

Lake Nipigon Forest

Management Unit 815

2016 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

Lake Nipigon Forest 2016 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Submission Page

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Lake Nipigon Forest 2016 Independent Forest Audit

Action plan Submission Page (*continued*)

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Introduction

The final 2016 Lake Nipigon Forest Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on March 1st, 2017 for an IFA conducted by Merin Forest Management for the period April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2016

The 2016 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP) requires a Management Unit Action Plan be prepared in response to the audit recommendations.

A total of nine recommendations were directed to Lake Nipigon Forest Management (LNFMI), as well as the MNRF Thunder Bay and MNRF Nipigon District. For each recommendation, this action plan provides a description of the actions required, the organization and position responsible, timelines for each of the action items, as well as the method of tracking progress for each action.

A total of 3 recommendations were directed to the MNRF's Forest Industry Division (Rec. #10) and to Corporate MNRF (Rec.'s 11 and 12) and will be addressed in the Provincial action plan.

Recommendations

Principle 1: Commitment

Recommendation #1:

Thunder Bay District MNRF must immediately improve their management and oversight of the Armstrong portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest by addressing recommendations from the previous IFA, addressing outstanding compliance issues, and addressing the LCC's concerns about their engagement in the FMP process and implementation.

Action(s) Required:

1. Address previous IFA Recommendations.
 - a. Look at previous AP and outline what actions still require work
 - b. Outline work required to complete each action.
2. Address outstanding compliance issues.
 - a. Produce a list of outstanding issues
 - b. Produce a list of actions to resolve each issue with due dates.
3. Address LCC concerns.
 - a. Updating the Terms of Reference (TOR)
 - b. Hold more meetings and ensure meeting agendas address LCC concerns and provide meaningful engagement. Management Forester and Partnership Specialist to attend meetings.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Thunder Bay District Resource Management Supervisor.

2. MNRF Thunder Bay District IRM Technical Specialist (lead), Management Forester (support).
3. MNRF Thunder Bay District Partnership Specialist (lead), Management Forester (support)

Deadline Date:

1. Part a) June 30, 2017. Part b) October 31st, 2017
2. Part a) Completed Part b) populate with the due dates from each issue.
3. Part a) May 2, 2017 Part b) now and ongoing.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Updates to the 2006-2011 Status Report.
2. Part a) and b) FOIP
3. Part a) Approved TOR. Part b) LCC meeting minutes.

Principle 4: Plan Assessment and Implementation

Recommendation #2:

Thunder Bay District MNRF will immediately implement renewal, where appropriate, on all areas harvested, where silviculture has not yet been initiated, on the Armstrong portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest.

Action(s) Required:

1. Develop a list of outstanding silvicultural activities and associated Silvicultural Plan to address each outstanding activity.
2. Implement the Silvicultural Plan as developed under Action item #1 above.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Management Forester, Integrated Resource Management (IRM) Specialist
2. MNRF Management Forester, Integrated Resource Management (IRM) Specialist

Deadline Date:

1. June 30, 2017
2. Spring – Summer 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2017-2018 AWS and 2018-2019 AWS.
2. 2017-2018 AR and 2018-2019 AR.

Recommendation #3:

Thunder Bay District with the assistance of Regional Operations Division MNRF will increase their efforts to inform LCCs and Aboriginal communities about herbicide as a tool in forest management.

Action Required:

1. Thunder Bay District and Regional Operations Division to develop an agreed upon approach to educate LCCs and Aboriginal communities on the use of herbicides as a tool in forest management.
2. Present education and training material to LCCs and Aboriginal communities.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Thunder Bay MNRF Management Forester (co-lead); Thunder Bay District Partnership Specialist (support); Thunder Bay District Resource Liaison Specialist (support); Regional Operations Division Regional Forest Operations Specialist (co-lead); Regional Operations Division Regional Planning Forester (support); and, Regional Operations Division Forested Ecosystems Science Specialist (support).
2. Thunder Bay MNRF Management Forester (co-lead); Thunder Bay District Partnership Specialist (support); Thunder Bay District Resource Liaison Specialist (support); Regional Operations Division Regional Forest Operations Specialist (co-lead); Regional Operations Division Regional Planning Forester (support); and, Regional Operations Division Regional Forested Ecosystems Science Specialist (support).

Deadline Date:

1. Spring 2018.
2. Fall 2018.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Education and training material on the use herbicides as a tool in forest management.
2. LCC and Individual aboriginal community meeting minutes.

Recommendation #4:

Thunder Bay District MNRF will work with Aboriginal communities to develop a tending protocol on the Armstrong portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest that will address FMP objectives.

Action Required:

1. Building off of Recommendation #3, develop a protocol with Aboriginal communities regarding the use of herbicides and how MNRF and/or SFL holder, will work with each individual community in selecting appropriate stands to receive herbicides with the goal of protecting aboriginal community values.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Thunder Bay MNRF Management Forester (lead); Thunder Bay District Resource Liaison Specialist (support) and Regional Operations Division Regional Forested Ecosystems Science Specialist (support).

Deadline Date:

1. Spring 2019.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Individual Aboriginal community protocols as accepted by each community.

Recommendation #5:

Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. must follow the direction laid out in the FMP as identified through conditions on regular operations, particularly on shallow sites, and ensure the Forest Operations Prescription is appropriate for the ground conditions before operations commence.

Action Required:

1. Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. (LNFMI) will perform ground based post-harvest prescriptions on all harvested stands to ensure Forest Operation Prescriptions are appropriate prior to the commencement of operations. Revision of planned Silvicultural Ground Rules (SGR's) will occur as appropriate.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. LNFMI Silvicultural Forester

Deadline Date:

1. November 15, 2018 and annually thereafter.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2017-2018 AR and subsequent Annual Reports.

Recommendation #6:

Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. will develop and apply procedures as part of the Forest Operations Prescription for the judicious use of herbicides on the Nipigon east portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest consistent with the Tending Toolbox.

Action Required:

1. Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. will produce a procedure for the judicious use of herbicide on the Lake Nipigon Forest which will be implemented in all future Forest Operations Prescriptions for herbicide use.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. LNFMI Chief Forester, LNFMI Silvicultural Forester

Deadline Date:

1. September 30, 2017

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Approval of procedure by LNFMI Board of Directors and supplied to MNRF Nipigon District Office.

Recommendation #7:

Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. must ensure that all aggregate pits are tracked, reported and in compliance with the requirements as identified in the Forest Management Plan.

Action Required:

1. Production of a Forest Aggregate Pit Database which tracks pit details including but not limited to: pit identification number, pit opening date, area requiring rehab, area rehabbed and volumes removed from the pit. Information will be obtained through LNFMI surveys, compliance inspections and Overlapping Licensee information.
2. Active Forest Aggregate Pits being accurately reported in Annual Reports

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. LNFMI Operations/Compliance Supervisor
2. LNFMI Chief Forester

Deadline Date:

1. July 1st, 2018
2. November 15th, 2017 and November 15th, 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

2. LNFMI GIS data-base
3. 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 AR's

Principle 6: Monitoring

Recommendation #8:

Additional effort is required by the Thunder Bay and Nipigon District MNRF and Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. when preparing 10 Year and Annual Compliance Plans.

Action Required:

1. For the Armstrong portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest, Thunder Bay District MNRF will ensure that the 10-year compliance plan will conform to all relevant legislation, policies and guidelines; including a discussion of the previous plan's most common operational issues and mechanisms to minimize and prevent further occurrences.
2. For the Armstrong portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest, Thunder Bay District MNRF will closely examine the previous fiscal's compliance plan to assist in completing the next fiscal's compliance plan. Annual compliance plans will be updated to reflect changes and/or if deficiencies are recognized.
3. For the Nipigon East portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest, Nipigon District MNRF and Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. will ensure that the 10-year compliance plan will conform to all relevant legislation, policies and guidelines;

including a discussion of the previous plan's most common operational issues and mechanisms to minimize and prevent further occurrences.

4. For the Nipigon East portion of the Lake Nipigon Forest, Nipigon District MNRF and Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. will closely examine the previous fiscal's compliance plan to assist in completing the next fiscal's compliance plan. Annual compliance plans will be updated to reflect changes and/or if deficiencies are recognized.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Thunder Bay MNRF Management Forester (lead), IRM Technical Specialist (support).
2. MNRF Thunder Bay District IRM Technical Specialist (lead), Management Forester (support).
3. LNFMI Plan Author (lead); LNFMI Compliance Technician (support); MNRF Nipigon MNRF Management Forester (support), IRM Technical Specialist (support).
4. LNFMI Compliance Technician (lead); LNFMI Plan Author (support); MNRF Nipigon MNRF Management Forester (support), IRM Technical Specialist (support).

Deadline Date:

2. Approved 2021-2031 FMP.
3. Annually starting with the 2017-2018 AWS
4. Approved 2021-2031 FMP.
5. Annually starting with the 2017-2018 AWS

Method of Tracking Progress:

2. Approved FMP.
3. Approved AWS.
1. Approved FMP.
2. Approved AWS.

Principle 8: Contractual Obligations

Recommendation #9:

Lake Nipigon Forest Management Inc. must complete a Memorandum of Agreement with AV Terrace Bay Inc. to meet their "Wood Supply Commitments" in Appendix "E" of their SFL.

Action Required:

1. Completion of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with AV Terrace Bay Inc. (AVTB).

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. LNFMI Chief Forester

Deadline Date:

1. August 1st, 2017

Method of Tracking Progress:

5. Signed MOA on record.