# REPORTING DELIVERABLES

Flash Forest Annual **Impact Report** - sample HERE

# INDIGENOUS PARTNERSHIP & LAND STEWARDSHIP MODEL

Whitesand First Nation

Whitesand First Nation is a road-accessible Ojibway community located within the Wabadowgang Noopming Forest, approximately 250 kilometres north of Thunder Bay. The Nation holds one square kilometre of reserve land, Reserve #190, within the Robinson Superior Treaty, formally established in 1986 near Armstrong following displacement from original lands near Lake Nipigon caused by dam construction in the 1920s. The Whitesand Ojibway have lived in the northern Lake Nipigon region for over 4,000 years.

The community is home to over 1,200 band members, with an on-reserve population of approximately 350. Governance follows the Band Custom Electoral System, with a Chief and six Councillors elected to two-year terms.

Wabadowgang Noopming is Ojibway for "Whitesand Bush." The forest has historically been central to the Nation as a land base for hunting, fishing, and gathering, and for traditional food and medicinal plants. Today it continues to provide economic development opportunities through forestry, mining, and tourism, alongside its ongoing traditional uses.

Whitesand First Nation has built significant institutional capacity to manage these lands directly:

Wabadowgang Noopming Forest Management (WNFM) is a corporation jointly held by Whitesand First Nation (51%) and NorthWinds Environmental Services (49%), governed by a board appointed by Chief and Council, structured to separate business decisions from politics.

Wabadowgang Noopming Forest Management, established in 2023, holds the forestry agreement with the Government of Ontario and manages day-to-day silviculture activities on the WN Forest, including cone collection, silviculture surveys, seeding, planting, tending, Free to Grow assessments, and annual reporting.

Sagatay Economic Development LP (SED), established in 2010, provides heavy equipment and certified operators, building local capacity and supporting wood delivery to Thunder Bay facilities.

This existing capacity means the restoration project builds on operational infrastructure already in place, rather than starting from zero. Community involvement opportunities for this project include cone collection, field work, field assessments and ground-truthing, and supervision, roles consistent with activities WNM already delivers on the forest today.

Whitesand First Nation's approach to development is guided by five pillars of sustainability: Society, Culture, Capacity, Economy, and Ecology.