

Pic River Forest Management Unit  
2011-16 Independent Forest Audit  
Management Unit Action Plan

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# Pic River Forest 2016 Independent Forest Audit Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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# **Pic River Forest 2016 Independent Forest Audit Action Plan Approval Signature Page**

**Approved By:**

Date:

*Corrinne Nelson*  
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## Introduction

An Independent Forest Audit of the Pic River Forest Management Unit was conducted by ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd. during 2016. The audit covered planning and implementation of forest management activities from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2016.

The Pic River Forest was formed through the amalgamation of the Black River Forest and the Pic River Ojibway Forest on April 1, 2013. This amalgamation followed bankruptcy and return of the Sustainable Forest Licence for the two previous management units to the Crown in January 2013. The Pic River Forest is currently managed by the Nawiinginokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFMC), which is Ontario's first Local Forest Management Corporation. NFMC operates under a Forest Resource Licence for the management unit and is awaiting issuance of a Sustainable Forest Licence.

The Management Unit lies within both the Nipigon District of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) northwest region, and the Wawa District of MNRF's northeast region. Administration of the forest is delivered through the Wawa District MNRF office with support from the Nipigon District.

The IFA Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on February 22, 2017 and provided to MNRF Wawa District and Northeast Region on February 23, 2017. The report contained 13 recommendations, including two which were directed to corporate MNRF. This Action Plan addresses the 11 recommendations which were directed to district MNRF and or NFMC.

# Recommendations

## **Recommendation #2:**

The Wawa MNRF District Manager shall continue to make efforts to support the growth of LCC membership and support the adoption of video-conferencing to link up LCC members in Terrace Bay and Manitouwadge as well as MNRF District staff.

### **Action Required:**

1. The District will discuss with the LCC participation/membership in the committee, and seek solutions to identified barriers; this will include, where feasible the adoption of video-conferencing.

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

1. District Manager, Management Forester.

### **Deadline Date:**

1. November 30, 2017

### **Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. LCC Meeting minutes.

**Recommendation #3:**

The planning team for the 2019 FMP for the combined Big Pic and Pic River Forests shall ensure that the 2019 FMP meets the requirements of the relevant FMPM with respect to the inclusion of a description of the historic forest condition.

**Action Required:**

1. The 2019-2029 Plan Author, with the assistance of the planning team, will include a discussion of the historic forest condition consistent with the requirements of the 2009 FMPM.
2. Plan reviewers will ensure that the discussion of the historic forest condition is consistent with the requirements of the 2009 FMPM.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. NFMC – Plan Author
2. MNRF – Regional Planning Forester

**Deadline Date:**

1. March 1, 2019
2. March 31, 2019

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Description of the historic forest condition in the 2019 Pic Forest FMP.
2. Description of the historic forest condition in the approved 2019 Pic Forest FMP.

**Recommendation #4:**

The planning team for the 2019 FMP shall conduct an analysis to determine the current status of stands in the former degraded (DEG) forest unit and whether further action is required to manage these stands commensurate with the FMP objectives.

**Action Required:**

1. The NFMC will conduct an analysis of the current condition of areas historically classified as degraded (DEG). The DEG forest unit was incorporated into the 2006 FMP, and only appears in the 2013 FMP as a silvicultural intensity in the planning inventory. The analysis will include a comparison of the DEG forest condition from the older FRI against the interpreted condition of the new eFRI. This analysis will determine if areas previously classified as DEG are substantially different or degraded enough that the DEG designation remains relevant.
2. The NFMC will present the analysis to the 2019 FMP planning team.
3. The 2019 planning team will consider the results of the analysis. These historic areas will either be tracked within the approved Pic Forest PCM or will be managed as a reintroduced degraded forest unit. The planning team will consider if specific FMP objectives and targets are required to manage the degraded forest unit.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. NFMC – Plan Author
2. NFMC – Plan Author
3. NFMC – Plan Author, MNRF – Regional Analyst, Planning Team - All

**Deadline Date:**

1. May 1, 2017
2. June 1, 2017
3. March 1, 2018

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Documentation of internal review.
2. Planning team meeting minutes.
3. 2019 FMP forest units, Approved Pic Forest LTMD

**Recommendation #6:**

NFMC shall conduct timely reporting of natural regeneration areas.

**Action Required:**

1. NFMC shall conduct reporting of natural regeneration through Management Unit Annual Reports as per the requirements of the 2009 FMPM.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. NFMC – Planning Forester, Silviculturalist, Summer Staff

**Deadline Date:**

1. November 15, 2016 (past reporting of natural regeneration is now up to date), annual reporting going forward.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Management Unit Annual Reports.

**Recommendation #7:**

NFMC shall ensure that grader operators have received appropriate training so as to avoid the occurrence of wing-walls/false ditches.

**Action Required:**

1. NFMC will provide grader operator training to NFMC compliance staff, contractors and contractor grader operators.
2. NFMC will regularly monitor road grading operations for all contractors.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. NFMC – Operations Manager, Training Coordinator
2. NFMC – All compliance field staff.

**Deadline Date:**

1. August 1, 2017
2. March 31, 2018 and ongoing during snow-free season

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Record of training provided, record of attendees.
2. NFMC access FOIP reports, Management Unit Annual Reports, Operations Committee Meeting Minutes.

**Recommendation #8:**

NFMC shall clear vegetation along road rights-of way that impede vision along its forest access roads, prioritizing roads that are in greatest use.

**Action Required:**

1. NFMC will review and identify which sections of roads(no. of kms) require vegetation clearing to improve line of sight.
2. Based on the results of the above review, NFMC will improve on the vegetation clearing program which is part of regular roads maintenance.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. NFMC – Operations Manager, all field staff; with assistance from contractors
2. NFMC – Operations Manager

**Deadline Date:**

1. September 1, 2017, continuous
2. October 1, 2017, continuous

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Internal NFMC database tracking road infrastructure issues.
2. Provincial Roads Funding invoices, Management Unit Annual Reports

**Recommendation #9:**

NFMC shall complete the necessary remediation and maintenance operations at the Ice Creek bridge so as to address current environmental issues and avoid future ones.

**Action Required:**

1. NFMC will assess the Ice Creek bridge and determine actions required to address current environmental concerns.
2. NFMC will complete remediation work.
3. NFMC will monitor crossing to ensure further environmental issues are prevented.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. NFMC – Operations Manager,
2. NFMC – Operations Manager,
3. NFMC – Operations Manager, Field Staff

**Deadline Date:**

1. July 1, 2017
2. October 1, 2017
3. Continuous

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. NFMC internal inspection notes and any follow up inspections by engineer if required.
2. NFMC record of completed remediation work (includes MNRF approvals and any permits required), FOIP reports, Management Unit Annual Report.
3. NFMC internal records of bridge inspections. FOIP reports.

**Recommendation #10:**

Wawa and Nipigon District MNR shall explore the implementation of approaches to more efficiently undertake organization responsibilities, including attendance at meetings, stakeholder outreach, and compliance and other in-field inspections.

**Action Required:**

1. An annual Wawa/Nipigon Districts start-up meeting to review the upcoming year's activities and assign/review responsibility. Openly discuss and document any efficiencies that can be implemented.
2. Have quarterly teleconference calls to review status of activities.
3. Annual joint in-field inspection(s) of harvest, access and renewal to ensure consistent approach between districts.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Wawa District Forestry Technical Specialist, Management Forester, Resource Management Technician.
2. Wawa District Forestry Technical Specialist, Management Forester, Resource Management Technician.
3. Wawa District Forestry Technical Specialist, Resource Management Technician.

**Deadline Date:**

1. March 15, 2018.
2. July, October and January (yearly).
3. March 31, 2018

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Meeting minutes
2. Meeting minutes.
3. FOIP reports

**Recommendation #11:**

The Wawa and Nipigon MNRF Districts shall develop a protocol or agreement which provides for the efficient organization of MNRF's management and administrative responsibilities on the Pic River Forest.

**Action Required:**

1. Inter-district protocol will be developed which provides clarity to both Wawa and Nipigon District Staff as to their respective responsibilities in the management and administration of the Forest.
2. Implement protocol.
3. Annual review of protocol, in conjunction with recommendation # 10 annual meeting.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Wawa and Nipigon District Resources Management Supervisor.
2. Wawa and Nipigon District Staff
3. Forestry Technical Specialist, Management Forester, Resource Management Technician

**Deadline Date:**

1. Sept 30, 2017
2. March 31, 2018, continuous.
3. March 15, 2018, continuous

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Approved inter-district protocol
2. FOIP reports, emails and other applicable documentation.
3. Meeting minutes

**Recommendation #12:**

NFMC shall assess the extent of mapping errors for the period 2011-2013 and take appropriate action to ensure that map data is corrected as required and included in the planning inventory for the next FMP (expected in 2019).

**Action Required:**

1. NFMC will assess the extent of mapping errors for the period of 2011-2013. Mapping errors will be identified and recorded.
2. NFMC will develop an Action Plan (strategy) to correct these errors.
3. Where forest management planning timelines permit NFMC will ensure the most accurate information is represented in the 2019 FMP planning inventory.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. NFMC – Planning Forester
2. NFMC – Planning Forester
3. NFMC – Planning Forester, MNRF – Regional Analyst

**Deadline Date:**

1. June 1, 2017
2. July 1, 2017
3. August 1, 2017

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Completion of a comparison of 2011-2013 silviculture map information including AWS, AR GIS data, and field records against 2019 planning inventory for the same areas. Record of identified mapping errors.
2. Action Plan (strategy) maintained by NFMC.
3. Accepted (checkpoint #1 and #2) Analysis package for the 2019 FMP planning inventory.

**Recommendation #13:**

The planning team for the 2019 FMP shall include realistic and measurable targets for all ecological indicators in the next FMP.

**Action Required:**

1. NFMC will review and discuss 2019 FMP plan objectives and targets with the planning team and develop realistic measurable targets for all ecological indicators with the assistance of the Wildlife Task Team.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. NFMC – Planning Forester; 2019 FMP Wildlife Task Team; 2019 FMP Planning Team

**Deadline Date:**

1. March 1, 2019

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Approved 2019 FMP.