

TROUT LAKE FOREST
2015 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT
MANAGEMENT UNIT ACTION PLAN

Status Report



Table of Contents

TROUT LAKE FOREST	1
2015 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT	1
MANAGEMENT UNIT ACTION PLAN	1
Status Report	1
Status Report Signature Page	3
Prepared by:	3
Reviewed by:	3
Submitted by:	4
Approved by:	4
Introduction	5
Recommendations	5
Principle 2: Public Consultation and Aboriginal Involvement	5
Recommendation #1:	5
Principle 3: Forest Management Planning	6
Recommendation #3:	6
Recommendation #4:	7
Recommendation #5:	7
Principle 4: Plan Assessment and Implementation	8
Recommendation #9:	8
Principle 5: Information Management Systems	9
Recommendation #6:	9
Principle 6: Monitoring	10
Recommendation #11:	10
Recommendation #12:	11

Status Report Signature Page

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Introduction

In June 2015, an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) was conducted on the Trout Lake Forest (MU#120) by Arborvitae Environmental Services Ltd. for the period April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2015. The final audit report was received October 27, 2015 and accepted by Forestry Futures Committee (FFC) on October 29, 2015.

This status report is required to be submitted by December 18, 2017. The status report includes the original approved actions for recommendations from the Management Unit Action Plan. The progress to date is listed below the actions required.

Future tracking is shown for any actions not yet completed.

The audit included recommendations under the headings of 5 of the 8 IFA Principles (Principles 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6).

Recommendations

Principle 2: Public Consultation and Aboriginal Involvement

Recommendation #1:

MNRF District in collaboration with Domtar shall engage the local tourism outfitters in efforts to develop a long-term strategy for the coexistence of tourism and forest management industries on the Trout Lake Forest.

Action(s) required:

1. An information session for Resource Based Tourism Operators (RBTO) on caribou habitat and forest management planning requirements will be held at the onset of planning for the next FMP, after the caribou tract analysis and strategic planning but before operational planning.
2. Individual RBTO long term management strategy meetings will be held with interested RBTO's to identify interests and mitigate forest management/tourism conflict.

Progress to date:

1. Not Completed – the timeframe for the onset of planning for the next FMP has not yet been set as the company is currently working on an extension request

for the 2009 FMP, proposing to produce a 2021 plan. The caribou tract analysis and strategic planning are usually completed shortly after the onset of planning; a meeting with the RBTO will be organized at that stage to present the planning progress to date.

2. The district is currently working on designing a survey to gauge the interest of the RBTO individuals on the forest. The results will help tailor our approach to meetings and discussions regarding the long term management direction as well as better understand how to foster positive relations between the forest and tourism industry. We will also engage the Red Lake District Resources Management Advisory Committee to seek input on how to proceed. The district will promote the RSA process as a means of resolving tourism/forestry conflict and will offer scoping meetings to those RBTO interested in pursuing RSA.

Future tracking requirements:

1. Public consultation documentation for the 2021 Trout Lake FMP
2. Public Consultation documentation for the 2021 Trout Lake FMP

Principle 3: Forest Management Planning

Recommendation #3:

The Company shall review the Phase II plan text regarding clear-cut size and Table FMP-12 and correct any errors in the text and table and amend the plan as necessary.

Action(s) required:

1. Domtar will review and update Table FMP-12 to reflect all planned clearcuts in the final phase II 2014 FMP that are greater than 260 ha. The plan text will then be updated to reflect the maximum and average size of planned clearcuts that correspond to the updated Table FMP-12. Once completed, a plan amendment request will be submitted for review and approval.

Progress to date:

1. In progress, information has been provided for analysis by the Northwest Analysis Unit and the final results are currently being reviewed together with the SFL in preparation of the forthcoming amendment.

Future tracking requirements:

1. An amendment to the FMP will document the change to text and table FMP-12.

Recommendation #4:

Domtar must ensure that a more thorough analysis and discussion is provided in the next FMP regarding any age-class substitution or under-allocation. The analysis and discussion should focus on the effect on plan objectives, future wildlife habitat and sustainability.

Action(s) required:

1. The 2015 IFA audit report recommendation #4 audit findings outlines reasons for and issues associated with the age class substitution in the previous plan. During production of the 2019 FMP this information will be considered and issues will be addressed including: slivers are not recognized in FIM, this data management issue will be corrected; unattainable areas will not be included as available.
2. Achievement of plan objectives, future wildlife habitat and sustainability will be the priorities during the selection of areas for harvest in the 2019 FMP and therefore age-class substitution will be minimized to avoid significant differences in age classes as was the case for some age classes in the previous 2009 plan. Under allocation will also be minimized to follow the plan objectives, future wildlife habitat and sustainability. The plan text will then include the analysis as stated in the audit recommendation should any age class substitution or under allocation occur.

Progress to date:

1. Not Completed – the timeframe for the onset of planning for the next FMP has not yet been set as the 2009 FMP is expected to be extended to 2021.
2. Not Completed – the timeframe for the onset of planning for the next FMP has not yet been set as the 2009 FMP is expected to be extended to 2021.

Future tracking requirements:

1. Trout Lake 2021 FMP text and tables
2. Domtar Trout Lake 2021 FMP text and tables

Recommendation #5:

District MNRF shall ensure that: amendment documentation includes all approval pages, all amendments are posted to the e-FMP website, LCC input into the amendment categorization and approval is documented with the amendment package, and a complete amendment summary is maintained and available on the e-FMP website as per the requirements of the 2009 FMPM.

Action(s) required:

1. For each approved amendment: upon approval the District will take the amendment approval page and file it with all of the amendment documentation that is retained in the District file.
2. The District will lead a review of the documentation for all amendments to the 2009 FMP together with Domtar Inc. to ensure all documentation is on file and to confirm the status of the amendment i.e. approved or not approved.
3. The LCC input into the amendment categorization (minor and major) and approval will be documented in the LCC meeting minutes and a copy of this input will be included with the amendment package. The LCC has previously agreed that administrative amendments do not require LCC review individually but that they will be provided to the LCC once a year for their information.
4. An up-to-date list of all approved amendments will be available on the e-FMP website and will include the amendment number, the reason for the amendment, the amendment category, and the amendment approval date.

Progress to date:

1. Complete.
2. In progress. Discussions are currently in progress to arrange a meeting between Domtar and MNRF District for January 2018 to review missing information
3. Complete.
4. In progress, posting to the eFMP website to occur upon completion of action item# 2 following the January 2018 meeting between the SFL and MNRF District

Future tracking requirements:

1. Complete.
2. None.
3. Complete.
4. None.

Principle 4: Plan Assessment and Implementation

Recommendation #9:

MNRF shall complete inspections of the roads that Domtar has identified as decommissioned and respond to Domtar's request for formal acknowledgement that the decommissioned roads are no longer the Company's responsibility.

Action(s) required:

1. District MNRF and Domtar Inc. to discuss this audit recommendation and confirm the priority road networks for decommissioning and MNRF inspections.
2. Assess the priority road networks (Sidace, Rita Lake and Mountain Road areas) via ATV and helicopter to facilitate the road transfer process.
3. Review public comments and assess the Eagle Road/Cramp Road network via ATV and or helicopter to facilitate the road transfer process as per Domtar's August 2013 request letter.

Progress to date:

1. A meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 2018 to discuss.
2. Complete.
3. Considerable work has been done to assess several of these road networks. The previous decommissioning plan, which was endorsed by Domtar and the MNRF in 2012, provided the background for the 2016 field assessment. The initial public comments were reviewed and will be considered in kind going forward to facilitate a roads transfer.

Future tracking requirements:

1. The District Annual Compliance Operations Plan (ACOP).
2. Complete.
3. The District Annual Compliance Operations Plan (ACOP).

Principle 5: Information Management Systems

Recommendation #6:

The MNRF District and the Company shall ensure that all signed approval pages for relevant planning documents are kept on file in their respective offices.

Action(s) required:

1. When signed the District MNRF will retain on file in their office, together with the relevant document, the approval pages for Annual Work Schedules and any revisions, FMP amendments, and the year three Annual Report that requires the Regional Director's endorsement.
2. When signed, the District MNRF will scan and e-mail to Domtar Inc. the approval pages for Annual Work Schedules and any revisions, FMP amendments, and the year three Annual Report that requires the Regional Director's endorsement.
3. Domtar Inc. will retain on file in their office the approval pages referred to in action 1 above together with the related document. Domtar Inc. will also

retain on file in their office all other Annual Report Title and Certification pages signed by the planned author together with the related Annual Report.

Progress to date:

1. Complete.
2. Complete.
3. Complete

Future tracking requirements:

1. A final review is planned for the winter of 2018 to certify that this recommendation has been met. Tracking will be through the submission of approval pages, amendments and revisions made to subsequent AWS, AR and FMP's
2. Future Approval pages, Amendments and revisions made to subsequent Annual Work Schedules, FMP's and Annual Reports requiring RD approval forwarded to the company
3. Approval Pages are copied and filed electronically with approved product.

Principle 6: Monitoring

Recommendation #11:

With the support of Corporate MNRF, the MNRF District and the Company shall consider making the appropriate adjustments to the annual compliance plans to adopt the new risk management approach to compliance planning based on risk analysis and management strategies.

Action(s) required:

1. The risk-based compliance requirements of the MNRF Forest Compliance Handbook, Forest Management Directives and Procedures FOR 07-02-03 and FOR-07-02-04, will be applied to the Trout Lake Forest FMP through a plan amendment and to the Trout Lake Forest AWS during the development of the 2016 AWS.
2. Annual Compliance Operating Plans (ACOPs) will be developed that outline timing and frequency of monitoring activities and sampling intensities (related to compliance inspections) based on the SFL's proposed operations described in the Annual Work Schedule. The MNRF Forest Compliance Handbook, Forest Management Directives and Procedures FOR 07 02 04 and FOR 07 02 03 and the MNRF Regional Operations Division Compliance Delivery Strategy provide direction which will be utilized when developing ACOP content.

Progress to date:

1. Complete, Domtar has considered the value of amending the Compliance reporting to a risk based approach. Domtar has not seen an increase in efficiency using this approach on other SFLs and therefore will not pursue it for the Trout Lake Forest at this time.
2. Complete.

Future tracking requirements:

1. Annual Plan Report 2017/2018
2. Future/subsequent submitted Annual Compliance Operating Plans(ACOP's) submitted

Recommendation #12:

MNRF shall collate and summarize SEM survey information related to free-to-grow assessments conducted both before and during the audit periods so that its value in supporting future planning requirements is optimized.

Action(s) required:

1. The District will compile all of the District SEM survey information for the Trout Lake Forest including data, reports and summary tables together in one electronic District file. This information will be shared with the NWR Office.
2. The District, with the assistance of the NWR Office, will review the SEM information towards reviewing calibration of the SFL surveys and reviewing assessments conducted by the SFL. SEM survey information will be further summarized for supporting future planning requirements.

Progress to date:

1. Completed SEM Data, information and reports have been submitted for years 2009-16
2. Completed- SEM data and reports are reviewed each year by the Management Forester and Regional Forested Ecosystems Science Specialists. Questions and concerns of the District office or Regional office regarding SEM data and results are communicated between the Management Forester and Regional Forested Ecosystems Science Specialists. Typically these communications occur through emails but in the past have occurred through face to face meetings during District engagement sessions.

Future tracking requirements:

1. Subsequent SEM data and reports submitted by the District Office to the Regional Office via the Regional Forest Operations Specialist.

2. During the development of the Trout Lake forest's future 2019-2029 Phase 1 FMP's Base Model, the Regional Forested Ecosystems Science Specialists will review the compiled SEM reports and data and confer with the Management Forester with the goal of utilizing this information to provide input in to the process of developing and the subsequent reviewing of the proposed silviculture options (see 2017 FMPM Pat A; 1.2.4.5 Silvicultural Options). Future tracking will also be possible through Annual Reports and year 10 trend analysis.