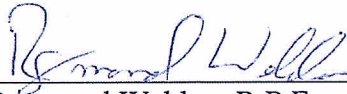


**Pic River Ojibway Forest
2006-2011 Independent Forest Audit**

**Management Unit Action Plan
STATUS REPORT**

PIC RIVER OJIBWAY FOREST
2006-2011 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT
Management Unit Action Plan Status Report Signature Page

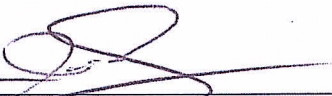
Prepared by:



Raymond Weldon, R.P.F.
Management Forester
MNR, Nipigon District

Date: April 16, 2014

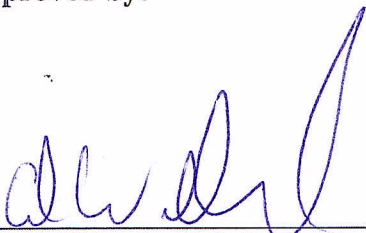
Submitted by:



Jim Fry
A/District Manager
MNR, Nipigon District

Date: April 21, 2014

Approved by:



Allan Willcocks, R.P.F.
Regional Director
MNR, Northwest Region

Date: April 25, 2014

INTRODUCTION

In July, 2011, an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) was conducted on the Pic River Ojibway Forest Management Unit (MU) #851) by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. for the period April 1, 2006 to March 31, 2011. The final audit report was received February 1, 2012. The action plan was approved April 18, 2012.

This status report is required to be submitted by April 18, 2014. The status report includes the original approved actions for each of the recommendations from the MU Action Plan. The progress to date of each action is listed below the actions required.

At the time of the audit and subsequent approval of the Action Plan, the SFL holder Great West Timber Ltd. (GWTL) was in receivership and under the oversight of BDO Canada Limited. In January 2013 GWTL surrendered the SFL to the Crown and the MNR assumed forest management responsibilities. In April 2013 the Pic River Ojibway Forest was amalgamated with the Black River Forest to form the Pic River Forest (MU #965) administered by MNR Wawa District. MNR Nipigon District has prepared this Status Report for the Pic River Ojibway subunit of the amalgamated Pic River Forest that is located within Nipigon District. Progress to-date information for recommendations and associated actions directed at the SFL holder has been provided based on available information. A copy of this approved Status Report will be provided to MNR Wawa District.

MNR issued an Enhanced Forest Resource Licence (eFRL) #552601 to the Local Forest Management Corporation, Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFMC) for April 1, 2013 – March 31, 2014. This licence was then renewed for April 1, 2014 – March 31, 2015.

RECOMMENDATION #1:

The SFL holder must ensure that Annual Work Schedules are submitted on time and that records of certification and approval are kept on file.

Action Required:

1. The SFL Holder will ensure that the 2012-2013 Annual Work Schedule, and annually thereafter will be prepared and submitted as per FIM and FMPM timing, content and formatting requirements through the development of internal scheduling targets and the designation of a lead individual to coordinate the preparation of this document.
2. The SFL Holder will assign a lead individual to ensure that AWS certification and approval pages are received from MNR after all signatures are gathered and maintained as a matter of record.

Progress To-Date:

1. Completed.

The 2012-2013 Pic River Ojibway Forest AWS was submitted on December 20, 2011, approved on March 9, 2012 and published to the eFMP website on March 14, 2012. The SFL service provider GreenForest Management Inc. (GFMI) prepared the AWS.

The 2013-2014 Pic River Forest AWS was submitted on March 21, 2013, approved on March 29, 2013 and published to the eFMP website on March 29, 2013 with an implementation date of April 14, 2013. The AWS late submission and approval was due to delays in completing the 2013-2023 Forest Management Plan for the Pic River Forest which was approved on February 19, 2013. The 2013-2014 AWS was produced by First Resources Management Group Inc., under contract by MNR's service provider the Pic River Development Corporation.

The 2014-2015 Pic River Forest AWS was submitted on February 26, 2014 and was approved and published to the eFMP website on March 13, 2014. This AWS was produced by RW Forestry Inc., under contract by NFMC as a condition of NFMC's eFRL.

2. Completed.

For the 2012-2013 AWS the GFMI planning forester was appointed as the lead and MNR forwarded the signature page to the GFMI planning forester on March 12, 2012.

For the 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 AWSs the signature pages have been retained by MNR as the management unit is managed by the Crown.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

The SFL holder must ensure that timely tending interventions are implemented on conifer renewal sites.

Action Required:

1. Areas requiring tending that have been previously identified through the SFL holders competition assessment process conducted in 2008, 2009 and 2010 will be included for treatment in the 2012 AWS (these areas were included in the 2011 AWS for treatment).
2. Information gathered through implementation of the 2012 and subsequent competition assessment programs will be utilized to identify any further areas requiring tending for implementation in the 2013 and subsequent AWSs. These assessments will focus on plantations established in the previous year in addition to areas identified as higher risk from competition.
3. Areas identified through other means (e.g. MNR SEM surveys) will also be added to the annual competition assessment program.

Progress To-Date:

1. Completed. As noted in the approved action plan this action was completed Dec 31, 2011. There were 2,189 ha scheduled for tending in the 2012-2013 AWS. The actual hectares completed will be shown in the 2012-2013 Annual Report when submitted however, preliminary records show that 1540.7 ha were completed.
2. Partially Completed. Records from the SFL surrender showed that 718.8 ha were tagged as requiring aerial herbicide tending in the 2013-2014 field season for the first year of the amalgamated Pic River Forest. Of the 718.8 ha initially tagged only 697.9 ha of aerial herbicide tending was scheduled in the 2013-2014 AWS. The actual hectares completed will be shown in the 2013-2014 Annual Report which is not due until November 15, 2014. No area has been scheduled for aerial herbicide tending in the 2014-2015 AWS.
3. Partially Completed.

Surveys were performed on recent FTG areas and plantation areas as part of the 2012 District SEM program. The results of these surveys showed that no areas were deemed necessary to pass onto the SFL holder for competition assessment.

In 2013 the management unit was managed by the Crown. No surveys were performed as part of the District SEM program in 2013 due to workload priorities on other District management units.

RECOMMENDATION #3:

The OMNR District Manager must ensure that sufficient financial and human resources are available on an annual basis to meet Core Task Requirements and obligations for Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring.

Action Required:

1. Once the Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring (SEM) Program review has been designed the MNR Northwest Region (NWR) will participate in the review to assess the approach for delivery requirements and potential options for alternate delivery of the program.
2. The MNR NWR will review the SEM work program and associated financial resources for all Districts, including the Nipigon District SEM program (which includes the SEM program for the Pic River Ojibway Forest).
3. MNR Nipigon District will determine the amount of work required to complete the District SEM core task requirements provided by MNR Forests Branch (which includes SEM obligations on all forests in the District including the Pic River Ojibway Forest). The work will be prioritized and the financial and human resources necessary to complete the work will be determined.
4. Once the District funding allocation is received from the MNR NWR for the SEM program, financial and human resources will be prioritized and allocated for the work identified in action 3. The SEM program will then be implemented and the work actually completed will be documented in the associated SEM report.

Progress To-Date:

1. Partially Completed. The SEM Program review has been ongoing by MNR Forests Branch and MNR NWR recently became involved in April 2014. As part of the MNR transformation the SEM program coordination is moving to the Regions beginning in 2014-15. As the Pic River Ojibway Forest is now part of the Pic River Forest lead out of MNR NER, the NER will be the lead for delivery of the future regional SEM program.
2. Partially Completed. As part of MNR transformation, the NWR review of the financial and human resources needed to complete SEM work at the Districts has been ongoing since 2013-14 and has been part of action 1 progress to date referred to above. As the Pic River Ojibway Forest is now part of the Pic River Forest lead out of MNR NER, the NER will be the lead for financial resources for the future regional SEM program. Since MNR Wawa District is the lead for the Pic River Forest, Wawa District will lead planning of future SEM programs with support from Nipigon District.

3&4. Completed. The 2012 and 2013 SEM Programs were as follows:

2012 field season Pic River Ojibway Forest:

- SEM Core Task 1 (verify FTG results reported in a recent Annual Report) was completed; 73 ha were scheduled for survey, however, 142 ha were actually surveyed.
- Core Task 2 (minimum 5% survey of area declared FTG and assessed approximately 5 years previously using a plot based method) was not applicable as there was no area submitted in the 2007-2008 Annual Report.
- Core Task 3 (field visits of current or recent silviculture activities) was completed. There were 468 ha of conifer plantations inspected for planting quality.

- Core Task 4 (assess a forest unit or silviculture activity requiring attention or investigation) was not completed.
- Core Task 5, which applied to Crown MUs, was not applicable as BDO Canada Ltd., as receiver for GWTL, was the SFL holder during the 2012 field season.

2013 field season Pic River Forest:

- During the 2013 field season the management unit was managed by the Crown.
- No SEM Core Tasks were performed as part of the Nipigon District SEM program in 2013 due to workload priorities on other District management units. Only 5 weeks of field work were completed out of the Nipigon District office due to limited human resources as a result of late funding and subsequent hiring of SEM staff.

RECOMMENDATION #4:

The SFL holder must address the area requiring free-to-grow survey and ensure the timely reporting of free-to-grow assessment results in the Annual Reports.

Action Required:

1. The SFL holder will implement annual survey programs that will ensure the assessment of backlog FTG areas (7,574 hectares). Data collected through these programs will be reported annually as required by the 2009 FMPM.
2. The SFL holder will ensure that all FTG data that has been collected and remains unreported due to previous staffing issues with the contractor and the bankruptcy of BFPL (2,172 ha) will be reported as required by the 2009 FMPM. Outstanding issues will be resolved so that this data may be reported in the 2011-2012 Annual Report.

Progress To-Date:

1. Partially Completed.

The 2012-2013 Pic River Ojibway Forest AWS showed 1,200 ha were scheduled for FTG survey. The actual areas surveyed are to be reported with the 2012-2013 Annual Report which is expected to be submitted in the Spring of 2014, however, SFL surrender records indicate that 2,354 ha were declared FTG.

The 2013-2014 Pic River Forest AWS showed 4,824 ha were scheduled for FTG survey. The 2013-14 Annual Report that will report what has actually been surveyed is not due until November 15, 2014.

The 2014-2015 Pic River Forest AWS shows 4,824 ha scheduled for FTG survey.

2. Not Completed. The 2011-2012 Annual Report did not report any FTG surveyed area. The SFL surrender records indicate 2,354 ha of FTG will be reported, that includes the previous 2,172 ha of unreported area. This area is expected to be reported in the 2012-2013 Annual Report forecast for submission in the Spring of 2014.

RECOMMENDATION #5:

The SFL holder must assess and report on the silvicultural effectiveness of forest operations prescriptions as required by the 2009 FMPM.

Action Required:

1. The SFL holder will ensure that all future FTG data collected is reported by regeneration vs. silviculture success as required by the 2009 FMPM.
2. The SFL holder will work with District MNR staff to decide on a standard method by which historic and current forest units will be compared for the purposes of silviculture effectiveness monitoring. Historic forest units will be paired to current forest units using a 'closest match' approach in order to define how these comparisons will be made for stands where development information is not readily available (i.e. prior to 2001).
3. For FTG on stands originating prior to 2001 assessment of silviculture vs. regeneration success will be based and reported according to the approach determined by Action 2.
4. Table FMP-9 in the 2013-2023 FMP (currently under development) will reflect the required reporting of silviculture vs. regeneration success (FMPM 2009).

Progress To-Date:

1. Not Completed. No FTG area was reported in the 2011-2012 Annual Report. The 2012-2013 Annual Report has yet to be submitted however is forecast to be submitted in the Spring of 2014.
2. Not Completed. This action was not completed due to the bankruptcy of the SFL holder GWTL. This action would require additional work as the 2013-2023 FMP has changed from NWR to NER Forest Units.
3. Not Completed. This action was not completed because action 2 above has not been completed.
4. Completed. The 2013-2023 FMP was submitted by GFMI. Table FMP-9 Assessment of Objective Achievement includes:

5.1 Free-Growing Forest:

5.1.1 Percent of harvested forest area assessed as free-growing by forest unit.

Desirable level: over time, to achieve 100% regeneration success of harvested areas available for regeneration.

Target: to achieve 100% regeneration success of harvested areas eligible for regeneration assessment during the 2013-2023 period.

5.1.3 Percent of area successfully regenerated to the projected forest unit.

Desirable level: to achieve 100% silvicultural success of regenerated harvest area to the projected forest unit over the long term.

Target: to achieve a silvicultural success rate of 80% for harvested areas eligible for regeneration assessment during the 2013-2023 period.

RECOMMENDATION #6:

The OMNR District Manager must ensure that the OMNR compliance program meets the minimum provincial standard for compliance inspections on an annual basis and that all categories of operations are subject to inspection.

Action Required:

1. The Annual Compliance Operating Plan (ACOP) will set the annual number of compliance inspection reports scheduled on the Pic River Ojibway Forest based on the guidance provided in the Forest Compliance Handbook 2010 Procedure FOR 07 02 04 Forest Compliance Planning which notes a representative sample of operations must be inspected to confirm and report on the compliance status with the FMP, AWS and associated legislation. This will include consideration of the following: complexity of operation, all categories of operations, level of risk (e.g. experience of operator, sensitivity/significance and economic value of resource affected), compliance issues, number planned operations to be inspected by SFL holder and compliance track records.
2. The MNR will complete compliance inspections in accordance with the Pic River Ojibway Forest portion of the ACOP and document compliance inspections as per the Forest Operations Information Program (FOIP).
3. The MNR will complete an annual evaluation of the Pic River Ojibway Forest portion of the ACOP to determine the effectiveness in achieving the scheduled number and categories of compliance reports as determined in Action 1 and implemented in Action 2 specific to the Pic River Ojibway Forest. The results of this review will be used to develop the Pic River Ojibway Forest portion of the ACOP for the following year.

Progress To-Date:

1. Not Completed. MNR did not complete ACOPs for 2012-2013, 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. Since the winter of 2009 there has not been any harvesting on the Pic River Ojibway Forest/subunit of the Pic River Forest. The only operations that occurred were tree planting and aerial tending.
2. Not Completed. The only operations that occurred were tree planting and aerial tending. No FOIP reports were completed for these operations. However, refer to recommendation #3 actions 3 & 4 Core Task 3 which indicates the 2012 SEM program inspected 468 ha for plantation quality.
3. Not Completed. This action was not completed as no ACOPs were completed.

RECOMMENDATION #7:

The OMNR District Manager and the SFL holder should ensure that the Independent Forest Audit action plan and status reports are submitted within the required timelines.

Action Required:

1. The SFL Holder, District MNR, Regional MNR and Forests Branch representatives will determine a schedule for production and review of the Action Plan.
2. The SFL Holder, District and Regional MNR will regularly meet to discuss and ensure that the development of the Action Plan follows the agreed upon schedule.
3. The SFL Holder, District and Regional MNR representatives will determine a schedule for production and review of the Status Report.
4. The SFL Holder, District and Regional MNR will regularly meet to discuss and ensure that the development of the Status Report follows the agreed upon schedule.

Progress To-Date:

1. Completed. The action plan production and review schedule was drafted February 14, 2012 during a meeting with the SFL Holder, MNR District and MNR Northwest Region and was confirmed on February 15, 2012. The action plan was due to be submitted by the MNR District Manager by April 1, 2012.
2. Completed. The SFL Holder, MNR District and MNR Northwest Region met on February 14, 2012 to develop a draft action plan and determine follow up items. The action plan was subsequently completed and reviewed through meetings among the SFL Holder/MNR District, telephone calls, and e-mails based on follow up work done from the initial meeting. The action plan was due to be submitted by the MNR District Manager by April 1, 2012. The action plan was signed as submitted by the MNR District Manager ahead of schedule on March 16, 2012.
3. Completed. A suggested status report production and review schedule was provided by the MNR Northwest Region along with a status report template on January 8, 2014. The schedule was reviewed during an on-line meeting with MNR Nipigon District on March 26, 2014. The status report is due to be submitted by the MNR District Manager by April 18, 2014. The SFL holder was not involved as the SFL was surrendered to the Crown in January 2013.
4. Completed. MNR Nipigon District and the NWR held an on-line meeting on March 26, 2014 to develop the status report. Follow-up work was ongoing for a second on-line meeting April 15, 2014 during which the status report was completed subject to final editing on April 16, 2014. The actual District Manager submission date is documented on the signature page of this status report. The SFL holder was not involved as the SFL was surrendered to the Crown in January 2013.