

SPANISH FOREST

2010 - 2016

Management Unit Action Plan

Status Report

Spanish Forest 2016 Independent Forest Audit Status Report Signature Page

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Spanish Forest 2010–16 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Approval Signature Page

Approved By:

Date:

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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.

The Audit Action Plan was approved by the Regional Director on February 27, 2017 and documented planned actions to resolve 5 recommendations which were made in the Audit Report.

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

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.

Progress to Date:

1. Completed – refer to the Year 7 Annual Report for a summary of the investigation and remedial actions taken to date.
2. Completed – In 2018, the Company applied a glyphosate-based chemical called Weedmaster on approximately 3,000 ha. Weedmaster is a low active ingredient chemical. Results of the treatment will be investigated during spring/summer 2019.
3. Completed – results of the investigation and remedial actions were reported in the Year 7 Annual Report.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. EACOM will continue monitoring the results of the aerial tending program. Records of the investigation will be kept at the EACOM office.
2. If further remedial action is required and/or taken, EACOM will document the findings and/or results in the relevant Annual Report.
3. None required.

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

Progress to Date:

1. Completed
2. Ongoing - It was discovered that nuisance beaver management on the Spanish Forest was much more complex than originally anticipated. The Spanish Forest involves three MNRF Districts (i.e., Sudbury, Timmins and Chapleau), two operating groups within the SFL holder (EACOM), two trappers' councils and trappers that live in a range of communities.
3. Ongoing - As of January 2019 a specific protocol has not been finalized. The task team has spent a considerable amount of time assessing the various strategies that could be used. Following several task team meetings, EACOM suggested they would develop a 'toolbox' as a possible approach and bring it to the task team for consideration.
4. To be completed.
5. To be completed.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. None required
2. Finalized Nuisance Beaver Management Protocol, June 2019
3. Finalized Nuisance Beaver Management Protocol, June 2019
4. Finalized Nuisance Beaver Management Protocol, June 2019
5. Minutes from meetings, revised protocol document and changes, if required, reflected in FMP and AWS, September 2020.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. In 2017, 2018 and 2019, the IRM Technical Specialist has led a process to update the ACOP. The IRM engaged District staff to commence a yearly review.
2. Through a yearly process of meetings, the ACOP is developed and submitted for approval.
3. This process has also been completed under the direction of the Regional Operations Division's Compliance Delivery Strategy. The strategy has formalized an annual compliance cycle, which includes the development of the ACOP.

Future Tracking Requirements:

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

Action Required:

1. MNRD 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 15th 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 15th 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 15th 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 15th each year, and forward to Regional Forest Operations Specialist

Progress to Date:

1. After the ROD transformation exercise, the SEM program has become normalized within each Districts annual work cycle. Sudbury District has initiated the annual SEM exercise at the approval of the previous year's Annual Report.
2. Sudbury District has given notice to Chapleau and Timmins Districts, and all three District identify SEM blocks for the coming season.
3. Sudbury and Timmins have identified a work plan and scheduled staff to complete the annual SEM requirements
4. SEM has occurred each year.
5. SEM reports have been compiled and summarized and submitted to the regional forest operations specialist for regional and provincial role up.

Future Tracking Requirements:

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

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

Progress to Date:

1. Completed – November 30, 2016
2. Completed – November 30, 2016
3. Completed – January 25, 2017
4. Completed – February 27, 2017

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. No future tracking required.
2. No future tracking required.
3. No future tracking required.
4. No future tracking required.

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

Progress to Date:

1. Not completed. Status report reminder was sent out 33 days prior to deadline due to staff turn over in the Forest Operations Specialist position.
2. Completed – January 25, 2019 through email.
3. Ongoing – on track for on-time completion.
4. Ongoing – on track for on-time completion.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. Email
2. Email
3. Email
4. Final approved status report