

Gordon Cosens Forest Management Unit

2010 - 2016

Management Unit Action Plan

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Gordon Cosens Forest 2010-2016 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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Gordon Cosens Forest 2010-2016 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Approval Signature Page

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Introduction

An Independent Forest Audit (IFA) of the Gordon Cosens Forest was conducted by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. during 2016. The Audit scope included the 6 years of operations from April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2016.

The Gordon Cosens Forest is managed by Tembec under Sustainable Forest License (SFL) # 550039, with management services led from Tembec's Kapuskasing office. The forest overlaps the boundaries of three MNRF Districts (Hearst, Chapleau, and Timmins). MNRF's administration of the forest is led by the Hearst District from its Kapuskasing field office.

The IFA Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on December 6, 2016 and provided to Tembec, MNRF Hearst District and Northeast Region on December 13, 2016. The report contained eight recommendations, including three which were directed to corporate MNRF. This Action Plan addresses the five recommendations which were directed to Tembec and/or District MNRF.

Recommendations

Recommendation #3:

Tembec must implement appropriate remedial silviculture interventions within poorly stocked plantations (as required) and enhance its monitoring program on artificial renewal sites with an emphasis on areas renewed since 2012.

Action Required:

1. Tembec will ensure areas artificially regenerated between 2012 and 2016 are surveyed, starting summer 2017.
2. Tembec will use the information collected to 1) identify areas that require additional treatments and 2) look for trends which might explain the poor stocking results.
3. Tembec will re-treat areas identified as requiring additional treatments.
4. Tembec and MNRF District staff will jointly look at Tembec's existing regeneration monitoring plan, revise as required and continue to implement the monitoring plan going forward.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Tembec Planning Superintendent
2. Tembec Area Forester
3. Tembec Area Forester
4. Tembec Planning Superintendent and MNRF Hearst District Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. Nov 1 of each year, concluding Nov 1, 2019
2. March 31 of each year, concluding March 31, 2020
3. July 15 of each year, concluding July 15, 2021
4. March 31 of each year, ongoing.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Annual data collection reports developed and plot location/results maintained within the GIS.
2. Schedule of retreatment developed and areas included within the respective AWS. Analysis completed to look for trends in the results.
3. Tembec renewal records and the respective Annual Reports.
4. Meeting minutes, monitoring plan including any revisions.

Recommendation #4:

The MNRF Hearst District Manager must ensure that Annual Compliance Operations Plans (ACOP) are prepared.

Action Required:

1. Ensure that the development of the ACOP is included in the Targets and Commitments of the Resources Management Supervisors and Resources Operations Supervisor; and included in the Personal Development Plans (PDP) of the Integrated Resource Management Senior Technical Specialists (IRM) and other appropriate staff.
2. To have an approved ACOP in place before the start of each fiscal year.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Hearst District, District Manager and Resources Management Supervisors and Resources Operations Supervisor
2. MNRF Hearst District, District Manager

Deadline Date:

1. May 15 of each year, on-going.
2. March 31 of each year, on-going.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Completed PDPs on file identifying staff involved in the preparation of the ACOP.
2. An updated and approved ACOP on file.

Recommendation #5:

The Hearst District must extend its delivery of the Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring (SEM) Program to include all Core Task requirements.

Action Required:

1. The Hearst District to organize and implement a field program consistent with Northeast Regional direction on a yearly basis and incorporate District priorities as required.
2. The results of the District SEM program will be reported back to the Northeast Region following the completion of the field season.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Hearst District, Resources Management Supervisor and Management Forester.
2. MNRF Hearst District, Management Forester.

Deadline Date:

1. November 15 of each year, on-going
2. February 15 of each year, on-going.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Survey records, SEM report, and Regional direction emails and/or documentation.
2. Completed SEM report including survey data sent to Northeast Region.

Recommendation #7:

To provide a reliable assessment of the free-to-grow condition, the District MNRF and Tembec must jointly implement sampling and data compilation procedure(s) for FTG surveys and Core Task 1 SEM monitoring that resolve data discrepancies and variability.

Action Required:

1. A joint session between Tembec and MNRF staff to create consistency in evaluating how we measure and report on the following:
 - Species composition string;
 - Forest Unit;
 - Polygon area; and,
 - Residual trees.
2. MNRF to provide SEM survey results to Tembec annually.
3. Tembec to use SEM data to calibrate their aerial survey crews with MNRF ground data.
4. MNRF and Tembec to jointly review the SEM results and AR data to discuss discrepancies.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Hearst District Management Forester and Tembec Planning Superintendent
2. MNRF Hearst District Management Forester
3. Tembec Area Technician
4. MNRF Hearst District Management Forester and Tembec Area Technician

Deadline Date:

1. May 2017
2. February of each year, on-going.
3. Annually, during aerial survey.
4. February of each year, on-going.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Meeting minutes and correspondence.
2. Correspondence between MNRF and Tembec.
3. Tembec FTG records.
4. Meeting minutes and correspondence.

Recommendation #8:

Tembec must ensure that Annual Reports meet the FMPM submission schedule and improve the quality of its initial Annual Report and Annual Work Schedule submissions.

Action Required:

1. Tembec to ensure staff resources are prioritized such that draft and final AWS and Annual Reports are submitted as per FMPM submission schedule.
2. Tembec to ensure internal reviews of draft AWS and AR submissions are completed prior to draft submission.
3. Tembec to provide reasonable annual opportunities to MNRF District staff to review key information pieces (i.e. maps) prior to draft submission of AWS and AR submission packages.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Tembec Planning Superintendent
2. Tembec Planning Superintendent
3. Tembec Planning Superintendent and MNRF Hearst District Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. Annually on Nov 15 and Feb 15
2. Annually prior to draft submission of AWS and AR.
3. Annually prior to draft submission of AWS and AR.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. FI Portal submission records.
2. Hard copies of review material including review notes and associated correspondence.
3. Meeting minutes and/or associated correspondence