

Independent Forest Audit

Provincial Action Plan Status Report

2016

Algoma Forest (2011-2016)
French Severn Forest (2011-2016)
Gordon Cosens Forest (2010-2016)
Lake Nipigon Forest (2011-2016)
Magpie Forest (2011-2016)
Mazinaw Lanark Forest (2009-2016)
Nipissing Forest (2011-2016)
Pic River Forest (2011-2016)
Spanish Forest (2010-2016)
Sudbury Forest (2011-2016)
Temagami Management Unit (2011-2016)
Timiskaming Forest (2009-2016)

**Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and
Forestry**



Table of Contents

- Introduction 8
- Recommendations 9
 - Principal 1: Commitment 9
 - Algoma Forest Recommendation #20: 9
 - Pic River Forest Recommendation #1: 9
 - Magpie Forest Recommendation #1: 9
 - Principal 2: Public Consultation and Aboriginal Involvement.....10
 - Gordon Cosens Forest Recommendation #1:10
 - Spanish Forest Recommendation #1:10
 - Temagami Management Unit Recommendation #1:10
 - Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation #2:11
 - French Severn Forest Recommendation #2:12
 - Magpie Forest Recommendation #2:13
 - Sudbury Forest Recommendation #1:13
 - Temagami Management Unit Recommendation #2:13
 - Principal 3: Forest Management Planning14
 - Timiskaming Forest Recommendation #3:14
 - Nipissing Forest Recommendation #1:14
 - Gordon Cosens Forest Recommendation #2:14
 - Nipissing Forest Recommendation #2:15
 - Algoma Forest Recommendation #7:16
 - Pic River Forest Recommendation #5:16
 - Algoma Forest Recommendation #8:16
 - Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation #6:18
 - Sudbury Forest Recommendation #2:19
 - Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation #11:19
 - Temagami Management Unit Recommendation #4:20
 - Principal 4: Plan Assessment and Implementation20
 - Algoma Forest Recommendation #18:20
 - French Severn Forest Recommendation #6:21
 - Temagami Management Unit Recommendation #7:22
 - Principle 5: System Support23
 - Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation #12:23

Principle 6: Monitoring	23
Timiskaming Forest Recommendation #7:	23
Timiskaming Forest Recommendation #9:	24
Gordon Cosens Forest Recommendation #6:	24
Sudbury Forest Recommendation #6:	25
Algoma Forest Recommendation #22:	26
Algoma Forest Recommendation #23:	27
Principal 8: Contractual Obligations	27
Nipissing Forest Recommendation #6:	27
Algoma Forest Recommendation #25:	28
Algoma Forest Recommendation #26:	28
Algoma Forest Recommendation #27:	29
Algoma Forest Recommendation #28:	30
Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation #18:	30
Magpie Forest Recommendation #17:	30
Lake Nipigon Forest Recommendation #10:	31
Lake Nipigon Forest Recommendation #11:	31
Lake Nipigon Forest Recommendation #12:	32
SFL Licences	32
Licence Extension	32
Timiskaming Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension.....	33
Nipissing Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension	33
Gordon Cosens Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension.....	33
Spanish Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension.....	33
Algoma Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension	33
Pic River Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension	34
Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension.....	34
French Severn Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension	34
Sudbury Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension	34
Lake Nipigon Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension.....	35
Licence Review	35
2016 SFL Licence Reviews.....	35

2016 Provincial Action Plan Status Report Submission Signature Page

Prepared By:

Linda Touzin, R.P.F.
Sr. Program Advisor - Forestry, Divisional Support Section
NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Integration Branch

Reviewed By:

Date: October 6, 2021
Stephen Duda
A/Manager, Divisional Support Section
NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Integration Branch

Date: October 21, 2021
Kevin Ride
A/Regional Resources Manager
NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Northwest Region

Date: October 20, 2021
Mitch Baldwin
A/Regional Resources Manager
NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Northeast Region

Date: October 18, 2021
Suzy Shalla
A/Regional Resources Manager
NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Southern Region

Date: October 6, 2021
Spooner Collins
Manager, Forest Planning Policy Section
NDMNRF, Policy Division, Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch

Date: October 18, 2021
Hugh Lougheed
Manager, Forest Management Policy Section
NDMNRF, Policy Division, Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch

Date: October 18, 2021

Michelle Colley

Manager, Natural Resources Information Section

NDMNRF, Provincial Services Division, Science and Research Branch

Date: October 15, 2021 w/edits

Dan Puddister

Manager, Forest Research and Monitoring Section

NDMNRF, Provincial Services Division, Science and Research Branch

Date: October 12, 2021

David de Geus

Manager, Timber Allocation and Licensing Section

NDMNRF, Forest Industry Division, Operations Branch

Date: October 18, 2021

David Repath

Manager, Forest Economics Section

NDMNRF, Forest Industry Division, Forest Tenure and Economics Branch

2016 Provincial Action Plan Endorsement Signature Page

Approved By:

Date: October 26, 2021

Michael Gluck

Regional Director

NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Northwest Region

Date: November 2, 2021

Sylvain Lévesque

Regional Director

NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Northeast Region

Date: October 28, 2021

Sharon Rew

Regional Director

NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Southern Region

Date: October 28, 2021

Deb Weedon

Director

NDMNRF, Forest Industry Division, Operations Branch

Date: November 5, 2021

Jason Koivisto on behalf of Wayne Barnes

Director

NDMNRF, Forest Industry Division, Forest Economics and Business Branch

Date: October 27, 2021

Trisha Westman

A/Director

NDMNRF, Provincial Services Division, Science and Research Branch

Date: November 8, 2021

Peter Henry

Director

NDMNRF, Policy Division, Crown Forests and Lands Policy Branch

Date: November 8, 2021

Kathy Woeller

Director

NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Integration Branch

Introduction

Independent Forest Audits (IFAs) were conducted on the following twelve Management Units (FMUs) in Ontario in 2016, for the following years described:

- **Algoma Forest (2011-2016)**
- **French Severn Forest (2011-2016)**
- **Gordon Cosens Forest (2010-2016)**
- **Lake Nipigon Forest (2011-2016)**
- **Magpie Forest (2011-2016)**
- **Mazinaw Lanark Forest (2009-2016)**
- **Nipissing Forest (2011-2016)**
- **Pic River Forest (2011-2016)**
- **Spanish Forest (2010-2016)**
- **Sudbury Forest (2011-2016)**
- **Temagami Management Unit (2011-2016)**
- **Timiskaming Forest (2009-2016)**

The audits were undertaken according to the 2016 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP) which met the requirements of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) and Declaration order MNR-75 – Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) environmental assessment requirements for forest management on Crown lands in Ontario – Condition 36. It also met the requirements of Ontario Regulation 160/04 made under the CFSA (governing Independent Forest Audits).

The status report addresses the 42 IFA recommendations directed at corporate and regional levels of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) in the 2016 IFAs. The information in this status report is organized according to the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP) principles. The status of each recommendation is reported according to Appendix F of the IFAPP and includes each recommendation and its corresponding required actions (as written in the approved Provincial Action Plan), associated progress to date and future tracking requirements, if applicable.

The 2016 IFAPP required the submission of a provincial status report two years following provincial action plan approval or more frequently as may be required by the action plan or Minister. The 2016 Provincial Action plan was fully approved September 27, 2019. **This is the final Provincial Action Plan Status Report since as of 2017, there is no longer a requirement to prepare a Provincial Action Plan.**

The approved 2016 Provincial Action Plan Status Report will be made available on the Ontario government website.

Recommendations

Principal 1: Commitment

Algoma Forest Recommendation #20:

All levels of MNRF shall solicit input from operational staff within its organization and forest industry staff regarding opportunities to improve transformation and program delivery including addressing staffing levels, work loads, and efficient allocation of resources. MNRF shall provide information on the input received, and the manner in which the solicited input will be used.

Action Required:

Completed at time of action plan preparation. Through MNRFs continued implementation of the 2013 Transformation exercise, comments and suggestions have been collected. This information has been and will be taken into consideration when the Ministry reviews its BPI (Business Process Improvement) products and structure. A number of staff engagement sessions have occurred across Regional Operations Division (ROD) since transformation occurred to solicit input and provide feedback regarding the BPI initiative. At this time, the Ministry has gone through numerous exercises including Training Review and Assessment Project (TRAP) which are geared to the training and development of new and existing staff as it relates to specific positions within the Ministry and how to best execute their duties

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan preparation

Pic River Forest Recommendation #1:

Corporate MNRF shall ensure that Wawa District's full-time forester staff complement per forest management by the District falls within the range experienced in other Districts within the Northeast Region.

And

Magpie Forest Recommendation #1:

Corporate MNRF shall provide Wawa District MNRF the resources needed to meet all management obligations on the Magpie Forest.

Action Required:

1. The District Manager will meet with the Wawa Local Employee Relations Committee (LERC) to develop a staffing solution and discuss proposed solution with the Regional Director.
2. If the solution is supported by both the Regional Director and LERC, the District manager will implement it as soon as possible.

Progress to date:

1. Completed at time of action plan preparation. Task completed December 2017. District Manager met with LERC and has come up with a solution to hire a third permanent forester in the district.
2.
 - a. May 31, 2019 – to date no additional permanent foresters have been hired due to fiscal constraints. A competition was held for a third permanent district forester, but because a hiring freeze was enacted by the incoming Provincial Government that remained in place for an extended period the competition was never completed.
 - b. Aug 31, 2021. Completed. The Pic River and Big Pic Forests amalgamated into one FMU as did the Maggie and Martel Forests, which reduced the district forester workload significantly. These amalgamations have brought the district forester:management unit complement much closer to the NER average. The SFL on the newly formed Pic Forest, NFMC, also took over the SFL on the neighbouring White River Forest, allowing for streamlined communications, reviews and decision making for the district forester, again reducing workload. Also, annual workload priorities for District staff to meet their forest management responsibilities and obligations have been adjusted through annual workload planning, the continued MNRF Profession Development Plans with staff and through the filling of the district assistant management forester position.

Principal 2: Public Consultation and Aboriginal Involvement

Gordon Cosens Forest Recommendation #1:

The MNRF Crown Forests and lands Policy Branch must discuss with the MOECC appropriate ways to ensure decision on Forest Management Plan IEA requests occur within agreed timelines.

And

Spanish Forest Recommendation #1:

Corporate MNRF should engage the MOECC to discuss actions that would help with the rendering of a MOECC decision on Forest Management Plan IEA requests within agreed (normal) timelines.

And

Temagami Management Unit Recommendation #1:

To review the causes and take appropriate action for the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change delay of the Individual Environmental Assessment decision.

Action Required:

Completed at time of action plan preparation. MNRF has raised this issue with the

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP), including during the recent Declaration Order amendment process which resulted in the issuance of Declaration Order MNR-75 in 2015. During that process, the condition for “Requests for Individual Environmental Assessments” was amended. It continues to direct MECP to “make best efforts” to decide on requests within 45 days of the receipt of all required information from MNRF and the requester.

Ensuring MECP has all the information required to render a decision has been one of the challenges in rendering timely decisions. MNRF continues to work closely with MECP during IEA request reviews to ensure MNRF provides timely responses to MECP’s information requests. MNRF ensures IEA request reviews are coordinated and supported by key staff. The amended condition also includes provisions intended to improve the understanding of information required to be submitted by the IEA requesters and improve communications between the parties.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan preparation

Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation #2:

Corporate and District MNRF shall ensure that the test provided in the FMPM is used to determine which Aboriginal communities are eligible to receive and offer of customized consultation under Section A Part 4.

Action Required:

The action listed below should be considered in concert with the 2016 Management Unit IFA Action Plan response to this recommendation approved by the Regional Director on Aug 9, 2017.

The 2011-2021 Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Management Plan (FMP) was prepared in accordance with the 2009 Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM). The 2009 FMPM required the District Manager to contact each Aboriginal community at least 6 months prior to the commencement of the formal public consultation process for the preparation of the FMP to invite communities, in or adjacent to the management unit, whose interests or traditional uses may be affected by the preparation and implementation of the FMP, to discuss the development of a consultation approach for forest management planning with the community.

In August 2015 MNRF’s Environmental Assessment Requirements for Forest Management on Crown Lands in Ontario (i.e., Declaration Order MNR-75) were approved by Lieutenant Governor in Council (LGIC). Declaration Order MNR-75 required MNRF to revise the FMPM in accordance with Section 68 of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act to reflect the requirements of the Order (i.e., Condition 61). Condition 9 of MNR-75 required the revised FMPM to include criteria that MNRF District

Managers are required to consider when determining whether an Aboriginal community is an Aboriginal community in or adjacent to a management unit.

In July 2017 a revised FMPM was approved by LGIC and included several additional requirements for First Nation and Métis community involvement and consultation in forest management planning. The 2017 FMPM was revised to include the following (Part A, Section 3.1.1):

For each community that Ontario understands as having established or credibly asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights and is located in Ontario, the MNRF district manager will consider the following criteria when determining whether the community is a First Nation or Métis community in or adjacent to a management unit:

- whether the community's established or credibly asserted Aboriginal or treaty rights may be adversely impacted by forest activities, governed by this manual, in the management unit.
- whether the community has traditional uses that may be affected by forest activities, governed by this manual, in the management unit.
- whether the community has a local governance body or reserve in or near the management unit.
- whether the community has expressed interest in forest management planning or forest operations specific to the management unit.

Also, the MNRF District Manager will contact each First Nation and Métis community at least nine months prior to the commencement of the formal public consultation process for the preparation of the forest management plan to inform the community of the opportunities to be involved in the preparation and implementation of the FMP, including the opportunity to develop a customized consultation approach (Part A, Section 3.4).

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan preparation

French Severn Forest Recommendation #2:

Corporate MNRF to provide sufficient resources to the position of Resource Liaison Specialist to better and more consistently engage the Aboriginal communities it is supposed to serve.

Action Required:

1. Southern Region and Parry Sound District will explore staffing options to ensure that MNRF's legislated responsibilities are addressed.
2. Parry Sound District will engage with the Aboriginal communities in the 2018 AWS.
3. Parry Sound District will engage with the Aboriginal communities in the 2019-2029 French Severn Forest Management Plan.

Progress to date:

1. Completed. Resource Liaison Specialist (RLS) was filled at time of audit. Various individuals have occupied the position since the audit. Currently an Acting RLS position in the District is filled.
2. Completed. Direction on consultation with Aboriginal communities was updated in the 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual regarding the involvement of the Sustainable Forest Licensee in Aboriginal community involvement and consultation. District RLS provided contact information Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. A record has been kept of the results of engagement.
3. Completed. A record of engagement is kept at the District and by Regional Forest Management Planning staff. Communities were engaged at the required stages of the planning process. Information on engagement is also provided in the FMP text, Section 2.3 First Nation and Métis Background Information Report, and Supplementary Documentation O Statement of Environmental Values of the 2019-2029 French Severn Forest Management Plan. Also see sections Supplementary Documentation C First Nation and Métis Background Information Report and Supplementary Documentation D First Nation and Métis Involvement; information not available to the public for these sections is kept at the District office.

Magpie Forest Recommendation #2:

Corporate MNRF shall consider a means to reflect progress on a community-by-community basis for each of the six points included in the negotiations targets of Declaration Order MNR-75 condition 56.

And

Sudbury Forest Recommendation #1:

The audit team recommends Corporate MNRF report annually on a community-by-community basis for each of the six points included in the negotiations targets outlined in condition 56 of Declaration Order MNR-75.

And

Temagami Management Unit Recommendation #2:

To report annually on a community-by-community basis for each of the six points included in the negotiations targets outlined in condition 56 of Declaration Order MNR-75.

Action Required:

MNRF has changed the manner in which it collects information at the District level with respect to the implementation of the condition. District managers are now required to specifically indicate in their reporting whether they were able to address each of the six points (sub-clauses) of the condition in the negotiations that were undertaken with each

community in the management unit. They are also asked to report on any other topics for which negotiations may have occurred.

Progress to date:

Complete at time of action plan preparation

Principal 3: Forest Management Planning

Timiskaming Forest Recommendation #3:

Corporate MNRF shall review the species at risk observation data submission process to ensure that the information is promptly updated in the Land Information Ontario database that is used for planning.

Action Required:

The Northeast Resources Information and Analysis Unit (RIAU) has reviewed this issue with the Natural Heritage Information Centre (NHIC), who is the custodian of this information. NHIC acknowledges that a technical issue in LIO meant that lengthy delays existed between data submission and availability of data in the LIO warehouse. This problem has been resolved as of January 2018.

Progress to date:

Complete at time of action plan preparation

Nipissing Forest Recommendation #1:

The MNRF Science and Information Branch must ensure the timely delivery of FRI products and the implementation of appropriate quality control protocols in order to facilitate the incorporation of the most current and accurate forest resource information in forest management plans.

And

Gordon Cosens Forest Recommendation #2:

The MNRF Science and Research Branch must ensure the timely delivery of FRI products and implement appropriate quality control protocols to facilitate the incorporation of the current forest resource information in forest management plans.

Action Required:

1. The FRI program will work closely with the Provincial Forest Inventory Advisory Committee and local planning teams to achieve all delivery targets as outlined in the 2017 – 2026 production schedule.
2. The FRI Program continually improved quality control protocols throughout the 2006 – 2016 production schedule and will continue to refine those processes throughout the 2017 – 2026 production schedule.

Progress to date:

1. Completed. The FRI production schedule has been finalized for the 2017 – 2026 cycle. Some changes to the production schedule are inevitable, but these will be discussed with the Provincial Forest Inventory Advisory Committee and every effort will be made to minimize the impact to end users.
2. Ongoing. Ontario is improving the forest inventory by investing in the acquisition of Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) data, an advanced remote sensing technology. This new forest inventory information will inform forest management planning and decision-making by providing quantitative information on key forest structural attributes, including tree height and wood volume. The program also continues to explore targeted opportunities to improve species composition mapping using cost-effective, quantitative approaches. The program's delivery approach is supported by the Provincial Forest Inventory Advisory Committee, which includes representatives from forest industry and academia.

Organization and Position Responsible:

2. Provincial Services Division, Science and Research Branch, Natural Resources Information Section – Forest Resources Inventory Coordinator

Deadline date:

2. Throughout 2017-2026 production schedule.

Method of tracking progress:

2. Continued consultation with Provincial Forest Inventory Advisory Committee

Nipissing Forest Recommendation #2:

Corporate MNRF should amend the FMPM Forestry Aggregate Pit closure and rehabilitation requirements to better reflect the operational and access requirements associated with forest management realities in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Forest Region.

Action Required:

Complete at time of action plan preparation.

The forestry aggregate pit requirements related to closure and rehabilitation in the FMPM were reviewed during the preparation of the FMPM, 2017. Current requirements reflect a balance between streamlining of requirements while continuing to meet Aggregate Resources Act requirements. As noted in the audit report, there are opportunities for forest managers to pursue other permits where forestry aggregate pit requirements outlined in the FMPM are not operationally feasible.

Algoma Forest Recommendation #7:

Corporate MNRF shall fulfill its commitment to develop a strategy for managing the discontinuous range and southern coastal Lake Superior populations. MNRF shall also provide appropriate assistance to planning teams in incorporating the strategy into future FMPs.

And

Pic River Forest Recommendation #5:

Corporate MNRF shall fulfill its commitment to develop a management strategy for discontinuous woodland caribou range to enhance connectivity between the northern continuous range and southern coastal Lake Superior populations. MNRF shall also provide appropriate assistance to planning teams for incorporating the strategy into future FMPs.

Action Required:

MECP is considering all input received, as well as the best-available science, social and economic information to inform the development of a management approach specific to the Lake Superior Coast Range and Discontinuous Distribution. MNRF will incorporate any outcomes that pertain to forestry into-FMP training, once available.

Progress to date:

Completed.

- a management approach specific to the Lake Superior Coast Range (LSCR) and Discontinuous Distribution (DD) has not been developed.
- The Caribou Conservation Plan (CCP) is the government response statement for caribou and sets out policy goals. It contains actions related to the LSCR and the DD area
- **CCP Action 4.1.3:**
 - *Where caribou distribution is discontinuous, **Ontario will look for opportunities** through forest management planning and other land use planning to improve future connectivity between local caribou populations and isolated populations*
- Since the CCP was approved and as per Action 4.1.3 above, planning teams in the Northwest and Northeast Regions have incorporated objectives and conditions into FMPs to support temporary caribou occupancy and connectivity, between the Lake Superior Coastal Range (LSCR) and the continuous distribution ranges, within the area of discontinuous distribution.

Algoma Forest Recommendation #8:

Corporate MNRF shall review the requirements of the CROs related to nests and nesting birds to ensure they are in compliance with the Migratory Birds Convention Act. If necessary, MNRF shall provide direction in the revision of the CRO to bring them into alignment with the requirements of the Act.

Action Required:

During revision of the *Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales* (Stand and Site Guide), MNRF will review/revise direction in Section 4.2.2.8 to ensure consistency with the Migratory Birds Convention Act and the associated framework developed by Environment Canada.

The 5-year review of the Stand and Site Guide included the following relevant recommendations:

- Revisit setback distances; consider the need to have additional classes (potentially to address some of the larger-bodied birds such as swans, geese, and cranes) and the potential value of using more formal AOCs (similar to stick-nesting birds), at least for some of the larger-bodied species such as the trumpeter swan.
- Provide additional BMPs to minimize the risk of incidental take of bird nests following the new framework provided by Environment Canada.

Progress to date:

Action complete.

CFLPB's Forest Guides and Silviculture Section (now Forest Management Policy section) commenced the Stand and Site Guide revision project in 2019. Proposed revisions to Section 4.2.2.8 (Forest-nesting birds not covered by direction in previous sections) and Section 4.2.2 (Bird nest sites) have addressed the two five-year review recommendations listed above.

- Section 4.2.2.8 includes proposed species-specific direction for trumpeter swan and Canada goose/sandhill crane nests. A 400 m radius AOC (including setback distances) is proposed for trumpeter swan nests since the species shows strong nest site fidelity and is generally considered to be sensitive to human disturbance. A 50 m radius AOC is proposed for Canada goose or sandhill crane nests. The Canada goose frequently reuses nest sites but is an abundant, adaptable species while the sandhill crane does not reuse nest sites.
- New BMPs (to be included as CROs within FMPs) are proposed in the revised Section 4.2.2. These proposed BMPs address the three components of Environment and Climate Change Canada's (ECCC) guidance to address the incidental take of bird nests. They are as follows:
 - All forest workers will be reminded of their legal obligation under the **Migratory Bird Convention Act 1994** and the **Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act 1997** to avoid incidental take of nesting birds, their nests, eggs, and young. This may be most efficiently done during annual start-up meetings.
 - Whenever practical and feasible, operations that have a high potential to unintentionally kill, harm, disturb, and/or destroy nesting birds, their eggs or young (e.g., operations involving heavy equipment such as harvest, site preparation, and road building) will be scheduled outside the time period when birds may be nesting (generally mid-April to late August) and

- especially during the peak period of nesting (generally mid-May to late July).
- When conducting any operations from mid-April to late August, all forest workers will be vigilant for nests of all protected bird species containing nesting birds, eggs, or young. This includes being alert for evidence of nesting activity such as birds flushing from nests, birds carrying food or nesting material, and birds behaving defensively. When encountered, these new values/important ecological features will be reported as per requirements in FIM and the appropriate AOC direction or CROs will be followed.
 - When conducting any operations throughout the year, all forest workers will be vigilant for enduring nest structures that are likely to be reused. This includes stick nests and trees with large cavities that could be used by nesting or roosting birds such as chimney swifts, falcons, owls, or ducks (see also Section 3.2.3.1). When encountered, the appropriate AOC direction or CROs will be followed.
 - The following BMPs will normally reduce the risk of incidental take of unknown nests during harvest operations in the breeding season:
 - Minimize the ground covered by machine and extraction trails. Many species of birds (e.g., grouse, waterfowl, some songbirds) nest on or near the ground.
 - Preferentially retain wildlife trees with existing cavities (they may contain nests with eggs or young birds (or roosting bats)).
 - Minimize operations within AOCs associated with ponds and wetlands. There is a high likelihood of encountering nesting waterfowl near these features.

It is anticipated that a draft revised Stand and Site Guide will be available on the Environmental Registry for public review in the spring of 2022.

Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation #6:

Corporate and Regional MNRF shall inform Mazinaw Lanark Forest Inc. (MLFI) how they can make their operations comply with the ESA through the FMP, as an instrument of the ESA (section 18).

Action Required:

1. The 2017 FMPM enables an FMP to be recognized to 'have the same effect as' an overall benefit permit issued under the ESA where applicable, provided policy requirements are met. Southern Region will work with MLFI in the development of the 2021-2031 Mazinaw Lanark Forest to ensure the requirements of the ESA that specifically addresses Section 18 is implemented consistently as identified in FMPM (Part B, Figure B-4).

2. On July 1, 2017, a revised Forest Management Planning Manual came into effect that includes language to enable a forest management plan to be recognized as having the same effect as an overall benefit permit issued under the ESA, where applicable, provided policy requirements are met. The Forest Management Planning Manual provides direction for planning teams if they are using the enabling provisions.

Progress to date:

1. & 2. Completed at time of action plan preparation

Sudbury Forest Recommendation #2:

The audit team recommends Corporate MNRF develop a long-term management approach for seed orchards, including Lumsden Township and complete its review of seed management policy and genetics strategy in the province.

And

Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation #11:

Corporate MNRF shall support the development of a long-term management approach for the Taylor Lake seed orchard and complete its review of policy to manage seed and stock movement in the province.

Action Required:

1. In January, 2017, the MNRF recognized the important role the three regional forest genetics management associations play in managing the Province's genetic assets and in providing high quality seed to forest managers. The Minister approved enhanced funding under the Forestry Futures Trust for a Forest Genetics Resource Management (FGRM) purpose for a five year period ending March 31, 2022. This will support the regional genetics associations in managing Ontario's forest genetic assets, ensuring genetic diversity is conserved and by developing approaches that are adapted to future growing environments. The funding eligibility criteria include tree improvement and management of seed orchards.
2. Regional Operations Division (ROD), Integration Branch has hired a Senior Program Advisor, Biodiversity whose position has an emphasis on forest genetics and climate change. This position is the lead contact for the regional associations and Regional Operations Division offices.
3. Along with these administrative changes the Crown Forest and Lands Policy Branch (CFLPB) is leading a collaborative policy discussion with ROD and the Forest Genetics Research staff in Science and Research Branch. Revised text has been included in the Forest Operations and Silviculture Manual (FOSM 2017) to enable policies on the broader subject matter of forest genetic resource management. The initial focus of policy development is an update of the existing Seed Zone Policy. FOSM (2017) made the existing directive a policy which is

broadly applicable within MNRF and to partners delivering forest management programs. To support future strategic policy development, MNRF has completed jurisdictional scans on the broader forest genetics policies and strategic direction.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan preparation

Temagami Management Unit Recommendation #4:

Corporate MNRF to develop clear procedures for the development of Conditions on Regular Operations (CROs) in Forest Management Plans and provide that direction/training to Planning Teams.

Action Required:

Training on the *Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales* (Stand and Site Guide) is provided to FMP Teams during the Proposed Operations (or Operational Planning) FMP training sessions. This includes specific reference to CROs and how planning teams are to use the flexibility provided by the Stand and Site Guide in the development of their Forest Management Unit (FMU)-specific CROs. More emphasis will be placed on this topic in upcoming Operational Planning FMP training sessions, starting with Operational Planning for 2020 FMP teams in the Fall 2018.

Progress to date:

Completed.

Planning teams have been provided with clear direction on the development of Conditions on Regular Operations (CROs) as part of Proposed Operations (Operational Planning) FMP training.

Principal 4: Plan Assessment and Implementation

Algoma Forest Recommendation #18:

Corporate MNRF shall develop a policy regarding appropriate use of signage at water crossings that includes direction on use of signage to address liability issues. If such a policy already exists, MNRF shall inform relevant staff throughout the organization of its existence.

Action Required:

1. Develop operational sign manual providing guidance on signage requirements for roads and crossings on Crown land that are administered under the provisions of the Public Lands Act (PLA) and the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA)
2. Ensure MNRF staff are aware of the guidance developed

Progress to date:

1. Completed. The Sign Manual was completed in April 2019 and posted on the InsideOPS intranet site.
2. Completed. Staff across the province were made aware of the sign manual in April 2019 upon its release and have been using it in the Crown roads program since then. The manual was shared with staff and posted on the InsideOPS intranet site for the Crown land management program. This site contains training and information for staff to utilize in the delivery of their program. Staff also received training on a number of occasions since the sign manual was released as a component of annual roads inspection and management training. The sign manual will continue to be included as a regular component of this ongoing training.

French Severn Forest Recommendation #6:

Corporate MNRF to set Beech Bark Disease (BBD) as a high priority for research, monitoring and policy development in Ontario.

Action Required:

MNRF's Forest health monitoring and research programs established a set of plots in 2010 to monitor the progression of BBD and its effects. Additionally, our researchers are conducting a collaborative study with industry on BBD in the GLSL (French Severn and Bancroft-Minden SFLs) to assess regeneration implications and opportunities for managing forest, including silvicultural alternatives for increasing diversity and productivity of invasive Beech Bark disease effected sites. This research investigates pre/post-harvest silviculture (tending, spraying, site preparation) effects on regeneration success of beech & other species and includes linkages with the G&Y program. Products will inform Silviculture, Stand & Site, and Great Lakes St. Lawrence Landscape guides, as well as industry BMPs.

Progress to date:

1. Action ongoing.
2. Action ongoing.

Science and Research Branch maintains a plot system to monitor BBD across the range of beech in Ontario. The plots were last surveyed in 2017. The data have been compiled and discussions are underway to determine if surveying the BBD plot network in 2022 at the ten-year point will occur. We are also monitoring BBD in southwestern Ontario as part of the Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) + BBD plot network. This plot network was started in 2019 and was reassessed August 2021. A peer review journal article describing the incidence and severity of (BLD) + BBD in southwestern Ontario was accepted in September by Forest Ecology and Management.

Additionally, three research trials have been established by Forest Research and Monitoring Section (FRMS) in Science and Research Branch, NDMNRF in partnership with SFLs. Two sites were established in 2016: one in French Severn Forest and one in

Bancroft Minden Forest. The third site was established in 2017 in French Severn Forest. The trials are examining response of beech regeneration to harvest following three tending treatments: control (untreated), basal bark herbicide application (Triclopyr at a rate of 2.41 ha⁻¹ targeting beech smaller than 20cm in dbh), and brushsaw (mechanical removal of all beech smaller than 12 cm dbh). The 2017 French Severn Forest site is also part of the AshNET research program and includes treatments of wood ash application in conjunction with chemical tending.

Measurements have been completed by FRMS and partners from Natural Resources Canada in all trials for one-year post-treatment, and three years post-treatment in the trial established in 2016 in French Severn. A project update was circulated to stakeholders in 2020 (Packalen and Mallory, 2020). Preliminary results suggest both tending treatments were effective in controlling medium and large beech regeneration within the first three years post-treatment. However, there is some indication that brushsaw treatments increase the amount of small beech regeneration compared to control and chemical treatments. Thus, ongoing monitoring is required to determine if these small beech recruit to larger size classes. A peer-reviewed publication reporting these results is currently being drafted. The response of other species to release from beech is a target for future examination.

Packalen, M. and E. Mallory. 2020. Silvicultural options to mitigate beech bark disease in Ontario. Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, Science and Research Branch, Sault Ste. Marie, ON. Project Update. 4 p.

Future tracking:

Organization and position responsible:

1. NDMNRF, Provincial Services Division, Science and Research Branch, Forest Research and Monitoring Section, Research Scientist – Forest Health
2. NDMNRF, Provincial Services Division, Science and Research Branch, Forest Research and Monitoring Section, Research Scientist – Great Lakes-Saint Lawrence Forest

Deadline date:

1. Ongoing
2. 2024 for reporting 5th year measurements

Method of tracking progress:

Ongoing reporting to stakeholders

Temagami Management Unit Recommendation #7:

To test stakeholder-engaged structured decision making (S-E SDM) tools and Active Adaptive Management (AAM) as part of the upcoming forest management planning process.

Action Required:

Ensure 2017 updated Forest Management Planning Manual is followed regarding stakeholder engagement and consultation as well as adaptive management.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan development.

Method of Tracking Progress:

Approved Forest Management plan – public consultation summary.

Principle 5: System Support

Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation #12:

Corporate MNRF shall develop and implement approaches to increase the retention of staff and promote staffing stability in the District-level of the organization and/or find other ways to restore the effectiveness and functionality of the organization.

Action Required:

Southern Region and Bancroft District will explore staffing options to ensure that MNRF's legislated responsibilities are addressed.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan preparation

Principle 6: Monitoring

Timiskaming Forest Recommendation #7:

Corporate MNRF shall provide training to staff involved with compliance monitoring on the proper use of its Forest Operations Inspection Program (FOIP) software application.

Action Required:

ROD Integration Branch has initiated a review of the Forest Compliance Program. MNRF will ensure that this includes an evaluation of the need for FOIP software application training.

Progress to date:

Incomplete. ROD Integration Branch has initiated a review of the Forest Compliance Program. This includes the establishment of three (3) regional and one (1) provincial forest compliance committee. Committees are expected to be fully staffed by the Fall, 2021 at which time discussions on training needs will take place, one of which will involve the need for training on the FOIP software. In the meantime, existing online FOIP learning modules are being updated and will be made available.

Future tracking requirements:

1. Update of existing FOIP online modules
2. FOIP training needs discussed at Regional and/or Provincial Forest Compliance meetings
3. Development of content for any new training as determined by above committees

Organization and position responsible:

- 1, 2 & 3. NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Divisional Support Section Manager

Deadline date:

1. Winter 2022
2. Spring 2022
3. Fall 2022

Method of tracking progress:

1. FOIP online modules updated and available.
2. Regional and/or Provincial Forest Compliance Committee meeting minutes.
3. Other FOIP training content as determined by above committees.

Timiskaming Forest Recommendation #9:

Corporate MNRF and Regional staff shall develop a clear set of instructions, supplementary to the 2009 Forest Management Planning Manual that explains to the plan authors how to properly complete Table AR-10 (Summary of harvest and Regeneration Trends). These instructions should be developed in time to enable Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc. to complete an accurate version of the table to be included in its Year 7 Annual report due in 2018.

Action Required:

A clear set of instructions was developed by the MNRF Provincial Silviculture Program Specialist and provided to the Temiskaming Forest Manager (First Resource Management Group) on October 19, 2017.

In 2017 the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM), Forest Information Manual (FIM) and the Forest Operations and Silviculture Manual (FOSM) were revised to incorporate the direction of the Minister's decisions made in the SEI. This includes changes to the MNRF review, acceptance, and reporting of regeneration status as well as tables related to the assessment of regeneration.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan preparation

Gordon Cosens Forest Recommendation #6:

The MNRF Crown Forests and lands Policy Branch and the Regional Operations Division must complete a review of its field sampling protocol(s) and data compilation

procedures for SEM FTG survey audits (Core Task 1) to address local sampling variances and provide for more consistent and comparable estimates of the FTG condition between industry FTG surveys and MNRF FTG audits.

And

Sudbury Forest Recommendation #6:

The audit team recommends that the Crown Forest and Lands Policy Branch of MNRF advise Regional Operations Division MNRF as to whether the Sudbury District should jointly develop an SEM audit and evaluation methodology with VFM that uses consistent measurement and sample design features, in advance of the 2020-2030 FMP.

Action Required:

1. In January 2016 the Minister of Natural Resources and Forestry made decisions through the Silvicultural Enhancement Initiative (SEI) which responded to the Office of the Auditor General of Ontario report in 2011 that made a number of recommendations pertaining to silviculture policy for MNRF to address.

In 2017 the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM), Forest Information Manual (FIM) and the Forest Operations and Silviculture Manual (FOSM) were revised to incorporate the direction of the Minister's decisions made in the SEI.

2. Move to the Silvicultural Enhancement Initiative (SEI) which reviews and makes improvements to Ontario's silviculture policies which include planning, monitoring, and silviculture funding.
3. MNRF should post a decision Notice to the Environment Registry to describe improvement to silviculture policies such as Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM), Forest Information Manual (FIM), and Forest Operations and Silviculture Manual (FOSM) to support implementation of the decision.
4. MNRF should create a Technical Documentation for silviculture assessments.

Progress to date:

1. Completed
2. Completed. SEI was initiated in 2012
3. Completed. MNRF posted a Decision Note to the Environmental Registry in January 2016
4. In progress. Work is underway through joint efforts with forest industry (Silviculture Advisory Group, Working Group of the Provincial Forest Inventory Advisory Group) to develop technical requirements and approach to silviculture performance assessments.

Future tracking requirements:

Organization and position responsible:

- 1., 2., 3. N/A
4. NDMNRF, Policy Division, Forest Management Policy Section Manager

Deadline date:

4. Ongoing, with results to be reflected in next revision of the Forest Management Planning Manual.

Method of tracking progress:

4. Regular updates to management.

Algoma Forest Recommendation #22:

Regional or corporate MNRF compliance staff shall work with all certified Clergue (including overlapping licensees) and District MNRF compliance inspectors active on the Algoma Forest to review Part VI in the Forest Compliance Handbook (remedies and Enforcement) and Procedure 07 03 05, particularly the sections dealing with non-compliance identification and the operational issue management process, to ensure that the intent of the system is clearly understood and applied appropriately by industry and MNRF compliance inspectors on the Algoma Forest.

Action Required:

1. ROD Integration Branch has initiated a review of the Forest Compliance Program. MNRF will ensure that this includes an evaluation of forest compliance training needs for both MNRF and the forest industry.
2. Refer to the 2016 Algoma Forest IFA Management Unit Action Plan and Action Plan Status Report for further actions.

Progress to date:

Incomplete. ROD Integration Branch has initiated a review of the Forest Compliance Program. This includes the establishment of three (3) regional and one (1) provincial forest compliance committee. Committees are expected to be fully staffed by the Fall, 2021 at which time discussions on training needs will take place.

Future tracking requirements:

1. Training needs discussed at Regional and/or Provincial Forest Compliance meetings
2. Development of content for any new training as determined by above committees

Organization and position responsible:

1. & 2. NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Divisional Support Section Manager

Deadline date:

1. Winter 2022
2. As determined by forest compliance committees, based on priority setting of training needs

Method of tracking progress:

1. Regional and/or Provincial Forest Compliance Committee meeting minutes.
2. Development of training content as determined by above committees.

Algoma Forest Recommendation #23:

Corporate MNRF shall investigate whether a cause can be identified for the discrepancies between the compliance statistics reported in the 2014-15 AR-6 and those reported by FOIP. If necessary the Company shall update Table AR-6 in the 2014-15 AR with corrected compliance information

Action Required:

ROD Northeast Region has worked with the Company to determine whether a cause can be identified for the discrepancies noted above; the cause has not been determined, however, the company was able to revise the Table AR-6 and submit a revised table to the MNRF through the FIPortal.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan development

Principal 8: Contractual Obligations

Nipissing Forest Recommendation #6:

Corporate MNRF should remove the wood supply commitments to Precut hardwood inc. and Columbia Forest Products from Appendix E of the SFL.

Action Required:

1. Notification of companies: The companies have been notified that the commitments are no longer valid, as has the SFL holder. Columbia Forest Products has re-commenced operations and has requested renewal of their commitment. The process to amend the SFL to remove Precut and record final outcome of the Columbia commitment will be undertaken.
2. Amend SFL

Progress to date:

1. Partially complete. Discussions with Columbia Forest Products regarding the wood supply commitment continue. The process to remove Precut from Appendix "E" has not started.
2. Not completed. The SFL has not yet been amended to remove the Precut commitment from Appendix "E".

Future tracking requirements:

1. The final outcome of discussions with Columbia Forest Products will be recorded and result in a decision to either amend the SFL or re-establish the commitment.
2. Amended SFL.

Organization and position responsible:

1. NDMNRF, Forest Industry Division, Timber Allocation and Licensing Section, Manager
2. NDMNRF, Forest Industry Division, Timber Allocation and Licensing Section, Manager

Deadline date:

1. December 31, 2023
2. December 31, 2023

Method of tracking progress:

1. Record of discussions; re-established commitment with Columbia Forest Products, or amended SFL.
2. Amended SFL.

Algoma Forest Recommendation #25:

Clergue Forest Management Inc. (CFMI) in consultation with MNR Regional Operations Division shall develop and implement a plan using realistic estimates of harvest volumes, to bring the Forest Renewal Trust account up to the minimum balance within a specified period of time.

Progress to Date:

This recommendation has been addressed in the 2016 Algoma Forest IFA Action Plan and Status Report.

Algoma Forest Recommendation #26:

MNR Regional Operations Division and Corporate MNR, in consultation with Clergue shall undertake a review of the silvicultural requirements on the Algoma Forest to determine if the current minimum balance is appropriate.

Action Required:

1. MNR revised FOSM in 2017 and enabled the creation of additional forest trust policies.
2. MNR is developing a Forest Renewal Trust policy. Supporting procedures will be developed where necessary. As part of developing this policy MNR will review and analyze the silvicultural investment required for all Forests (including the Algoma). This policy will further describe the provisions for addressing silviculture obligations on management units where the licensee is insolvent and the licence has been returned to the MNR, and describe how minimum balances will be realigned to better reflect recent renewal activity on individual management units. Stakeholders are being provided opportunities for input.

Progress to date:

1. Completed at time of action plan preparation

2. In progress. Policy Division is engaging with the forest industry on multiple policy initiatives, with discussion of forest trust policies pending. While it remains a priority for NDMNRF, no timeline has been established at this time for industry engagement on this file.

Organization and position responsible:

1. N/A
2. NDMNRF, Policy Division, Forest Management Policy Section Manager

Deadline date:

1. N/A
2. No timeline has been established at this time for industry engagement on this file

Method of tracking progress:

1. N/A
2. Publication of Forest Renewal Trust Policy

Algoma Forest Recommendation #27:

Corporate MNRF shall determine the extent to which Clergue should be relieved of the obligation to repay outstanding monies owed to the Algoma Forest FRT due to the bankruptcy of St. Mary's Paper.

Action Required:

1. MNRF will review internal records to determine if the SFL or the bankrupt entity owes the outstanding charges to the FRT account.
2. MNRF will determine dollar value if bankrupt entity is determined to owe the outstanding charges.
3. MNRF will inform Forestry Futures Committee that Clergue Forest Management Inc. is eligible to apply to the Forestry Futures Trust Fund for silviculture project funding under the insolvency purpose if the bankrupt entity is determined to owe the Forest Renewal Trust Fund.
4. The Forestry Futures Committee will consider application when Clergue Forest Management Inc. makes application to the Forestry Futures Trust Fund. Furthermore, it will be noted that the silviculture project work does not have to be carried out on the same hectares as those that generated the outstanding funds obligation.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan preparation. Forestry Futures Trust Fund applications approved in March 2017.

Algoma Forest Recommendation #28:

Clergue and the Regional MNRF shall submit the status report for this audit within 2 years of the approval of the action plan.

Status:

This recommendation has been addressed in the 2016 Algoma Forest IFA Action Plan and Status Report.

Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation #18:

Corporate MNRF shall ensure work with the Company to review the special conditions on the SFL and consider revising or removing unnecessary and out-dated requirements.

Action Required:

Action completed. SFL Amendment – Mazinaw-Lanark Completed Nov 24, 2016.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan preparation

Magpie Forest Recommendation #17:

For time-sensitive recommendations, Corporate MNRF shall act as soon as possible to ensure compliance with applicable timelines.

Action Required:

1. As a result of the IFA Modernization Project, there is no longer a requirement for IFA Provincial Action Plans and Status Reports for findings deemed of a “corporate” nature. Following the cause analysis undertaken for each finding in the IFA final report, MNRF will track which findings deemed of a “corporate” nature are time sensitive and will follow-up with the appropriate MNRF section.
2. MNRF will develop a tracking mechanism to track findings deemed of a corporate nature.

Progress to date:

NDMNRF has been updating the IFA database with results of IFAs and related approved Management Unit Action Plans. Responsible parties are made aware of findings when asked for comment during the review of Appendix 1 and draft IFA report.

Future tracking requirements:

1. & 2. Ongoing. On an annual basis, NDMNRF will update the existing IFA database to include all IFA findings, including those deemed of a corporate nature. ROD Integration Branch will inform those parties responsible for follow-up.

Organization and position responsible:

- 1 & 2. NDMNRF, Regional Operations Division, Divisional Support Section Manager

Deadline date:

1. Within two (2) months of final IFA report being accepted by the ministry.
2. Ongoing annually after final IFA reports have been accepted by the ministry and after a management unit action plan, if requested, has been approved.

Method of tracking progress:

1. IFA database updated
2. Subsequent IFA verification

Lake Nipigon Forest Recommendation #10:

(As of April 2, 2021, the Armstrong portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest is the Wabadowgang Noopming Forest)

The Forest Industry Division of MNRF must split the current “Available Wood Report” for the Lake Nipigon Forest into two separate reports; one for the Armstrong portion and the other for the Lake Nipigon East portion. The “split” reports should identify what volumes are committed and/or included in the Provincial Wood Supply Competition offer.

Action Required:

It is through forest management planning, which is undertaken at the management unit level, that the available harvest areas and the associated planned harvest volumes are determined. Commitments are made by the Minister based upon the available volume in the applicable FMP(s). As neither the Armstrong Area nor the Lake Nipigon East are currently a stand-alone management unit with its own FMP, there is no associated Planned Harvest Volume and the Ministry is not in a position to make a commitment in accordance with the CFSA from either area (i.e., the Ministry is not able to formally split the commitment at this time).

Until circumstances change, MNRF will continue to produce a single Available Wood Report for the current Lake Nipigon Forest Management Unit. If the current Management Unit is reconfigured and stand-alone FMPs are produced for the Armstrong Area and the Lake Nipigon East, the Ministry will work with all affected parties to amend supply agreements or wood supply offers, and adjust the Available Wood Report accordingly.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan preparation

Lake Nipigon Forest Recommendation #11:

Corporate MNRF will review the “*Forestry Workers Lien for Wages Act*” with respect to its ability to ensure full utilization (delivery to processing facility) of harvested wood before the fibre is degraded to the point of being un-merchantable.

Action Required:

MNRF has reviewed Recommendation #11. The purpose of the *Forestry Workers Lien for Wages Act* (FWLWA) is to protect the wages of forestry workers engaged in the harvest of forest resources. Its purpose is not to ensure full utilization of harvested wood before the fibre is degraded to the point of being un-merchantable. MNRF will not be undertaking a review of the FWLFA at this time. MNRF will continue to use the tools available under the CFSA to support timely utilization of harvested fibre.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan preparation

Lake Nipigon Forest Recommendation #12:

(As of April 2, 2021, the Armstrong portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest is the Wabadowgang Noopming Forest)

Corporate MNRF will return the \$900,000 transferred from the Lake Nipigon Forest Renewal Trust Fund to enable Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. to address outstanding silviculture liabilities and meet their contractual obligations in the SFL (S.11.1(d)).

Action Required:

No action will be taken or is required by the Crown. In 2008 \$900,000 was legally transferred under Article 5.01 of the Forest Renewal Trust Agreement. This permitted a transfer for adjacent units held by the same SFL holder. At the time both the Lake Nipigon and the Armstrong Management Units were managed by Cascades Canada Inc. Upon completion of the transfer of funds to the Armstrong account, both the Lake Nipigon and Armstrong balances met the minimum balance requirements. After the transfer date (fund transfer) as per the SFL requirements it is up to the companies to meet the minimum balance by annually calculating the funds required to complete the planned renewal work.

Progress to date:

Completed at time of action plan

SFL Licences

Licence Extension

This section describes the licence extension recommendation made by the applicable auditors in 2016. The Magpie Forest and the Temagami Management Unit are

managed by the Crown and are therefore not included in the list below. The Pic River Forest currently does not have a Sustainable Forest Licence and there is a recommendation for MNRF to issue one.

Timiskaming Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension

The audit team concludes that management of the Timiskaming Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Timiskaming Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence #542247 for a further five years

Nipissing Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension

The audit team concluded that forest sustainability as assessed through the 2016 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol is being achieved. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of the Sustainable Forest Licence # 542053 for a further five years

Gordon Cosens Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension

The audit team further concluded that forest sustainability as assessed through the 2016 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol is being achieved. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of the Sustainable Forest Licence # 550039 for a further five years.

Spanish Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension

The audit team concludes that management of the Spanish Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by EACOM. Forest sustainability as assessed through the 2016 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol is being achieved. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of the Sustainable Forest Licence # 542391 for a further five years.

Algoma Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension

The audit team concludes that, with critical exceptions noted below, management of the Algoma Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Clergue Forest Management Inc. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The critical exceptions relate to management of roads and water crossings, maintenance of the minimum balance in the FRT account and implementation of an effective compliance monitoring program. Therefore, the audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of the

Sustainable Forest Licence 542257 for a further five years, only upon confirmation (through the Action Plan Status Report) that the following recommendation have been successfully addressed: Recommendations #16, #17, #21, and #25.

Pic River Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension

The audit team concludes that management of the Pic River Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Forest Resource Licences held by Nawiinginiima Forest Management Corp. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the IFAPP. The audit team recommends that the Minister issue a Sustainable Forest Licence to NFMC with a term of twenty years.

Mazinaw Lanark Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension

The audit team concludes that management of the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Mazinaw-Lanark Forest Inc. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence 542621 for a further five years.

French Severn Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension

The audit team concludes that management of the French-Severn Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence #542411 for a further five years.

Sudbury Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension

The audit team concludes that management of the Sudbury Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Vermillion Forest Management Company Limited. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence 542442 for a further five years.

Lake Nipigon Forest Recommendation on Licence Extension

The audit team concludes that management of the Lake Nipigon Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by LNFMI. Forest sustainability is being achieved, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence 550412 for a further five years.

Licence Review

MNRF will undertake a review of the Sustainable Forest Licences (SFLs) to ensure the terms and conditions of the licence have been achieved by the licensee. The following outlines the planned details of this review program.

2016 SFL Licence Reviews

Actions

1. Actions A review of the applicable SFLs for the above forests will be conducted to ensure the licensees have complied with the terms and conditions of the licence. As part of the review, IFA recommendations will be considered in accordance with Section 9 of the SFL.
2. Results of the reviews will be evaluated and if satisfactory, will be advanced to the Minister for his/her consideration.

Progress to date:

Algoma

1. Completed.
2. Completed. Licence extended to March 31, 2031 by Minister on August 26, 2019.

French-Severn Forest

1. Completed.
2. Completed. Licence extended to March 31, 2033 by Minister on May 28, 2020.

Gordon Cosens Forest

1. Partially completed. As of August 2021, the draft review is in progress. Once the review is completed Indigenous consultation will be undertaken.
2. Not completed.

Future tracking requirements:

1. Completed review. Indigenous consultation completed prior to March 31, 2024.
2. Advancement of review results to the Minister for consideration prior to March 31, 2024.

Organization & position responsible:

1. & 2. NDMNRF, Forest Industry Division, Operations Branch, Timber Allocation and Licensing Section, Manager.

Lake Nipigon Forest

1. Completed.
2. Completed. Licence extended to March 31, 2034 by Minister on June 2, 2020.

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest

1. Completed.
2. Completed. Licence extended to March 31, 2040 by Minister on June 16, 2020.

Nipissing Forest

1. Completed.
2. Completed. Licence extended to March 31, 2038 by the Minister on June 16, 2020.

Pic River

1. Completed. The Minister granted a Sustainable Forest Licence for the Pic River Forest to Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corp. on June 19, 2017.

Spanish Forest

1. Partially completed. As of August 2021, the review is in approvals. Once the review is completed Indigenous consultation will be undertaken.
2. Not completed.

Future tracking requirements:

1. Completed review. Indigenous consultation prior to March 31, 2024.
2. Advancement of review results to the Minister for consideration prior to March 31, 2024.

Organization & position responsible:

1. & 2. NDMNRF, Forest Industry Division, Operations Branch, Timber Allocation and Licensing Section, Manager.

Sudbury Forest

1. Completed.
2. Completed. Licence extended to March 31, 2038 by Minister on April 30, 2018.

Timiskaming Forest

1. Completed.
2. Completed. Recommendation to extend the licence was advanced in 2021 by Operations Branch, Timber Allocation and Licensing Section to the Minister for consideration.