

Independent Forest Audit

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest

2016 IFA

## **Action Plan**

Mazinaw-Lanark Forest, April 2017

# 2016 Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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The original signed version of this page is retained at the MNRF Regional Office and SFL office.

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# Introduction

In July 2016 an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) was conducted on the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest for the period April 1, 2009, to March 31, 2016. Integration Branch was notified of the Forestry Futures Committee's acceptance of the report as being final on February 6, 2017. A Management Unit Action Plan is due April of 2017.

The final audit report for the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest included 16 management unit recommendations that are being addressed in this action plan. The other 4 recommendations were directed at corporate and regional Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). These recommendations and the recommendation to extend the licence were addressed in a separate Provincial Action Plan. For each management unit audit recommendation, the action plan outlines the actions required, responsibility, timelines, and method of tracking progress of actions.

## 2016 IFA Recommendations

### Recommendation 1

Bancroft District MNRF shall strengthen its administrative support of the LCC and review the frequency, times and ways in which meetings are held.

#### Action Required:

1. Bancroft District MNRF Local Citizens Committee (LCC) Terms of Reference will be reviewed to ensure compliance with the requirements of the 2009 Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM), Section 3.2.4. The review will include, but will not be limited to, operational procedures, roles and responsibilities.

#### Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Bancroft District MNRF Resources Management Supervisor.

#### Deadline Date:

1. April 1, 2018-Next Annual Work Schedule (AWS).

#### Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Updated LCC Terms of Reference.

## **Recommendation 2**

Corporate and District MNRF shall ensure that the test provided in the FMPM is used to determine which Aboriginal communities are eligible to receive an offer of customized consultation under Section A Part 4.

### **Action Required:**

Note: The actions listed below should be considered in concert with the 2017 Provincial IFA Action Plan response to this recommendation.

1. The MNRF District will utilize the FMPM and other pertinent corporate direction to determine which Aboriginal communities are eligible to receive an offer of customized consultation.

### **Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Bancroft District Resources Management Supervisor/Resource Liaison Specialist (Lead)/Regional Resources Liaison Specialist.

### **Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2021.

### **Method of tracking progress:**

1. Maintain records of discussions and correspondence related to this recommendation.

## **Recommendation 3**

The Planning Team for the next FMP (expected in 2021) shall consider all aspects of natural disturbance when setting disturbance cycles for the MLF.

### **Action Required:**

1. The Simulated Range of Natural Variation (SRNV) from the Ontario Landscape Tool (OLT) will be utilized for the estimated natural condition of the forest to ensure it better reflects actual conditions.
2. Deviations from the relevant science packages will be considered by the planning team and rationale will be provided in the Forest Management Plan (FMP).

### **Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Mazinaw Lanark Forest Inc. (MLFI) Plan Author (Lead).
2. MNRF Regional Planning Forester.

### **Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2021.
2. April 1, 2021

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Approved 2021 FMP
2. Approved 2021 FMP

**Recommendation 4**

The Planning Team for the next FMP (expected in 2021) shall fully consider the risk that a continuation of the historic underharvest will compromise the achievement of that plan's objectives.

**Action Required:**

1. Planning team will follow anticipated revisions in the 2017 FMPM requiring a risk assessment of planned harvest before the LTMD is finalized for the next FMP.
2. Planning team will integrate Wood Utilization Reviews into the forest management planning process to provide greater information on wood utilization to better inform the risk assessment process in the upcoming FMP.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF Regional Planning Forester/ MLFI Plan Author (Lead).
2. MLFI Plan Author.

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2021.
2. April 1, 2021.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Approved 2021 FMP.
2. Approved 2021 FMP.

**Recommendation 5**

Bancroft District MNRF shall maintain its commitment to ensuring completion of ESA listed Species at Risk surveys for blocks that are likely to be included in upcoming AWS's. The delivery mechanism for the values surveys should be reviewed and the use of alternate service providers such as external companies or SFL companies should be considered.

**Action Required:**

1. Values collection is the responsibility of the MNRF. Bancroft District will ensure values collection is carried out according to priority blocks identified by MLFI.
2. MLFI will identify harvest blocks likely to be included in upcoming AWS's with an area equivalent to 2 years of average annual available harvest or less.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Bancroft District MNRF Resources Management Supervisor.
2. MLFI General Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2018 - Next AWS.
2. April 1, 2018 - Next AWS.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Spreadsheet with planned and actual values information collection activities.
2. List of priority blocks with area summary.

**Recommendation 7**

Bancroft District MNRF shall review and speed up its processing of FMP amendment requests and the submitted amendments to bring its turnaround time in line with the targets in the 2009 FMPM.

**Action Required:**

1. Bancroft District MNRF will work with MLFI to ensure clear and concise information is provided prior to the review of FMP amendment requests submitted following the timelines provided in the 2009 Forest Management Planning Manuals.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Bancroft District MNRF Management Forester.

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2017-2018.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. FI Portal tracking information for amendment request.

**Recommendation 8**

MLFI shall increase the range of stands that it prescribes for clearcutting and increase the intensity of its partial harvesting in stands where appropriate.

**Action Required:**

1. Identify a short list of specific options where clearcutting is not currently implemented but could be justified to address the recommendation.
2. Review current FMP to determine if such actions are permissible under the current FMPM & Silviculture Guide.
3. If not permissible – defer decision until next FMP, subject to proper consultation process.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MLFI Silviculture Forester.
2. MLFI Silviculture Forester.
3. MLFI Silviculture Forester.

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2018-Next AWS.
2. April 1, 2018-Next AWS.
3. April 1, 2021 Implementation of FMP.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Implementation guidance document – developed jointly with MLFI and MNRF Bancroft District.
2. Implementation team communications.
3. Approved 2021 FMP.

**Recommendation 9**

MLFI's management and shareholders shall increase the amount of tendered sales that are conducted on the MLF.

**Action Required:**

1. MLFI General Manager to develop tendered sale work plan.
2. Yearly monitoring of implementation of work plan.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MLFI General Manager.
2. MLFI General Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. December 31 (annual basis).
2. Ongoing throughout operating year.



**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Tendered sale work plan.
2. Annual performance reviews.

**Recommendation 10**

MLFI shall follow through with its stated intent to apply for a permit under Endangered Species Act *section 17* to determine whether this avenue is viable. MNRF should be prepared to promptly respond to this application and assist in suggesting options for “mitigation of an adverse effect” and provision of an “overall benefit”, consistent with permits that have been issued in other business sectors.

**Action Required:**

1. MLFI to prepare Section 17 application, if desired.
2. MNRF will continue to advise MLFI on the requirements for an overall benefit permit through the application process.
3. MNRF will work with MLFI to identify overall benefit actions as part of the permitting process.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MLFI General Manager (Lead).
2. MNRF Bancroft District Resources Management Supervisor (Lead)/MNRF Regional Species at Risk Specialist.
3. MLFI General Manager/ MNRF Bancroft District Resources Management Supervisor/ MNRF Regional Species at Risk Specialist.

**Deadline Date:**

1. Preparation of application to start during 2017/18.
2. Ongoing throughout application process.
3. Ongoing throughout application process.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Application submitted.
2. Documentation tracking.
3. Approved Section 17 Permit.

**Recommendation 13**

Bancroft District MNRF shall address the deficiencies found with regard to information management and document control, and should consider utilizing guidance outlined in the Ministry’s existing policies and procedures.

**Action Required:**

1. Bancroft District MNRF will file electronic and hardcopy documentation as per the OPS file planning structure.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Bancroft District Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. Ongoing.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Input into server.

**Recommendation 14**

MLFI shall share its analysis of the previous year's compliance record with the overlapping licensees and review relevant parts of the Operations Binder with overlapping licensees on a regular basis.

**Action Required:**

1. MLFI will review previous year's compliance findings during operator's meetings.
2. MLFI will review relevant components of the company operations binder focusing on issues of recent concern or focus on sensitive areas that may be affected by operations in the upcoming year.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MLFI General Manager.
2. MLFI Senior Compliance Technician.

**Deadline Date:**

1. Annual Spring Operators Meeting.
2. Annual Spring Operators Meeting.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Meeting agenda – presentations retained as evidence.
2. Meeting agenda – presentations retained as evidence.

**Recommendation 15**

Bancroft District MNRF and MLFI shall work jointly to encourage E. Schutt and Sons Ltd to improve its compliance performance.

**Actions Required:**

1. Bancroft District MNRF will use a risk based priority assessment to ensure the highest risk operators (i.e. Schutt) will be the primary focus of ministry initiated compliance inspections and assign certified compliance inspectors to conduct field audits.
2. Joint inspections where possible will be completed by both MNRF and MLFI.
3. The MLFI General Manager, MLFI Senior Forest Compliance Technician and Forestry Technical Specialist will meet once a year to discuss options for encouraging greater compliance performance in E. Schutt & Sons Ltd. operations.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Bancroft District MNRF Forestry Technical Specialist.
2. Bancroft District MNRF Forestry Technical Specialist/MLFI Senior Compliance Technician.
3. MLFI GM/MLFI Senior Forest Compliance Technician/ Bancroft MNRF Forestry Technical Specialist.

**Deadline Date:**

1. Increased compliance activities will be implemented as per the Annual Compliance Operating Plan (ACOP) during 2017-18.
2. Joint Compliance inspections will be implemented as per the ACOP during the 2018-19.
3. Ongoing (annual meeting).

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. ACOP.
2. Completed compliance reports.
3. Circulated minutes from meetings.

**Recommendation 16**

MLFI shall submit draft Annual Reports on time.

**Actions Required:**

1. Staff involved in preparing the Annual Report will be assigned specific timelines to complete tasks in their annual work plans.
2. Monitoring throughout the year will be implemented to ensure timelines are being met.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MLFI General Manager.
2. MLFI General Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. May 15, 2017 and thereafter each year.
2. Throughout the year according to set timelines.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Employee work plans.
2. Regularly scheduled work plan progress meetings.

**Recommendation 17**

Bancroft District MNRF and MLFI shall strengthen their efforts to provide meaningful opportunities for Aboriginal communities to obtain benefits provided through forest management planning.

**Actions Required:**

1. Bancroft District MNRF will support and participate in the efforts of MLFI to develop opportunities for Aboriginal communities in the Management Unit to derive benefits associated with the implementation of the Forest Management Plan (e.g. MNRF participation in annual AWS review meetings or other similar opportunities, as appropriate).
2. Bancroft District MNRF will communicate information to the Algonquins of Ontario (AOO) related to available corporate forestry training activities (e.g. Tree Marking, Scaling, Forest Compliance Certification) and work with MLFI to provide relevant training opportunities of interest to local Aboriginal communities.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MLFI General Manager / MNRF District Manager.
2. Resource Liaison Specialist / MLFI General Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. Ongoing.
2. Ongoing.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Record of employment and training opportunities presented to Aboriginal communities.
2. Record of information communicated to AOO.

**Recommendation 19**

MLFI and Bancroft District MNRF shall decide how to address outstanding obligations related to the X, Y, Z lands on the Mazinaw-Lanark Forest, the Company shall promptly

undertake the agreed-upon actions and the MNRF shall sign off upon completion of this responsibility.

**Actions Required:**

1. MLFI will review the status of X, Y, Z lands and summarize the findings in a tabular format corresponding with the original MNRF summary. The review will identify the outstanding areas still to be addressed.
2. All outstanding areas will be evaluated in the field by March 31, 2018, and the results will be reported in the 2017-2018 Annual Report.
3. All areas found not Free to Grow (FTG) and requiring further treatment in the short term will be added to the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 AWS. The areas that are identified in need of additional treatment in the longer term will be allocated in the 2021-2031 FMP with follow-up assessments under the terms of that plan.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MLFI Silviculture Forester.
2. MLFI Silviculture Forester.
3. MLFI Silviculture Forester.

**Deadline Date:**

1. September 15, 2017.
2. November 15, 2018 for submission with Annual Report.
3. Operations scheduled for 2018-2019, 2019-2020 AWS and approved 2021-2031 FMP.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. X, Y, Z summary table with non-surveyed areas identified.
2. FTG survey records of outstanding areas in GIS and submitted with the 2017-2018 Annual Report.
3. Approved 2018-2019, 2019-2020 AWS and 2021-2031 FMP.

**Recommendation 20**

MLFI and Regional MNRF shall prepare the action plan and status report for this audit within the prescribed timeframes.

**Actions Required:**

1. MLFI and Regional MNRF will determine a schedule for production, review and endorsement of the action and status reports prior to the due date and work together to ensure the development of the action and status reports follows the agreed upon schedule.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MLFI General Manager/ MNRF Regional Forest Operation Specialist.

**Deadline Date:**

1. Action Report due April 6, 2017.
2. Status Report due April 6, 2019.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Signed Action Report.
2. Signed Status Report.