

Magpie Forest

2011- 2016

Management Unit Action Plan

Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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Introduction

This action plan describes the recommendations and associated resolutions of an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) of the Magpie Forest conducted by KBM Resources Group for the period of April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2016.

Management of the Magpie Forest was in transition during the term of the audit. In January 2011 the previous Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) holder, Dubreuil Forest Products Limited declared bankruptcy. BDO Canada Ltd. (BDO) was appointed as trustee in bankruptcy in 2011. During the 2012-13 fiscal year, Dubreuil Lumber Inc. managed the forest on behalf of BDO. In May of 2013, the SFL was surrendered to MNRF. MNRF, through the Wawa District office, has managed the forest since that time.

The final Audit report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Trust Committee on November 28, 2016, and received by Wawa District and Northeast Regional MNRF offices on November 29, 2016. The report contained 17 Recommendations, including three which were directed to corporate or regional MNRF. This Action Plan addresses the 14 recommendations which were directed to district MNRF.

It is important to note that the method of forest management service delivery on the management unit is currently in a state of transition. The Ministry has initiated a process to contract forest management duties which would normally be administered by an SFL for a period from January 1, 2017 to March 31, 2018. A number of actions assigned in this plan, are to be delivered under this service contract. In these cases, an MNRF position with oversight responsibilities has been identified, with additional reference to the service provider.

Recommendations

Recommendation #3:

During the preparation of the next FMP, only approved Forestry Futures Trust projects shall be included in the planned renewal expenditure.

Action Required:

1. The plan author will include only approved Forestry Futures Trust Projects in the planned Renewal Expenditures of the next FMP.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Plan Author

Deadline Date:

1. Final submission of the next FMP.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Forest Management Plan documentation.

Recommendation #4:

The forest manager shall ensure that operators abide by wood utilization direction found in the Scaling Manual.

Action Required:

1. Utilization standards will be reviewed with FRL holders and compliance monitoring staff at the commencement of FRL operations.
2. Annual Compliance Operations Plan (ACOP) will identify that appropriate emphasis is to be placed on monitoring utilization of forest resources during compliance inspections.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider); Forestry Technical Specialist.
2. MNRF, Resources Operations Supervisor; Forestry Technical Specialist; IRM Technical Specialist.

Deadline Date:

1. Prior to commencement of FRL operations under each FRL.
2. May 30, 2017, and annually thereafter.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Documentation of start-up meetings on file at the forest manager's office.
2. ACOP, FOIP Reports.

Recommendation #5:

The forest manager shall ensure that operators abide by the FMP tree retention direction.

Action Required:

1. Wildlife Tree Retention standards will be reviewed with FRL holders and compliance monitoring staff at the commencement of FRL operations.
2. Annual Compliance Operations Plan (ACOP) will identify that appropriate emphasis is to be placed on monitoring Wildlife Tree retention during compliance inspections.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider); Forestry Technical Specialist.
2. MNRF, Resources Operations Supervisor; Forestry Technical Specialist; IRM Technical Specialist.

Deadline Date:

1. Prior to commencement of FRL operations under each FRL.
2. May 30, 2017, and annually thereafter.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Documentation of start-up meetings on file at the forest manager's office.
2. ACOP, FOIP Reports.

Recommendation #6:

The forest manager shall classify as two-pass harvest systems all stands not fully harvested during the audit term. Following this, FMPM requirements for two-pass harvest systems must be followed on these stands.

Action Required:

1. The Forest Manager will compile a list of stands which have been partially harvested during the audit term, and will make the determination whether a second pass operation or other silvicultural activity is appropriate for each area.
2. Areas determined to be appropriate for second pass harvest will be appropriately classified as part of the 2016 AR submission.
3. The Forest Manager will follow FMP direction on the continued implementation of operations on these areas.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider); Management Forester.
2. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider); Management Forester.
3. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider); Management Forester.

Deadline Date:

1. September 15, 2017.
2. November 15, 2017.
3. Ongoing.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Compiled list on file at the MNRF District Office.
2. 2016-17 Annual Report submission.
3. Ongoing – AWS and AR submissions.

Recommendation #7:

The forest manager shall ensure that all harvested wood is made available to other users at the earliest available date.

Action Required:

1. Forest Manager shall establish and maintain an inventory of unscaled, harvested wood, including location(s), species/product and estimated volumes.
2. Determine whether there are any legal claims against the wood.
3. Forest manager will approach potential users including (both commercial and personal users) to seek opportunities to utilize the material to the extent possible.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Forestry Technical Specialist; Resource Management Technician.
2. MNRF, Resources Operations Supervisor.
3. MNRF, Forestry Technical Specialist; Management Forester.

Deadline Date:

1. June 30, 2017.
2. July 31, 2017.
3. Ongoing.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Inventory maintained on file at Wawa District Office.
2. Record of communication on file at the Wawa District office.
3. Record of communications to potential users of the fibre on file at the Wawa District office.

Recommendation #8:

- Before licencing new areas for harvest, the forest manager shall ensure that the existing silviculture liability on the Magpie Forest is being addressed through completion of the planned renewal treatments in accordance with the schedule.
- To ensure that new silviculture liability is not created, the forest manager shall develop and implement a renewal plan for each new harvest area, which favours preferred silviculture treatments. These treatments should occur as planned and should not be delayed

Action Required:

1. Prior to licencing new areas for harvest, MNRF will initiate a process to acquire a service provider which will lead planning and implementation of a renewal and maintenance program.
2. Complete an assessment of the existing silvicultural liability.
3. Forest Manager will develop a renewal program for existing silvicultural liabilities and each new harvest area. Renewal plan will identify preferred silvicultural treatment, and where warranted alternate acceptable treatment and schedule of activities.
4. Planned Renewal treatments will be scheduled and implemented as in the appropriate AWS.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Wawa District Manager.
2. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).
3. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).
4. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).

Deadline Date:

1. Initiated March 11, 2016 by approved briefing note.
2. March 31, 2018.
3. Initially by March 31, 2018, and ongoing thereafter.
4. Ongoing, March 31 of each year.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Briefing Note to initiate RFB process on file.
2. Records of updated assessment of silvicultural liability on file at Wawa district office.
3. Records on file at Wawa district office.
4. AWS, Annual Reports.

Recommendation #9:

The forest manager shall ensure that the backlog of natural renewal area be declared in accordance with FMPM direction.

Action Required:

1. Forest Manager will identify and assemble a record of backlogged natural renewal areas.
2. FMPM direction will be followed to report these areas in the AR.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor. (via service provider).
2. MNRF, Management Forester (via service provider).

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2018.
2. November 15, 2018.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Assembled information documented on file in the Wawa district office.
2. Annual Report Submission.

Recommendation #10:

Operational direction in the Phase II FMP needs to be amended to restrict the use of larch trees as residual wildlife stems. Operational practices must follow this direction.

Action Required:

1. Forest Manager will review available direction and recommended practices to determine options for restricting the number of La left standing post-harvest where appropriate. A preferred option will be selected.
2. An amendment will be proposed to the FMP with the preferred option for restricting the retention of larch as residual trees.
3. Requirements from the amended FMP direction will be reviewed with FRL holders and compliance staff at the commencement of FRL operations.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Management Forester.
2. MNRF, District Manager.
3. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider); Forestry Technical Specialist.

Deadline Date:

1. December 31, 2017.
2. February 28, 2018.
3. Within one month following approval of FMP Amendment, and ongoing prior to commencement of FRL operations.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. FMP Amendment and supporting documentation on file at district office.
2. FMP Amendment documentation on file at district office.
3. Record of communications for existing FRL holders, documentation of start-up meetings thereafter.

Recommendation #11:

The forest manager shall ensure that all slash management activities be implemented on backlog areas recently declared naturally regenerating.

Action Required:

1. Forest Manager will assess slash on backlog areas and compile a record of areas requiring slash management.
2. Forest Manager will determine and record the appropriate slash management activities on the backlog areas.
3. Forest Manager will implement the appropriate slash management activities.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).
2. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).
3. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2018.
2. March 31, 2018.
3. December 31, 2020.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Documentation on file at the Wawa District Office.
2. Documentation of assessment on file at the Wawa District office.
3. Annual Report(s).

Recommendation #12:

The District MNRF shall ensure that, when issues are being missed, complicit compliance inspectors are involved in joint meetings aimed at improving their skills.

Action Required:

1. Joint inspections for the purposes of encouraging a common interpretation and understanding of standards will be promoted at start-up meetings and in ACOP.
2. Efforts will be made to ensure verification of identified Operational Issues is completed with FRL representative present.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Resource Operations Supervisor, Forestry Technical Specialist; Forest Resource Licensee(s).
2. MNRF, Resource Operations Supervisor, Compliance Inspectors; Forest Resources Licensee(s).

Deadline Date:

1. Prior to commencement of FRL operations (start-up meetings), May 30, 2017 (ACOP).
2. Ongoing as required.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Start-up meeting documentation, ACOP.
2. FOIP and communication records.

Recommendation #13:

The forest manager shall ensure that the FTG survey backlog is addressed expeditiously.

Action Required:

1. A record of backlog FTG areas will be assembled.
2. Backlog FTG surveys will be completed.
3. Survey results will be compiled and submitted in AR.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).
2. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).
3. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. Prior to November 1, 2017.
2. November 1, 2017.
3. November 15, 2018.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Records on file at the Wawa District office.
2. Records of survey results on file at the Wawa District office.
3. 2017 Annual Report submission.

Recommendation #14:

The forest manager shall ensure that areas deemed to be naturally renewing during the audit term are monitored prior to FTG assessment to identify the need for possible remedial treatments.

Action Required:

1. Forest Manager will assemble a record of areas deemed to be naturally renewing during the audit term which will require assessment.
2. Forest Manager will assess areas deemed to be naturally renewing during the audit term as part of the FTG surveys in the 2017 field season.
3. Any areas deemed to be naturally renewed during this audit term and not surveyed as part of FTG in 2017 will be identified for monitoring.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).
2. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).
3. MNRF, Resources Management Supervisor (via service provider).

Deadline Date:

1. July 31, 2017.
2. November 1, 2017.
3. November 1, 2018.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Records on file at the Wawa District office.
2. Records of survey results on file at the Wawa District office, and 2017AR.
3. Records on file at the Wawa District office.

Recommendation #15:

Wawa District MNRF shall ensure that a Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring program of adequate size is implemented.

Action Required:

1. District will start to implement a SEM program on the Magpie consistent with Regional direction and/or documentation.
2. District will submit a SEM report that outlines the program which was implemented.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Integrated Resource Specialist, Management Forester.
2. MNRF, Management Forester, Integrated Resource Management Specialist.

Deadline Date:

1. Ongoing, June 15 of each fiscal year.
2. Ongoing, February 15 of each following fiscal year.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Work planning records and survey records on file at the Wawa District Office, Regional direction emails and/or documentation.
2. SEM Report on file at the Wawa District Office with record of submission to regional office.

Recommendation #16:

The Trends Analysis Report shall be revised to remove any discussion regarding the ongoing lack of Forest Renewal Trust funds beyond the surrender of the SFL in May 2013.

Action Required:

1. Revise Trends Analysis Report to remove any discussions regarding the ongoing lack of forest renewal trust funds beyond the surrender of the SFL in May 2013.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Management Forester; NER Planning forester.

Deadline Date:

1. September 30, 2017.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Revised Trends Analysis Report on file at the NER MNRF office.