Whiskey Jack Forest

Independent Forest Audit
April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2009

Management Unit Action Plan
Prepared by:

____________________  Date:_____________
Kurt Pochailo
Management Forester
MNR Kenora District

Reviewed by:

___________________  Date:_____________
Shawn Stevenson
Area Supervisor
MNR Kenora District

Submitted by:

___________________  Date:_____________
Deb Weedon
District Manager
MNR Kenora District
Endorsed by:

____________________ Date:_____________
Allan Willcocks, R.P.F.
Regional Director
MNR Northwest Region

____________________ Date:_____________
Chris Walsh, R.P.F.
A/Director
MNR Forests Branch

Approved by:

____________________ Date:_____________
Rosalyn Lawrence
Assistant Deputy Minister
MNR Policy Division

Approved by:

____________________ Date:_____________
David de Launay
Assistant Deputy Minister
MNR Regional Operations Division
Introduction:
The final audit report was received June 15, 2010 for the Independent Forest Audit (IFA) of the Whiskey Jack Forest conducted by KBM Forestry Consultants Inc. for the period April 1, 2004 to March 31, 2009.

The Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol requires a Management Unit Action Plan be prepared in response to the audit recommendations. For each recommendation this action plan provides a description of the actions required, the organization and position responsible, timelines for each of the action items, as well as the method of tracking progress for each action. Recommendation #4 however will be addressed in the Provincial Action Plan.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>R#</th>
<th>Audit Recommendation</th>
<th>Action Required and Method of Tracking Progress</th>
<th>Organization and Position Responsible</th>
<th>Deadline Date dd/mm/yyyy</th>
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| 1  | MNR Kenora District and MNR Red Lake District must ensure that the LCC Terms of Reference for the Kenora and Red Lake LCCs meet the content requirements of the FMPM regarding a protocol for the functioning of multiple LCCs. | Action Required:  
1. Review FMPM requirements with LCCs.  
2. Work with the Red Lake and Kenora LCCs to develop a protocol for the roles and responsibilities and include the protocol in the LCC TOR.  
3. Work with planning team and Red Lake and Kenora LCCs to outline in the FMP TOR how they will participate in the Desired Forest & Benefits process and meeting.  
Method of Tracking Progress:  
1. LCC meeting minutes.  
2. Updated Terms of Reference, LCC meeting minutes  
3. LCC and Planning Team minutes | 1. MNR Kenora District, District Planner  
2. MNR Kenora District, District Planner  
3. MNR Kenora District, District Planner | 1. 01/06/2011  
2. 01/06/2011  
3. 01/06/2011 |
| 2  | The Forest Manager must ensure that available survey information (regeneration surveys, Free-to-Grow, silviculture effectiveness monitoring, etc.) is used in the development of the silviculture program in the next FMP. | Action Required:  
1. All available survey information will be compiled for use in the development of the 2012 Whiskey Jack Forest FMP.  
2. The available survey information will be analyzed and the analysis results will be used in the development of post renewal succession rules for use in SFMM | 1. MNR Kenora District, District Analyst  
2. MNR Kenora District, District Analyst  
3. MNR Kenora District, Area | 1. 01/04/2012  
2. 01/04/2012  
3. 01/04/2012 |
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|   | modeling for the 2012 Whiskey Jack Forest FMP.  
3. The available survey information will be used to assist in the development of regeneration standards for the 2012 Whiskey Jack Forest FMP (FMP-4 Silvicultural Ground Rules). | Forester |
|   | Method of Tracking Progress:  
2. Post renewal succession inputs for SFMM modeling.  
3. Completed silvicultural ground rules for the 2012 Whiskey Jack Forest FMP. |   |
|   | Action Required:  
1. When developing the renewal program for the 2012 FMP the planning team shall ensure that the planned silviculture activity supports the silviculture strategy in the LTMD. This will be done by using past renewal survey information when developing modeling inputs for post renewal succession, developing regeneration standards and treatment packages for the Silvicultural Ground Rules.  
2. The text of the 2012 FMP will clearly describe the silviculture intentions for the forest. The text will also contain documentation on the use of post-harvest silvicultural prescriptions and the implementation of site appropriate treatments. Table FMP-17 Planned Renewal and Tending Operations will be consistent with the LTMD and related silvicultural strategies  
3. When implementing the 2012 FMP the MNR Kenora District will ensure operations proposed in the AWSs align with FMP-17 to ensure the strategic | 1. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester  
2. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester  
3. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester | 1. 01/04/2012  
2. 01/04/2012  
3. 01/04/2012 and ongoing |
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| 5 | The Forest Manager must ensure that, if required, the Natural Benchmark (or equivalent) developed for the next FMP better reflects actual conditions and that, if required, targets/desired levels (or equivalent) for appropriate objectives in the next FMP include consideration for the Natural Benchmark trend line. | Action Required:  
1. The Simulated Range of Natural Variation (SRNV) from the Ontario Landscape Tool (OLT) will be utilized for the estimated natural condition of the forest to ensure it better reflects actual conditions.  
2. The 2012 FMP objectives for forest texture and patch will be produced using outputs from the Ontario Landscape Tool (OLT). |
|   |   | Method of Tracking Progress:  
1. Approved 2012 FMP  
2. Approved 2012 FMP  
3. Annual review of operational silvicultural program, AWSs and Silvicultural Effectiveness Monitoring and annual reports |
|   |   | 1. MNR Kenora District, Area Forestier/ MNR Kenora District, District Analyst  
2. MNR Kenora District, Area Forestier/ MNR Kenora District, District Analyst |
|   |   | 1. 01/04/2012  
2. 01/04/2012 |
| 6 | The Forest Manager must ensure that moose shelter patches are retained as specified in the FMP. | Action Required:  
1. The Forest Manager will ensure that the planned shelter patches are appropriately placed on the operational maps in the AWS.  
2. Training and Pre-harvest meetings with the harvest contractor will review the prescriptions for the harvest area and any moose shelter patches.  
3. Moose shelter patch retention or harvest will be noted in the final compliance report for a harvest area. |
|   |   | 1. MNR Kenora District, Area Biologist  
2. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist  
3. MNR Kenora District, Compliance Inspector |
|   |   | 1. Completed - 01/04/2011 and ongoing  
2. Completed - 01/04/2011 and ongoing  
3. 01/04/2011 and ongoing |
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<tr>
<th>Method of Tracking Progress:</th>
<th>Action Required:</th>
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| 1. Approved AWS operational maps.  
2. Training and/or Pre-harvest sign off sheet.  
3. Final Compliance report of harvest area. | 1. During the term of the 2009-2012 Contingency Plan pre-harvest meetings with harvest contractors will discuss the soil types in the harvest area and how to implement the Standards and Guidelines, as well as Best Management Practices for site disturbance (rutting and compaction) from the Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (Stand and Site Guide).  
2. Section 4.2.2.2 Conditions on Regular Operations of the 2012 Whiskey Jack Forest FMP will include the Standards and Guidelines and Best Management Practices for site disturbance (rutting and compaction) from the Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales (Stand and Site Guide).  
3. Training and Pre-harvest meetings with the harvest contractor will review the soil textures for the harvest area. |

The Forest Manager must ensure that operators refine their work methods on fine textured soils to avoid operating during wet or non-frozen periods.

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<tr>
<th>Method of Tracking Progress:</th>
<th>Action Required:</th>
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| 1. Pre-harvest sign off sheet.  
2. Approved 2012 Whiskey Jack FMP  
3. Training and/or Pre-harvest sign off sheet | 1. The Forest Manager will undertake a 10% review of the data collected by the Free to Grow program and compare it to the 2012 planning inventory. If discrepancies are found a more comprehensive review will be conducted and corrections will occur prior to the Long Term Management |

The Forest Manager must ensure that the inventory is reviewed and verified for accuracy with respect to Free to Grow records updated during the audit term.

| | 1. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist  
2. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester  
3. MNR Kenora District, Compliance Inspector | 1. Completed - 01/04/2011 and ongoing  
2. 01/04/2012  
3. Completed - 01/04/2011 and ongoing |

| 1. | MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist  
2. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester  

| 1. | MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist  
2. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester  

1. Completed - 01/04/2011 and ongoing  
2. 01/04/2012  
3. Completed - 01/04/2011 and ongoing
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<th>No.</th>
<th>Action Required:</th>
<th>Method of Tracking Progress:</th>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>1. Post harvest inspections will be conducted to ensure proper selection of Forest Operation Prescriptions (FOP) and application of site preparation. The post harvest inspections will include information on the type of site preparation required, the spacing, the method, the intensity, etc.</td>
<td>1. Completion of post harvest site inspections and prescriptions. 2. Completed site preparation contracts. 3. On-site inspections by MNR representative and subsequent note to file. 4. FOIP</td>
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<td>2. Site preparation contracts will include specific spacing and intensity requirements to ensure that work done will meet the FMP objectives.</td>
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<td>3. Inspections of the site preparation will occur throughout the contract to ensure quality control.</td>
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<td>4. The compliance report for the completion of the site preparation program will comment on the overall quality of the work done.</td>
<td>1. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester 2. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist MNR Kenora District, Area Technician 3. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist MNR Kenora District, Area Technician 4. MNR Kenora District, Compliance Inspector</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>1. Post harvest site inspections will be conducted to accurately identify where the planting of red pine, white pine and white spruce would be appropriate. 2. Ensure planting stock orders include a</td>
<td>1. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester 2. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource</td>
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The Forest Manager must ensure that site preparation results in the production of planting spots of the quality and quantity appropriate to meet plan objectives.

The Forest Manager must ensure that planting of red and white pine occurs on appropriate sites.
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<th>Action Required:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The MNR Kenora District through the Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring program has started a review of all areas planted and seeded during the 2004-2009 audit term. This assessment will identify a) the presence of large gaps that require retreatment and b) the presence of competition suppressing the conifer-leading forest units. This recommendation is very significant and will require an incredible amount of resources to complete. The MNR Kenora District will seek...</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist</td>
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<th>Method of Tracking Progress:</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Compliance reports indicating slash has been piled and completed post slash pile burn report.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Forest Operations Prescriptions, AWS, Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring program.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

MNR Kenora District must ensure that: a) a review is conducted of all areas planted and seeded during the audit term and that fill planting or re-seeding occurs as necessary to support the achievement of FMP objectives, b) a review of all sites harvested during the audit term that are forecast to become conifer-leading forest units is conducted, and that tending occurs where necessary so that plan objectives can be met.
**Method of Tracking Progress:**
1. Tracking will occur through the MNR’s Silviculture Effectiveness monitoring program.
2. Annual Report
3. Annual Report

| 13 | The Forest Manager must ensure that seed collection and storage meet the needs of the renewal program. | Action Required:  
1. A review of the current seed requirements will be conducted. | 1. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource  
1. Completed - 01/04/2011 and ongoing |
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<td>2.</td>
<td>A review of current seed stock levels will be conducted.</td>
<td>Management Specialist</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>A seed collection program will be developed and implemented based upon the current and future requirements.</td>
<td>2. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Monitor seed stores to ensure an appropriate supply for future programs.</td>
<td>3. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Method of Tracking Progress:</td>
<td>4. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1. Report on the current seed requirements.</td>
<td>1. Management Specialist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2. Report on current seed.</td>
<td>2. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist</td>
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<td>3. Seed collection program developed and implemented.</td>
<td>3. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4. Seed stock levels.</td>
<td>4. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist</td>
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**Action Required:**

1. An annual review of the renewal rates will be conducted to ensure that the levels are appropriate to meet the silvicultural objectives in the current FMP. The renewal rates were reviewed and adjusted in order to better reflect plan objectives for April 1, 2009 (outside of the audit period). This review has occurred annually and will continue in the future.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Documentation of the annual review of renewal rates.

**MNR Kenora District must review the Forest Renewal Trust Fund rates particularly for spruce/pine/fir and assign rates appropriate for meeting plan objectives.**

**The Forest Manager must develop a road rehabilitation strategy for the next FMP to ensure that unwarranted roads are rehabilitated and returned to the productive forest landbase.**

**Action Required:**

1. All new and existing roads will be reviewed during preparation of the 2012 FMP with respect to requirements to access harvest areas. Road density objective targets will be established in the 2012 FMP and road use management strategies will ensure that roads not required for forest management activities

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Documentation of the annual review of renewal rates.

**The Forest Manager must develop a road rehabilitation strategy for the next FMP to ensure that unwarranted roads are rehabilitated and returned to the productive forest landbase.**

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**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Documentation of the annual review of renewal rates.
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|   | The Forest Manager must develop a monitoring program to ensure that all water crossings installed during the winter are inspected immediately following the first spring thaw after their installation, and incorporate the monitoring strategy into the FMP. | Action Required: 1. The Forest Manager will create a monitoring program to track water crossings installations. 2. The Forest Manager will review crossings that were previously installed during the winter months and determine if mitigation work is required. 3. These water crossings will be monitored to determine if additional mitigative work is required.  
|   | The Forest Manager must ensure that the interests of public safety are paramount for establishing pit rehabilitation requirements for all pits at all times. | Action Required: 1. An amendment to the 2009-2012 Whiskey Jack Forest Contingency Plan was approved and included the updated operational standards that apply to the extraction of aggregate resources for forestry aggregate pits. 2. The Forest Manager will monitor aggregate pits for compliance with the | 1. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester 2. MNR Kenora District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist 3. MNR Kenora 1. Completed - 01/04/2010 2. Completed - 01/04/2010 and ongoing 3. 01/04/2012 |
| 18 | MNR Kenora District must ensure that a review of the original field data of the barren and scattered survey occurs and that the inventory is appropriately updated with this information. | District, Integrated Resource Management Specialist | Action Required:  
1. MNR Kenora District will review 10% of the field data from the barren and scattered survey and ensure it has been incorporated into the 2012 planning inventory.  
2. A new Forest Resources Inventory (FRI) for the Whiskey Jack Forest is scheduled to be completed by 2014 and this inventory will have stands appropriately identified as forested, barren and scattered, etc. This inventory will be used in the development of the 2022 Whiskey Jack Forest FMP.  
Method of Tracking Progress:  
1. Approved base model inventory for the 2012 Whiskey Jack Forest FMP.  
2. 2014 FRI. | 1. MNR Kenora District, District Analyst  
2. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester | 1. Completed - 01/04/2011  
2. 01/04/2014 |
| 19 | The Forest Manager must ensure that: a) all information in the Annual Report is confirmed for accuracy prior to finalization, b) future Annual Reports contain all required discussions including progress towards achievement of plan |  | Action Required:  
1. The annual report will be submitted in accordance with the FMMP and the Forest Information Manual by November 15th of each year.  
2. The MNR staff will review the annual report to ensure the report is complete and | 1. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester  
2. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester | 1. 15/11/2011 and ongoing  
2. within 30 days of receipt of AR and ongoing |
| 20 | MNR Kenora District must ensure that the 2008-09 Year 10 AR is revised to include the following: a) analysis/discussion of changes that may affect future levels, effectiveness and expenditures of renewal and tending operations, b) analysis/discussion of effectiveness of silvicultural treatment packages that are exceptions to the forest management guides, c) review/discussion of needed modifications or refinements to modeling assumptions, d) a summary of progress on implementation of the 1999-2004 IFA Action Plan, e) an update of the inventory and running of SFMM at plan end (2009) to determine objective achievement, f) an update of the 2004-2024 FMP social and economic description, and g) based on the determination of sustainability and the social and economic review, develop recommendations for the next FMP. | Action Required: 1. The Forest Manager will revise the 2008-2009 AR to include the deficient information as identified in Recommendation #20 of the IFA report. This will then be submitted to the MNR Kenora District for review. 2. The MNR Kenora District and MNR Northwest Region will review the 2008-2009 Annual Report to ensure deficiencies identified in the IFA are addressed. 3. Following the MNR review the District Manager will provide the results to the plan author. 4. The plan author will address the comments and provide documentation to the District Manager on how the comments have been addressed. If necessary a revised AR will be submitted 60 days from the receipt of the MNR comments. | Method of Tracking Progress: 1. Revised 2008-2009 Annual Report. 2. MNR reviewed 2008-2009 Annual Report. 3. Copy of review results. 4. Documentation from plan author to District Manager. | 1. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester 2. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester 3. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester 4. MNR Kenora District, Area Forester | 01/07/2011 01/08/2011 15/09/2011 15/10/2011 |
| 21 | The MNR Kenora District Manager and the Forest Manager must ensure all required information is appropriately included. The MNR District Manager will provide the results of this review to the plan author. The Plan author will address the comments and provide the MNR District Manager with documentation on how the comments have been addressed. | Action Required: 1. The Kenora District MNR will complete | Method of Tracking Progress: 1. Annual Reports 2. Annual Reports | 1. MNR Kenora District, District | 01/05/2011 within 2 |
the required action plan in accordance with all IFAPP requirements and will contact the regional representative for assistance as required. Once the draft action plan is completed it will be submitted to the regional and corporate contacts for review and then the action plan will be finalized. The action plan will then be signed and submitted to the MNR Regional Director for signature.

2. The Kenora District MNR will complete the required status report in accordance with all IFAPP requirements and will contact the regional representative for assistance as required. Once the draft status report is completed it will be submitted to the regional and corporate contacts for review and then the status report will be finalized. The status report will then be signed and submitted to the MNR Regional Director for signature.

Method of Tracking Progress:
1. Final signed action plan.
2. Final signed status report.

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<th>Manager</th>
<th>years after approval of the action plan, as specified in the Forests Branch letter with approved action plan</th>
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<td>2. MNR Kenora District, District Manager</td>
<td>years after approval of the action plan, as specified in the Forests Branch letter with approved action plan</td>
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