

NIPISSING FOREST

2016 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT

MANAGEMENT UNIT ACTION PLAN

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Action Plan Signature Page

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Introduction

This action plan describes the recommendations and associated resolutions of an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) of the Nipissing Forest conducted by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. for the 5-year period of April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2016.

Management of the Nipissing Forest is carried out by Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. (NFRM) under Sustainable Forest License (SFL) # 545053. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNR) responsibilities are led by the North Bay district office.

The final Audit report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Trust Committee on November 24, 2016, and provided to NFRM, MNR North Bay District and Northeast Region on November 29, 2016. The report contained six recommendations, including three which were directed to corporate MNR. This Action Plan addresses the 3 recommendations which were directed to NFRM and/or district MNR.

Recommendations

Principle 6: Monitoring

Recommendation #3:

To provide a reliable assessment of the free-to-grow condition, the District MNR and NFRM must jointly implement a sampling procedure and protocol for FTG surveys and Core Task 1 SEM monitoring that resolves data discrepancies and variability.

Action(s) required:

1. Develop a local SEM Task Team comprised of MNR District and NFRM staff
2. SEM task team review FTG survey methodologies and sampling intensities for the Nipissing Forest to determine an agreed-to methodology
3. Implement agreed-to methodology
4. Annual meeting with MNR District and NFRM staff to review the previous year's results, and revise methodology if required.

Organization and position responsible:

1. MNR North Bay District Management Forester/ NFRM Silviculture Forester
2. SEM Task Team (includes MNR North Bay District Management Forester/ NFRM Silviculture Forester)
3. MNR North Bay District Management Forester/ NFRM Silviculture Forester
4. MNR North Bay District Management Forester/ NFRM Silviculture Forester

Deadline date:

1. June 2017
2. June 2017
3. Ongoing
4. Ongoing

Method of tracking progress:

1. Meeting Minutes
2. Meeting minutes describing agreed-to methodology
3. FTG Survey results and audit results
4. Meeting minutes, and revised methodology, if required

Recommendation #4:

The MNRF District and NFRM must ensure that Annual Reports meet FMPM submission deadlines.

Action(s) required:

1. MNRF will make natural disturbance information available to NFRM
2. NFRM will submit Annual Report on or by due date
3. MNRF will review (and where applicable the review will include Regional support – Year 3, 7 and 10 AR's), and provide Draft Report Comments (if required) by due date to NFRM
4. NFRM will submit revised report (if comments were provided) for MNRF review
5. MNRF to review and provide required changes or accept the annual report
6. Regional Director will approve the Year 3 Annual Report

Organization and position responsible:

1. Management Information Systems – MNRF through FIPortal
2. NFRM Planning Forester
3. MNRF North Bay District Management Forester (Regional Planning Forester for Years 3, 7 and 10 AR's)
4. NFRM Planning Forester
5. MNRF North Bay District Management Forester
6. Regional Director NER (Year 3 Annual Report only)

Deadline date:

1. September 15th
2. November 15th
3. December 15th
4. February 15th (or 60 days from the receipt of the MNRF comments)
5. March 1st
6. March 1st (Year 3 Annual Report only)

Method of tracking Deadline date:

- 1.-6. Forest Information Portal

Principle 8: Contractual Obligations

Recommendation #5:

NFRM must meet its contractual obligations with respect to the survey and renewal of X, Y and Z category lands.

Action(s) required:

1. NFRM to use the new Plan Composite Inventory to assess the status of XYZ lands.
2. NFRM to produce a map of XY lands that are insufficiently regenerated.
3. NFRM to conduct field surveys (FTG surveys) on X and Y areas that are insufficiently stocked, accessible, and operable, and prescribe and conduct follow-up silvicultural treatments.
4. NFRM to produce an updated map of XY lands and report on progress in year 10 Annual Report.

Organization and position responsible:

1. NFRM Silviculture Forester
2. NFRM Silviculture Forester
3. NFRM Silviculture Forester
4. NFRM Silviculture Forester

Deadline date:

1. June 2017
2. June 2017
3. Ongoing
4. Ongoing

Method of tracking progress:

1. 2016/2017 AR
2. Production of map
3. FTG Survey results, AWS submissions, Annual Reports
4. Year 10 Annual Report

Note: according to the SFL document, page 15, section 16, NFRM is only responsible to meet regeneration standards on X and Y lands (section 16.2 and 16.3), not on Z lands.