

Magpie Forest

2011- 2016

Management Unit Action Plan

Status Report

Magpie Forest 2011-2016 Independent Forest Audit

Status Report Signature Page

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Introduction

An Independent Forest Audit (IFA) of the Magpie Forest was conducted by KBM Resources Group during 2016 for the period of April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2016. The Audit Action Plan was approved by the Regional Director on February 27, 2017 and documented planned actions to resolve 14 recommendations which were made in the Audit Report.

Submission of this Status Report by the Wawa District Manager is due February 27, 2019.

Recommendations

Recommendation #3:

During the preparation of the next Forest Management Plan (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.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. Presently there are no approved Forestry Future Trusts projects on the Magpie Forest. The Plan Author did not include any Forestry Futures Trust projects when completing Planned Expenditures (FMP-19) of the 2019-2022 Magpie Contingency Forest Management Plan.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.

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 Forest Resource Licence (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.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. Utilization standards are reviewed at yearly start up meetings with FRL holders and compliance monitoring staff.
2. Complete. The Wawa District ACOP identifies that appropriate emphasis is placed on monitoring utilization of forest resources during compliance inspections.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.
2. None required.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. Wildlife tree retention standards are reviewed at yearly start up meetings with FRL holders and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) compliance monitoring staff.
2. Complete. The 2019-20 ACOP identifies that appropriate emphasis is to be placed on monitoring Wildlife Tree retention during compliance inspections.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.
2. None required.

Recommendation #6:

The forest manager shall classify as two-pass harvest systems all stands not fully harvested during the audit term. Following this, Forest Management Planning Manual (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 Annual Report (AR) submission.
3. The Forest Manager will follow FMP direction on the continued implementation of operations on these areas.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. Magpie Forest service provider developed a Silvicultural Tracking System (STS) that tracks the same piece of ground from reported depletion all the way to free-to-grow. This data base has been used to track areas partially harvested during the audit term.
2. Complete. The second pass areas were specifically identified in the STS. The area was assessed in the Fall of 2017 and a Silviculture Ground Rule (SGR) was applied to the stands.
3. Ongoing. Using the STS, the treatments will be included in the appropriate Annual Work Schedule (AWS).

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.
2. None required.
3. Based on the STS treatments will be scheduled in the appropriate AWS and reported in the corresponding AR.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. Partially complete. MNRF District is updating the inventory of unscaled, harvested wood, including location(s), species/product and estimated volumes.
2. Partially Complete. To be investigated further.
3. Partially complete. The forest manager has approached potential users to utilize the harvested volumes for fuelwood, not all volume was utilized since the wood has deteriorated (due to age).

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. Ongoing. The wood inventory will be updated during the 2019-20 field season.
2. Ongoing. Confirm if the statute of limitations is passed on the harvested wood. If not, call the Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie and inquire if there are any "Forestry Workers Lien for Wages Act" filed by the company that cut the wood.
3. Ongoing. The forest managers will continue to seek opportunities to utilize the material.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. MNRF contracted out a Service provider for the Magpie Forest which has led the planning and implementation of a renewal and maintenance program. The Silvicultural Tracking System (STS) user manual has documented the process for developing and updating the STS.
2. Complete. MNRF service provider has created an inventory of all known and suspected liability on the Forest. Liability will be added to the System as they are approved in Annual Reports.
3. Complete. The MNRF service provider surveyed the obligation based on priority in the Fall of 2017 (approx. 7,032.4ha). All areas surveyed received either Free-To-Grow (FTG) status or a silviculture plan to bring the stands to FTG. As liability are created through new harvest the liability will be added to the STS following AR approval. The areas will be surveyed, and a treatment plan will be documented in a Geographical Information System (GIS) layer.
4. Ongoing. The MNRF service provider has implemented the scheduled silviculture treatments from the Silviculture Tracking System in the 2018-19 AWS. Future treatment will be approved and implemented in the subsequent AWS.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.
2. None required.

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3. None required.
4. Ongoing. Tracking will be in the AWS and ARs and updates to the STS.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. Service provider developed a Silvicultural Tracking System which tracks the same piece of ground from reported depletion all the way to FTG. This system has been used to track backlogged natural renewal areas.
2. Ongoing. The Service provider completed an assessment of the existing liabilities. It will be used as the source of data for Annual Reports.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.
2. Areas will be tracked in the STS until they are declared FTG. Annual reports will document any backlog of natural renewal areas in the submission layers.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. Based on discussions with Northeast Region (NER) MNRF and service provider Operations Manager the available direction and recommended practices were reviewed, and preferred option was selected. The *Northeast Region Operations Guide for Marketability Issues* (2013) does not address residual larch. However, a new regional strategy has been initiated and will address the larch marketability issue.
2. Completed. The 2019-22 Magpie Contingency Forest Management Plan (CFMP) was updated to reflect the direction in the Stand and Site Guide as it relates to residual stand requirements specifically Larch. The direction will be assessed by the compliance program.
3. Ongoing. Will be reviewed annually during the start up meetings. The Martel-Magpie 2021 FMP will be required to include the new regional marketability strategy.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.
2. None required.
3. Ongoing direction documented in the 2021 Martel-Magpie FMP and provided on annual basis during start-up meetings.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. During the fall of 2017 approximately 1,787 ha of depletions were flown and assessed for slash management potential.
2. Complete. Appropriate slash management activities were recorded in the Silvicultural tracking system. An approach for treating these sites was documented in the 2019-22 CFMP.
3. Ongoing. The Silvicultural Tracking System has the function of scheduling future activities and will be used as the source of data for future Annual Work Schedules.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None Required.
2. None required.
3. Ongoing. STS and ARs will document the completion of the slash management activities in GIS layers.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. The ACOP promotes joint inspections between the licensee and MNRF compliance inspectors. Joint inspections are promoted during the annual start up meetings.
2. Complete. MNRF compliance inspectors have a good working relationship with the current FRL holders. Efforts are made to ensure that verification of Operational Issues are completed with the FRL represent present.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.
2. None required.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. Service provider developed a Silvicultural Tracking System which tracks backlog FTG areas.
2. Complete. In the fall of 2017 the service provider completed an assessment of the backlog FTG areas.
3. Partially complete. The areas determined to be FTG during the survey will be compiled and submitted in 2017-18 AR.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.
2. None required.
3. Review and approve 2017-2018 Annual Report.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. Service provider developed a Silvicultural Tracking System which tracks the areas deemed to be naturally renewing during the audit term.
2. Complete. The Service provider completed an assessment of the existing liabilities during the 2017 field season.
3. Completed. All areas deemed to be naturally renewed during this audit term and not surveyed as part of FTG in 2017 are identified in the STS for monitoring.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.
2. None required.
3. None required.

Recommendation #15:

Wawa District MNRD shall ensure that a Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring (SEM) program of adequate size is implemented.

Action Required:

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

Progress to Date:

1. Complete. SEM monitoring will be completed for the FTG areas reported in the 2017-18 AR.
2. Complete. SEM report outlining the program implemented will be completed following completion of the surveys.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.
2. None required.

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.

Progress to Date:

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

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required.