

# **SUDBURY FOREST**

2011 - 2016

Management Unit Action Plan

**Status Report**

## **Sudbury Forest 2016 Independent Forest Audit Status Report Signature Page**

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# **Sudbury Forest 2016 Independent Forest Audit**

## **Action Plan Approval Signature Page**

**Approved By:**

Date:

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## **Introduction**

An Independent Forest Audit of the Sudbury Forest was conducted by KBM Resources Group during 2016. The audit covered planning and implementation of forest management activities from April 1, 2011 to March 31, 2016. The audit was one of two conducted during 2016 as part of a pilot of a new Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol intended to better incorporate some principals of risk management.

The Sudbury Forest is managed under Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) by the Vermilion Forest Management Company Limited (VFM) with MNRF administration delivered from the Sudbury District Office.

The IFA Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on February 6, 2017 and provided to VFM, MNRF Sudbury District and Northeast Region on February 7, 2017. The report contained 6 recommendations, including 3 which were directed to corporate MNRF. This Action Plan addresses the 3 recommendations which were directed to VFM and/or district MNRF.

Submission of this Status Report by the Sudbury District Manager is due May 9, 2019.

## Recommendations

### Recommendation #3:

The audit team recommends Vermilion Forest Management immediately begin documenting FOP changes as required in the FMPM.

#### Action Required:

1. VFM will ensure that any changes to FOP are documented in the Silviculture Ground Rule Update Layer (MU123\_11SGR00.E00) subsequent Annual Report for that season.
2. MNRF will review these FOP changes each year in the Annual Report.

#### Progress to Date:

1. There were no updates to silviculture ground rules in 2016-2017 and the Silviculture Ground Rule Update layer was submitted with the 2017-2018 Annual Report on November 15, 2018
2. MNRF reviewed the Silviculture Ground Rule layer as part of the review of the annual report, no issues were noted.
3. Since the recommendation, VFM has 1562 hectares of SGR updates. In 2018/19 Annual Report 54 hectares have been updated. Approximately 500 Hectares are being assessed in 2019/2020 for SGR confirmation.

#### Future Tracking Requirements:

1. Forest information Portal
2. Annual Report Documentation

**Recommendation #4:**

The audit team recommends that VFM and MNRF continue to cooperate to strengthen their compliance programs.

**Action Required:**

1. A minimum of one annual meeting with MNRF and VFM to discuss operational issues and areas of inconsistency or where improvements can be made
2. A minimum of one annual field meeting between MNRF and VFM staff involved in forest compliance to develop and maintain consistency in observing and reporting on incompliance activities and operational issues.
3. A minimum of 5 joint inspections carried out annually
4. MNRF staff will support and attend VFM's Annual Spring Compliance Training sessions and both will investigate other joint training opportunities

**Progress to Date:**

1. Meeting held March 23, 2017 jointly with MNRF and SFL staff, no meeting held in 2018 due to other workload pressures.
2. Field meeting on August 16, 2017 Block 2010-053 with SFL, MNRF and licensee staff, looked at aggregate pit operations, water crossings and harvesting. No field meeting held in 2018 due to busy fire season.
3. A minimum of 5 joint inspections were carried out in both 2017 and 2018 looking at harvest activities in clear cuts, clear cuts with seed trees, shelterwood cuts, tree plant sites, pre-spray and post spray sites, water crossing installations and removals and the decommissioning of roads in AOCs.
4. MNRF staff attended the annual spring training held by VFM on April 25, 2017 and April 18, 2018 contributing to discussions, providing clarification on policy and guidelines and answering questions.

**Future Tracking Requirements:**

1. Minutes or notes from meetings
2. Minutes or notes from field meeting/visits
3. FOIP inspection reports and Table AR-6 in Annual Report
4. Minutes and notes from Annual Spring Compliance Training and list of attendees

**Recommendation #5:**

The audit team recommends that aggregate pit AGP25 be immediately remedied to mitigate the potential risks to public safety and to operate it in accordance with the required legal standards.

**Action Required:**

1. Licensee will immediately mitigate safety concerns identified at this site by the audit team.
2. VFM will inspect and document mitigation in FOIP report.
3. VFM and MNRF will monitor continuing operation to ensure activities are being carried out in accordance with the Sudbury Forest Management Plan.

**Progress to Date:**

1. Contractor had remedied safety issues with pit in Fall of 2016.
2. VFM documented pit activities in FOIP report #678736 and an operational issue was created to track changes.
3. Pit rehabilitation work was completed in Spring 2017 and Operational issue was closed on June 6, 2017.
4. Pit was closed on September 30, 2017.

**Future Tracking Requirements:**

1. FOIP report to be completed in October 2016
2. FOIP report to be completed in October 2016
3. FOIP report scheduled in annual work schedule