

Spanish Forest Management Unit

2010 - 2016

Management Unit Action Plan

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# Spanish Forest 2010-16 Independent Forest Audit

## Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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# **Spanish Forest 2010–16 Independent Forest Audit**

## **Action Plan Approval Signature Page**

**Approved By:**

Date:

Corrinne Nelson  
Regional Director  
MNRF Northeast Region

## Introduction

This action plan describes the recommendations and associated resolutions of an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) of the Spanish Forest conducted by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. for the six-year period of April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2016.

Management of the Spanish Forest is carried out under Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) No. 542391 by EACOM Timber Corporation (EACOM). Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) responsibilities are led by the Sudbury district office, with shared responsibilities from both Chapleau and Timmins district offices.

The final Audit report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Trust Committee on October 24, 2016, and provided to EACOM, MNR Sudbury District and Northeast Region on November 25, 2016. The report contained six recommendations, including one which were directed to corporate MNR. This Action Plan addresses the 5 recommendations which were directed to EACOM and/or district MNR.

## Recommendations

### **Recommendation #2:**

In the Year 7 Annual Report, EACOM should formally report on the causes and remedial actions taken to address damage to crop trees arising from its chemical herbicide tending program.

### **Action Required:**

1. EACOM will formally document the continuing investigation of the causes of damage to crop trees arising from chemical herbicide treatment to crop trees and what remedial actions have been taken to date..
2. EACOM based upon the continuing investigation, will, where feasible take further remedial action.
3. EACOM will formally report on the investigation and remedial actions taken to-date to address damage to crop trees arising from the chemical herbicide tending program in the Year 7 Annual Report.

### **Organization and position responsible:**

1. EACOM, Operations Forester
2. EACOM, Silviculture Supervisor
3. EACOM, Planning Forester

**Deadline date:**

1. Ongoing
2. Ongoing
3. Year 7 Annual Report submission - November 2018

**Method of tracking progress:**

1. Documented investigation, EACOM office
2. Annual Post-spray assessments, documented remedial action, and Annual Regeneration assessments, available at EACOM office
3. Year 7 Annual Report

**Recommendation #3:**

The MNRF District(s) and EACOM should investigate options to improve the current nuisance beaver management program to ensure the timely and effective implementation of the program vis-a-vis forest industry access roads.

**Action Required:**

1. A task team will be assembled
2. Task team to document current protocols that are currently being used on the Forest and develop a series of options and/or strategies, and benchmarks for the Spanish Forest
3. Task team to complete analysis of advantages and disadvantages of each approach
4. Task team to formalize a Protocol for Nuisance Beaver Management
5. Task Team examine results of the implementation following 1st year of implementation

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. EACOM – Coordinator, Forest Planning, MNRF Sudbury District – Management Forester
2. Task Team (EACOM – Coordinator, Forest Planning, MNRF Sudbury District – Management Forester, MNRF Chapleau District office – Management Forester, MNRF Timmins District office – Management Forester)
3. Task Team
4. Task team
5. Task Team

**Deadline Date:**

1. June 2017
2. Between June 2017 and December 2017
3. Between June 2017 and December 2017
4. December 2017
5. December 2018

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Emails, Terms of Reference
2. Emails, minutes of meeting
3. Minutes of meeting, emails, documents on file
4. Document on file at MNRF and EACOM office
5. Minutes of meeting

**Recommendation #4:**

The MNRF District Managers in Sudbury, Timmins and Chapleau must ensure that Annual Compliance Operations Plans are prepared.

**Action Required:**

1. For each District, the Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist (IRM) will initiate the development of the Annual Compliance Operations Plan (ACOP). The IRM will solicit input from District staff every December/January, to identify needs/appropriate direction for the following year's ACOP.
2. The current year's ACOP will be assessed for effectiveness by March of that operating year.
3. A draft ACOP will be prepared and recommended for approval by March 15th each year, via email from the IRM Technical Specialist to the Resources Management Supervisor, and seek District Manager approval.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF (Sudbury, Chapleau, Timmins) District – Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist
2. MNRF (Sudbury, Chapleau, Timmins) District – Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist
3. MNRF (Sudbury, Chapleau, Timmins) District – Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist

**Deadline Date:**

1. January of calendar year

2. March 15<sup>th</sup> of calendar year
3. Each District to have an approved ACOP in place by April 1st of each operating year.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Notes, minutes, emails
2. Draft ACOP
3. Confirm that ACOP is complete and approved by April 1st, or assess why it is not. Copy of DM-approved ACOP retained on file at each District office.

**Recommendation #5:**

The MNRF Districts must ensure that silvicultural effectiveness monitoring (SEM) of forest operations prescriptions is conducted in accordance with FIM direction.

**Action Required:**

1. MNRF lead forester (Sudbury) will distribute initial list of stands suitable for SEM from the previous year's Annual Report, and initiate a discussion with SEM leads from Chapleau and Timmins Districts. Complete by February 15<sup>th</sup> each year.
2. In each District, the management forester or IRM Technical Specialist will review the initial list, and identify stands suitable for SEM, as per the FIM direction. Complete by March 15<sup>th</sup> each year.
3. When stands are identified, the Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist (IRM) will coordinate a work plan and schedule staff to complete SEM activities in each stand/block. Complete by May 15<sup>th</sup> each year.
4. SEM surveys are carried out.
5. When SEM data collection activities are complete, the Management Forester or IRM Technical Specialist will collect and compile the data, and report on the results. Complete by February 15<sup>th</sup> each year, and forward to Regional Forest Operations Specialist

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF Sudbury District – Management Forester
2. MNRF Management Forester (Sudbury, Chapleau, Timmins)
3. MNRF IRM Technical Specialist (Sudbury, Chapleau, Timmins)
4. MNRF IRM Technical Specialist (Sudbury, Chapleau, Timmins)
5. MNRF Management Forester (Sudbury, Chapleau, Timmins)



**Deadline Date:**

1. February 15 of calendar year
2. March 15<sup>th</sup> of calendar year
3. May 15<sup>th</sup> of calendar year
4. December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year
5. Each District to report results by February 15th of the following year.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Notes, emails, initial list
2. List of stands suitable for SEM, kept on file
3. Workplan in each District for SEM activities.
4. Survey data
5. Final SEM report, and emails to Region (Confirm that SEM reports are complete by February 15th , or assess why they are not)

**Recommendation #6:**

As the Lead District, the Sudbury MNRF must ensure that the IFA Action Plan and Action Plan Status Report is submitted, reviewed and approved in accordance with the schedule established in the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP).

**Action Plan\*****Action Required:**

1. Upon notification from FFT that the Audit Report has been accepted, the MNRF lead will notify the Regional, District and EACOM leads.
2. The Regional lead will ensure that the District and EACOM are aware of timelines and requirements to meet deadlines.
3. The Sudbury District Manager will submit the IFA Action Plan to the Regional Director on or before the deadline.
4. The Regional Director will review and approve, or request alterations

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF – Regional Forest Operations Specialist
2. MNRF - Sudbury Management Forester; EACOM – Coordinator, Forest Planning; MNRF – Regional Lead
3. MNRF – Sudbury District Manager

4. MNRF - Regional Director

**Deadline Date:**

1. December 1, 2016
2. December 9, 2016
3. January 24, 2017.
4. January 25, 2017 (see Foot Note below).

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Email from MNRF Integration Branch lead
2. Meeting request, email and/or meeting minutes
3. Submission of IFA Action Plan to Regional Director, retained on file at the NER office (electronic and hardcopy), and a hardcopy with a signed approval page
4. Regional Director approved Action Plan for the Spanish Forest, retained on file at the NER office (electronic and hardcopy), and a hardcopy with a signed approval page

**\*Foot Note to Recommendation 6:**

Regarding the timelines associated with recommendation 6, the Forestry Futures Trust Committee accepted the Independent Forest Audit Final Report on October 24, 2016 and notified corporate MNRF. The report was not distributed to EACOM, or Regional and District MNRF until November 25, 2016. The action plan is being developed within 60 days of the date when the final report was made available to the parties responsible for developing the action plan. This approach was determined between the Northeast Regional Resources Manager and the Manager of Integration Branch, November 30, 2016.

**Status Report**

**Action Required:**

1. The Regional lead will notify the MNRF District Lead and EACOM lead about the need for the Status Report 60 days prior to the deadline.
2. The Regional lead will initiate a meeting with the District and EACOM staff to confirm deadlines, and responsibilities
3. The Sudbury District Manager will submit the IFA Status Report to the Regional Director on or before the deadline.
4. The Regional Director will review and approve, or request alterations

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF – Regional Forest Operations Specialist

2. MNRF - Sudbury Management Forester; EACOM – Coordinator, Forest Planning; MNRF – Regional Lead
3. MNRF – Sudbury District Manager
4. MNRF - Regional Director

**Deadline Date:**

1. 60 days prior to Status Report submission deadline (deadline=2 years after RD approval of Action Plan)
2. Within 60 day timeframe
3. 2 years after RD approval of Action Plan
4. After RD approval

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Email from MNRF Regional Forest Operations Specialist
2. Meeting request, email and/or meeting minutes
3. Submission of IFA Status Report to Regional Director, retained on file at the NER office (electronic and hardcopy), and a hardcopy with a signed approval page
4. Regional Director approved Status Report for the Spanish Forest, retained on file at the NER office (electronic and hardcopy), and a hardcopy with a signed approval page