

CARIBOU FOREST

2014 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT

MANAGEMENT UNIT ACTION PLAN

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Introduction

In September 2014, an Independent Forest Audit was conducted on the Caribou Forest by ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd. for the period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2014. The final audit report was accepted by Forestry Futures Committee on January 27, 2015 and the action plan is due March 27, 2015.

The final audit report for the Caribou Forest includes 14 recommendations: 5 recommendations (#1, #2, #3, #12 and #13) directed to the SFL holder and/or the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) Sioux Lookout District, 4 recommendations (#7, #8, #9 and #11) directed to the MNRF Northwest Region, and 5 recommendations (#4, #5, #6, #10 and #14) directed to corporate MNRF. This action plan outlines the actions required, responsibility, timelines, and method of tracking progress of actions for the management unit recommendations. Recommendations directed to regional and corporate MNRF will be addressed in a separate 2014 Provincial Action Plan.

Recommendations

Principle 2: Public Participation and Aboriginal Involvement

Recommendation #1:

District MNRF shall improve both the direct communications with Mishkeegogamang First Nation leadership and the continuity of meetings with them in order to facilitate discussions about benefits to the community as required by Class EA Condition 34.

Action(s) required:

1. Sioux Lookout District MNRF will initiate communications with Mishkeegogamang First Nation leadership by arranging a meeting to define Condition 34 benefits and determine what interests the community may have in local forestry operations.
2. The Sioux Lookout District Manager will attend this meeting and where appropriate, future meetings that may arise from the initial meeting. Once the MNRF better understands the interests of the Mishkeegogamang First Nation, they will communicate these interests to Resolute Forest Products so the company may apply this information in the determining the focus of future discussions with the First Nation.

Organization and position responsible:

1. Sioux Lookout District MNRF, Resource Liaison Specialist.
2. Sioux Lookout District MNRF, District Manager.

Deadline date:

1. April 30, 2015 (finalize meeting date) and June 30, 2015 (hold meeting).
2. June 30, 2015 and the dates of any future meetings as appropriate.

Method of tracking progress:

1. Meeting notes on file documenting the community interests and potential benefits that have been identified by Mishkeegogamang First Nation for which the wish to achieve through forest management planning activities.
2. Attendance of District Manager at meetings as appropriate.

Recommendation #2:

The Company shall contact the Mishkeegogamang First Nation leadership to discuss training opportunities for future forestry operations.

Action(s) required:

1. The company will send notices and contact Mishkeegogamang First Nation about job opportunities. Any meetings or training as a result of these notices will be documented.
2. The Company will include Mishkeegogamang First Nation on its tender list for available forestry contracting opportunities.

Organization and position responsible:

1. Resolute FP Canada Inc., Planning Manager Ontario.
2. Resolute FP Canada Inc., Business Optimization Manager

Deadline date:

1. November 2015, ongoing.
2. March 2015, ongoing.

Method of tracking progress:

1. Record of notices and resulting meetings.
2. Record of tender lists.

Principle 3: Forest Management Planning

Recommendation #3:

The Planning Team for the next FMP shall provide in the FMP main text and in the Analysis Package as appropriate a clear explanation and rationale for the inputs, assumptions, and decisions made during the development of the LTMD for that plan.

Action(s) required:

The Terms of Reference for the development of the 2019 FMP for the Caribou Forest will include the assemblage of a strategic modeling task team. The task team will use the best science for model inputs available and will consider the Year-7 annual report, particularly the review of modeling assumptions in determining model inputs. The team will follow the requirements of the 2017 FMPM on how to document the inputs, assumptions and decisions.

Organization and position responsible:

1. Resolute FP Canada Inc., Planning Manager Ontario and MNRF, Northwest Regional Planning Forester.

Deadline date:

1. 2019.

Method of tracking progress:

1. Analysis package as submitted in draft 2019 FMP and approved 2019 FMP.

Principle 6: Monitoring

Recommendation #12:

MNRF District and the Company shall ensure that the FOIP reporting timelines outlined in the Forest Compliance Handbook are being met.

Action(s) required:

1. Draft and implement a District local business directive which states "Staff completing a field inspection of forestry operations must schedule the next business day in the office to write up the FOIP report".
2. Ensure that District staff are following the local business direction.
3. Complete District quarterly audits to ensure the local business directive is being followed. Audit results will be forwarded to the District Manager and district forest compliance staff.
4. The Company will include in the annual compliance section of Annual Work Schedule, text that identifies FOIP reporting timelines as a priority.
5. The Company will develop and implement a tracking system in accordance with the requirements of the FMP and AWS that ensures that all harvested areas are reported upon within the timelines outlined in the FMP.

Organization and position responsible:

1. Sioux Lookout District MNRF, District Manager.
2. Sioux Lookout District MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor.
3. Sioux Lookout District MNRF, Forestry Technical Specialist.
4. Resolute FP Canada Inc., Planning Manager Ontario.

5. Resolute FP Canada Inc., Operations Forester.

Deadline date:

1. April 30, 2015.
2. April 30, 2015, ongoing.
3. Ongoing quarterly commencing April 1, 2015.
4. April 1, 2015, ongoing.
5. March 2016.

Method of tracking progress:

1. Completion and implementation of local business directive.
2. Review and approval of FOIP reports.
3. Completed quarterly audits.
4. Approved AWS.
5. Completion and implementation of tracking system.

Recommendation #13:

During the development of the 2018-2028 FMP, the Company and District MNRF shall review the Free-to-grow survey data collaboratively to determine if any changes to the post-renewal succession rules used in strategic modeling, and/or the silvicultural standards associated with Silvicultural Ground Rules are warranted.

Action(s) required:

The Terms of Reference for the development of the 2019 FMP for the Caribou Forest will include the assemblage of a task team, with linkage to the strategic modeling task team to review the results of regeneration surveys specific to the Caribou Forest. The results of the task team review related to post-renewal succession rules and silviculture ground rules (SGR) silviculture standards will be documented. If necessary, this team may suggest changes to the succession rules and or SGRs including regeneration standards.

Organization and position responsible:

Resolute FP Canada Inc., Renewal and Information Superintendent and MNRF Sioux Lookout District, Management Forester.

Deadline date:

Results of FTG review for post-renewal succession rules with modeling task team by approximately by the fall of 2016 and for SGRs approximately by the spring 2017.

Method of tracking progress:

Documented results of FTG review from the task team and modeling task team meetings. The Analysis package and FMP text will document rationale for any changes to the SGRs including regeneration standards.