

Lakehead Forest

2014-2021 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

Lakehead Forest 2021 Independent Forest Audit

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Introduction

The 2021 Lakehead Forest Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Report was accepted by the Natural Resources and Forestry Integration Branch on December 1, 2021 for an IFA conducted by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. for the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2021.

The 2021 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP) requires a Management Unit Action Plan be prepared in response to the audit findings.

A total of five findings were noted for the management unit. For each finding, 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.

Findings

Finding #1:

The production process for the development of the Enhanced Forest Resource Inventory delayed the production of the forest management plan and resulted in additional time and expense to Greenmantle Forest Inc. and the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry.

Action Required:

1. NRF Regional Planning Unit Supervisor will continue to advocate for the Forest Resource Inventory to be delivered on time and within technical specifications.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. NRF - Regional Planning Unit Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. n/a

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Email, meeting minutes of conversations with the Coordinator of the Forest Resource Inventory Unit.

Finding #2:

In the absence of reliable access, forestry and land use management objectives related to disturbance and renewal will not be fully achieved on the Black Bay Peninsula.

Action Required:

1. Greenmantle Forest Inc. to investigate and present to the NRF options to improve the reliability of access to the Black Bay Peninsula within the scope of the approved forest management plan and current Provincial Land Use Policies.
2. NRF and Greenmantle Forest Inc. to implement the selected option to improve access reliability.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Greenmantle Forest Inc. General Manager.
2. NRF District Manager; Greenmantle Forest Inc. General Manager.

Deadline Date:

1. August 2022 and ongoing.
2. November 2022 and ongoing.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Reports, Environmental Impact Study.
2. Implementation of selected option.

Finding #3:

Forest Management Plan Administrative Amendments were not consistently approved by Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry District Office in accordance with the timeline in the Forest Management Planning Manual.

Action Required:

1. Amendment submission and review process will be developed and implemented.
2. Review timelines will be established upon acceptance of amendment (in accordance with the FMPM).

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. NRF Resources Management Supervisor, NRF Management Forester
2. NRF Resources Management Supervisor, NRF Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. April 1, 2022 and ongoing.
2. April 1, 2022 and ongoing.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Status notification (emails) of NRIP submissions related to FMP products. record and tracking of amendments.
2. Amendment reviewed and approved by documented timelines.

Finding #4:

The Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry District and Regional Office did not fully implement a Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring program.

Action Required:

1. The Silvicultural Effectiveness Monitoring (SEM) program is currently undergoing a review which will transition the program to a Silvicultural Monitoring (SM) program with a focus on assessing establishment and performance. Such a transition will involve changes made regarding terminology, assessment methodology, sample intensity and reporting requirements to be implemented in 2023. To address the finding as written would involve the development of action items which would be focused on the present program which is currently being phased out. As a result, any action item developed for SEM at this time would be irrelevant by the time the new SM program requirements are implemented. For this reason, no action will be taken to address this finding.

Finding #5:

The operational standards for forestry aggregate pits identified in the forest management plans were not consistently met.

Action Required:

1. NRF to increase forest operation inspections as a part of its compliance program.
2. Greenmantle Forest Inc. to prepare training materials regarding the operational standards for forestry aggregate pits and provide training to its overlapping licensees and contractors.
3. Greenmantle Forest Inc. will create and maintain a Forestry Aggregate Pit database to track the monitoring and compliance status of each of its forestry aggregate pits.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. NRF IRM Technical Specialist, NRF Management Forester.
2. Greenmantle Forest Inc. General Manager.
3. Greenmantle Forest Inc. General Manager.

Deadline Date:

1. April 1, 2022 and ongoing.
2. November 2021 and ongoing.
3. January 2022 and ongoing.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. FOIP.
2. Training records; licence review meetings.
3. Forestry Aggregate Pit Database.