

NIPISSING FOREST

2011- 2016

Management Unit Action Plan

Status Report

Nipissing Forest 2016 Independent Forest Audit Status Report Signature Page

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Nipissing Forest 2011-16 Independent Forest Audit – Status Update

Approved by:

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Date:

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.

The Audit Action Plan was approved by the Regional Director on February 27, 2017, and documented planned actions to resolve 3 recommendations which were made in the Audit Report.

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

Principle 6: Monitoring

Recommendation #3:

To provide a reliable assessment of the free-to-grow condition, the District MNRF 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 MNRF 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 MNRF District and NFRM staff to review the previous year's results, and revise methodology if required.

Progress to Date:

1. Task team of Andrée Morneau, NFRM Silvicultural Forester, and Guylaine Thauvette, MNRF Management Forester, is established;
2. Agree upon methodology is SO-iSTARS for MNRF audits and SO-iSTARS for NFRM surveys;
3. Methodology has been implemented to date;
4. Task team has discussed survey and audit results, and MNRF has provided audit results to NFRM as they are available.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual provides information for an updated method of monitoring forest renewal. The procedure requires establishment and performance surveys. MNRF audits of the establishment surveys will determine acceptance or rejection of survey results. This direction has not yet been finalized.
2. The procedure for completing and auditing establishment surveys will be followed when it becomes available.

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

Progress to Date:

1. MNRF has made natural disturbance information available to NFRM;
2. NFRM submitted the 2015-16 Annual Report by the due date; the 2016-17 and 2017-18 Reports were delayed because of the Forest Management Planning workload;
3. MNRF District has reviewed and provided comments within 30 days for the 2015-16 Report; comments were send to NFRM more than 30 days after the submission on the 2016-17 and 2017-18 reports because of Christmas holidays and workload at the time of AR submission;
4. NFRM has submitted all revised reports for MNRF review;
5. MNRF District has review and provided changes for the 2015-16 report, and accepted the 2015-16 and 2017-16 reports; the 2017-18 Annual Report is being revised.
6. Year 3 report is due in 2022.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. MNRF will continue to make natural disturbance information available to NFRM, as required;
2. Once the Forest Management Plans are approved, NFRM will submit Annual Reports on or by due date;
3. MNRF will continue reviewing (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, taking Christmas holidays into account;
4. NFRM will continue submitting revised reports (if comments were provided) for MNRF review;
5. MNRF will continue reviewing and providing required changes and accepting the annual reports;
6. Regional Director will approve the Year 3 Annual Report.

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.

Progress to Date:

1. In spring of 2017, NFRM silviculture foresters used the new plan composite inventory to assess the status of XY lands. The planning inventory was queried to identify XY areas that were not adequately stocked in 2008 and that needed a survey to assess free-to-grow status. A total of 312 ha were identified.
2. A map showing the 312 ha of area that needed to be surveyed was produced and is available at the NFRM office.
3. Ground surveys were conducted in summer 2017 and 2018. The data will be reported in the 2018-2019 year 10 annual report.

Future Tracking Requirements:

1. No further action required.
2. No further action required.
3. No further action required.
4. NFRM to produce an updated map of XY lands and report on progress in year 10 Annual Report.