

Dryden Forest

2003 - 2008 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

**DRYDEN FOREST 2008 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT
Management Unit Action Plan Submission & Signature Page**

Prepared by:

Jack B. Harrison R.P.F.
General Manager
Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd.

Date: _____

Donald J. Armit R.P.F.
Dryden Area Forester
MNR Dryden District

Date: _____

Submitted by:

Bert Hennessey R.P.F.
District Manager
MNR Dryden District

Date: _____

**DRYDEN FOREST 2008 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT
Management Unit Action Plan Approval Page**

Endorsed by:

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

Date: _____

Richard B. Greenwood, R.P.F.
Director
MNR Forest Management Branch

Date: _____

Approved by:

Frank Kennedy, R.P.F.
Assistant Deputy Minister
MNR Science and Information Resources Division

Date: _____

David de Launay
Assistant Deputy Minister
MNR Field Services Division

Date: _____

INTRODUCTION

The Dryden Forest is a former Crown Management Unit that was converted to a Sustainable Forest Licence in 1998. Since that time, the management of the Forest has been the responsibility of the Dryden Forest Management Company Limited (DFMC). The Dryden Forest is located in Dryden District of the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) Northwest Region.

An independent audit of forest management was conducted on the Dryden Forest in September 2008. The audit identified 20 recommendations in the final report. This Management Unit Action Plan addresses all the recommendations that are directed to the Sustainable Forest Licence holder and the District MNR. Recommendations 3, 15 & 16 were directed to Regional and Corporate MNR and therefore as per IFA Process and Protocol Section 4.1 will be addressed in the Provincial Action Plan rather than the Management Unit Action Plan.

The Dryden District MNR and the Dryden Forest Management Company received the audit report on May 25, 2009 and jointly prepared this Management Unit Action Plan, with input and review by MNR Regional and Forest Management Branch representatives to address the recommendations. The Management Unit Action Plan provides a description of the actions required, details on who is responsible and timelines for each of the action items, as well as methods of tracking progress.

Dryden Forest 2008 Independent Forest Audit Management Unit Action Plan

R#	Audit Recommendation	Action Required and Method of Tracking Progress	Organization and Position Responsible	Deadline Date
1	District MNR must ensure that the LCAC terms of reference meets the content requirements of the 2004 FMPM, specifically dates of member's appointment and background material and training required to assist committee members with their roles and responsibilities and forest management planning matters.	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update the Terms of Reference for the LCAC to indicate each member's date of appointment to the Committee. 2. Update the Terms of Reference for the LCAC to reference the background materials available and the training required to assist committee members with their roles and responsibilities. <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 & 2 Review updated Terms of Reference 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MNR-Dryden District, MNR Facilitator for the Dryden LCAC 2. MNR-Dryden District, MNR Facilitator for the Dryden LCAC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. June 30, 2009 2. July 30, 2009
2	District MNR must ensure that documentation and records of public information centres clearly demonstrate that the documentation made available to the public meets FMPM requirements.	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. District MNR will produce a digital record (CD) of all required documentation and make copies available to the public at each stage of public consultation. The CD will include the "Information and Maps available" as described in the 2004 Forest Management Planning Manual, sections 3.3.3.1 through to 3.3.3.5. <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The actual digital record CD's on file at the MNR District office. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MNR – Dryden District Forest Planning Coordinator 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. March 31, 2011
4	DFMC must develop operational planning and operator training tools designed to enhance the protection of sensitive sites for the next FMP.	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DFMC will identify sensitive sites in the Dryden Forest 2011-21 FMP so that operations may be planned to minimize site disturbance. 2. DFMC will provide best management practices in the Dryden Forest 2011-21 FMP that will help the operators identify site disturbance (as per Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales, 2009) and provide techniques to minimize site disturbance if it occurs during operations. <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. & 2. Dryden Forest 2011-2021 Forest Management Plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DFMC – General Manager 2. DFMC – General Manager 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. April 1, 2011. 2. April 1, 2011.

5	DFMC must ensure the Forest Operations Prescriptions are updated in the AWS prior to operations commencing.	<p>Action Required:</p> <p>1. If changes to a silviculture treatment are necessary, DFMC will append to each copy of the Annual Work Schedule a Forest Operations Prescription certified by a Registered Professional Forester, prior to the operation commencing.</p> <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <p>1. Review of Forest Operation Inspection Program Reports which compares the silvicultural treatment to the approved Forest Operations Prescription.</p>	1. DFMC – Operations Forester	1. Ongoing annually, starting Jan. 1, 2009.
6	DFMC must ensure that the natural benchmark for the 2011-2021 FMP reflects natural conditions.	<p>Action Required:</p> <p>1. As part of the requirement to develop assumptions for the Base Model, the Dryden Forest Long-term Management Direction Task Team (including Registered Professional Foresters) will use their best professional judgment, science and information to prepare the natural benchmark for the 2011-2021 FMP. Sources of science and information will include: natural disturbance rates based on the MNR’s “pre-suppression” fire database for the eco-region in which the Dryden Forest exists, the fire return interval created by the BFOLDS model for the Landscape Guide, and the Bounds of Natural Variation Technical Report TR-136. Post disturbance successions will be based on TR-136 and proportioned based on the area of the management unit in the different eco-districts in which the Dryden Forest exists. Natural succession pathways (old age succession) will be based on the professional input of multiple R.P.F.’s with extensive knowledge of boreal forest development, and the Dryden Forest development specifically, and based on the science found in TR-136, the Old Growth Report, and the yield curves developed for the plan. The FMPM checkpoint ‘Support for Base Model’ is passed once appropriate planning team members and advisors, identified in the appropriate section of the terms of reference, confirm the satisfactory completion of the required information for the checkpoint.</p> <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <p>1. FMPM Checkpoint – Support for Base Model, Dryden Forest 2011-21 FMP Analysis Package.</p>	1. DFMC – General Manager (lead), MNR – Dryden District Area Forester, MNR – Dryden District Forest Planning Coordinator, MNR – Dryden District Resource Planning Analyst.	1. April 7, 2009 – Completed.

7	DFMC must amend the 2006-11 FMP to increase the amount of planned tending to a level appropriate to reach the desired future forest condition.	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DFMC will survey areas that were renewed during the audit term (2003/04 to 2007/08) where competition is expected and where knowledge of competition is lacking in order to determine the extent of required tending. DFMC will submit an amendment to FMP Table 25 in the 2006-11 FMP to increase the amount of planned tending based on findings from survey and field inspection results for MNR review and approval. <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Survey data and field inspection results. Amended FMP Table 25 in the Dryden Forest 2006-11 FMP. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DFMC – Operations Forester DFMC – General Manager (lead); MNR – Dryden District Area Forester, Dryden District Manager. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> June 15, 2009 – Completed. September 30, 2009
8	DFMC and District MNR must ensure that the 2011-2021 FMP post-renewal forest unit transitions reflect actual results from the Forest.	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the requirement to develop assumptions for the Base Model, the Dryden Forest Long-term Management Direction Task Team (including Registered Professional Foresters) will use their best professional judgment, information on past treatment success (FTG results) and available science to prepare a post-renewal forest unit transitions table for the 2011-21 FMP. The silviculture program modeled was developed with the intent that intensive silviculture, including herbicide use, would take place since the forest unit transitions reflect tending is necessary to develop the pure conifer forest units modelled. The FMPM checkpoint ‘Support for Base Model’ is passed once appropriate planning team members and advisors, identified in the appropriate section of the terms of reference, confirm the satisfactory completion of the required information for the checkpoint. <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> FMPM Checkpoint – Support for Base Model, Dryden Forest 2011-21 FMP Analysis Package. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DFMC – General Manager (lead), MNR – Dryden District Area Forester, MNR – Dryden District Forest Planning Coordinator, MNR – Dryden District Resource Planning Analyst. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> April 7, 2009 – Completed.

9	DFMC must enhance its efforts at operational training and compliance monitoring to further reduce the incidence of site damage due to compaction on fine textured soils.	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DFMC will review with the Shareholders/Overlapping Licensees the best management practices outlined in the Dryden Forest 2006-11 FMP (page 242) that help prevent, minimize or mitigate site damage due to compaction on fine textured soils. DFMC will identify fine textured sites on operational maps and provide best management practices in the Dryden Forest 2011-21 FMP so that operations may be planned to minimize compaction. DFMC will provide training that will help the operators identify when compaction on fine textured soils is occurring (as per Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales, 2009) and provide techniques to minimize site damage if it occurs during operations. DFMC will inspect operations that occurred on fine textured soils and report any site damage in a Forest Operations Inspection Report. MNR Dryden District will make it a priority, beginning with the 2010-11 Annual Compliance Plan, to inspect operations that occurred on fine textured soils. <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DFMC FMP training CD and record of attendance (dated July 28, 2009). Dryden Forest 2011-2021 Forest Management Plan. Sensitive soils training workshop. DFMC Forest Operations Inspection Program Reports MNR Dryden District Forest Operations Inspection Program Reports 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DFMC – General Manager. DFMC – General Manager. DFMC – General Manager. DFMC FOIP Inspectors. MNR Dryden District FOIP Inspectors. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Aug. 1, 2009 (Completed) April 1, 2011 April 1, 2011 Ongoing annually, starting October 1, 2009. Ongoing annually, starting April 1, 2010.
10	District MNR and DFMC must review chipper debris management practices to reduce fire risk and the loss of productive forest land.	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> DFMC and District MNR will review direction from the Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales, 2009 and assess local chipper debris management practices to produce a summary of findings. DFMC, in conjunction with the MNR District, will provide best management practices in the Dryden Forest 2011-21 Forest Management Plan for the management of chipper debris. <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of review of chipper debris management practices. Dryden Forest 2011-21 Forest Management Plan 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> DFMC – General Manager (lead) & MNR – Dryden District Area Forester. DFMC-General Manager (lead) & MNR-Dryden District Area Forester. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> December 31, 2009 April 1, 2011.

11	DFMC must ensure that the planting program is sufficiently supervised and planting errors are minimized.	<p>Action Required:</p> <p>1. DFMC will continue to provide direction to Tree Plant Contractors by providing DFMC's Planting Manual at the start of each tree plant season, monitor their operations and perform quality assessment plots on a regular basis in order to determine if the planting quality meets DFMC's standards. Areas not meeting DFMC's standards (90%) will require the Tree Plant Contractor to do remedial work and/or receive a financial penalty. Consistent planting quality below DFMC's standards (80%) will result in the termination of the contract.</p> <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <p>1. Quality assessment plots.</p>	1. DFMC – Operations Forester.	1. Ongoing annually, starting May 1, 2009.
12	DFMC must ensure that productive area recovered through slash management is renewed.	<p>Action Required:</p> <p>1. DFMC will perform silvicultural treatments, where necessary, on areas recovered through slash management.</p> <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <p>1. These areas are only fractions of a hectare and therefore too small to report in the Annual Report; however DFMC will include as part of their silvicultural assessment survey to track their reforestation.</p>	1. DFMC – Operations Forester	1. Ongoing annually, starting in April 1, 2010.
13	DFMC must ensure that all stands operated during the audit term that require or are expected to require competition control be treated by the end of the 2010 growing season.	<p>Action Required:</p> <p>1. DFMC will determine which areas that were planted or seeded during the audit period (2003-2007) that will require tending.</p> <p>2. MNR will field sample 10% of the areas planted and seeded between 2003 and 2007 to confirm/refute DFMC's decision about which areas require tending.</p> <p>3. DFMC will tend stands where competition control is required for areas planted or seeded during the audit term by the end of the 2010 field season.</p> <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <p>1. DFMC will provide MNR a list of all the blocks planted or seeded during the audit term indicating which areas will be tended or not.</p> <p>2. MNR to provide DFMC with results of sampling.</p> <p>3. DFMC to provide a report at the end of the 2010 field season to the MNR Dryden District of areas tended that were planted or seeded during the audit period.</p>	<p>1. DFMC – Operations Forester.</p> <p>2. MNR – Dryden District Area Forester.</p> <p>3. DFMC – Operations Forester.</p>	<p>1. August 15, 2009 - Completed.</p> <p>2. July 1, 2010</p> <p>3. Sept. 30, 2010</p>

14	District MNR must ensure that the aggregate pit under Permit No. 99145 is operating in conformance with all conditions of the permit and that working faces are sloped when the pit is operationally inactive.	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MNR to inspect Domtar Permit # 99145 to verify if the aggregate pit is operating in conformance to the Category 9 standards (MNR completed the inspection on June 9th, 2009 and found the pit was “operating in conformance with all conditions of the permit and that working faces were sloped when the pit is operationally inactive”). <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Aggregate Inspection Report 	1. MNR – Dryden District Aggregate Technical Specialist.	1. June 9, 2009 – Completed.
17	DFMC must develop and implement a systematic program for assessing silviculture treatments in advance of FTG surveying.	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DFMC will develop in the Dryden Forest 2011-21 FMP an assessment system for monitoring silviculture treatments to determine if retreatment and/or tending will be required. 2. DFMC to implement the silviculture assessment system and schedule retreatment and tending as required. <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dryden Forest 2011-21 Forest Management Plan. 2. Review of silviculture assessment program. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DFMC – General Manager. 2. DFMC – Operations Forester 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. April 1, 2011. 2. Ongoing annually, starting April 1, 2011.
18	DFMC must ensure all Annual Reports are complete, accurate and clear.	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. DFMC will complete Annual Reports as per direction in 2004 FMPM Part E (and final 2009 FMPM when applicable) and ensure all text and tables are clear and accurate. <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual Reports 	1. DFMC – General Manager	1. Ongoing annually, starting Nov. 15, 2009

19	DFMC must ensure that recommendations are developed in the determination of sustainability in annual reports where improvements are warranted.	<p>Action Required:</p> <p>1. As the 2006-11 FMP was written under the direction of the 1996 FMPM, DFMC will complete the Year 10 Annual Report (2010-11) as per direction in the Phase-in Provisions of the 2004 FMPM which recommends that Part C, Section 4.4 (Achievement of Management Objectives) of the 1996 FMPM to be used in place of requirements of 2004 FMPM Part E, Section 4.6 (Determination of Sustainability). In addition DFMC will follow the direction from the 1996 FMPM Part C Section 4.6 which requires the SFL holder to provide recommendations for the summary and evaluation of operations, the assessment of forest sustainability, the achievement of management objectives and the analysis of assumptions.</p> <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <p>1. MNR accepted Year 10 Annual Report (2010-11 AR).</p>	1. DFMC – General Manager	1. Nov. 15, 2011
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20	<p>The audit team concludes that, with critical exception noted below, management of the Dryden Forest was in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Dryden Forest Management Company Limited, and forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The critical exception is as follows: Tending is needed in many renewal areas that were seeded or planted and some naturally regenerating stands to ensure conifer dominance is maintained as per FMP objectives. In the near absence of competition control program, the Desired Future Forest Condition described in the 2006-11 FMP will not be achieved. Therefore, the audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of the Sustainable Forest Licence 542444 for a further five years, only upon confirmation that the following condition has been satisfied: DFMC must ensure that all stands operated during the audit term that require or are expected to require competition control be treated by the end of 2010 growing season.</p>	<p>Action Required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd. and MNR Dryden District will prepare a Management Unit Action Plan to address the recommendations in the final audit report. 2. Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd. and MNR Dryden District will implement the Management Unit Action Plan. 3. Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd. and MNR Dryden District will prepare a Management Unit Action Plan status report. 4. Following receipt of a signed Management Unit Action Plan Status Report for the Dryden Forest, MNR Forest Management Branch will seek a decision by the Minister on licence extension according to Section 9 of the SFL. In seeking this decision, particular emphasis will be placed on whether or not Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd. has ensured that all stands operated during the audit term that require or are expected to require competition control were treated by the end of the 2010 growing season. 5. A letter will be developed, for the Minister's signature, to notify the SFL holder of this decision. <p>Method of Tracking Progress:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Management Unit Action Plan for the Dryden Forest (i.e. this document) 2. & 3. Management Unit Action Plan Status Report for the Dryden Forest 4. & 5. Minister's decision as documented in the letter to the SFL holder as per action 5 above. 	<p>1., 2. & 3. MNR - Dryden District Manager, (lead); MNR - Dryden District Area Forester; DFMC - General Manager.</p> <p>4. & 5. MNR – Forest Management Branch Supervisor, Forest Evaluation and Reporting Unit, Forest Evaluation and Standards Section (lead).</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Within 2 months of receipt of the final audit report (July 25, 2009). 2. On-going starting in July 2009. Refer to individual actions within this action plan for deadline dates. 3. Within 2 years of action plan approval. 4. & 5. Forecasted to occur following receipt of the Action Plan Status Report (two months after MNR receives the Action Plan Status Report for the Dryden Forest).
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