

MARTEL FOREST
2017 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT

FOR THE FIVE YEAR PERIOD
APRIL 1, 2012 TO MARCH 31, 2017

ACTION PLAN

MARTEL FOREST 2017 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT ACTION PLAN

SUBMISSION SIGNATURE PAGE

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APPROVAL SIGNATURE PAGE

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INTRODUCTION

ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd. conducted an Independent Forest Audit on the Martel Forest (SFL # 550390) for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2017. The following action plan was developed to address the findings documented in the final audit report which was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on January 9th, 2018.

FINDINGS

Finding #1 a:

- a) More effort and a wider range of approaches are required on the part of Chapleau District Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) to support the growth and retention of a diverse Local Citizens Committee (LCC).

Action Required:

1. The LCC Terms of Reference (TOR) will be reviewed to ensure proper or appropriate membership and work to recruit where necessary to support growth and diversification of the committee as per the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) Part A-Section 1.1.3- Line 6,7 Page A-15.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Chapleau District MNRF - District Manager

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2019

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. LCC meeting minutes, Conduct Review of the LCC TOR at planning start-up and mid-plan checkup as per the FMPM Part A-Section 1.1.3.

Finding #1 b:

- b) The Chapleau District MNRF has not provided sufficient opportunities to address the LCC's broader interests in forestry and forest management beyond planning and plan implementation.

Action Required:

1. Topics of interest will be a standing agenda item at each LCC meeting. The LCC will be asked to define what their broader interests are in forestry/forest management beyond planning and plan implementation.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Chapleau District MNRF - Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. Commencing in 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. LCC meeting minutes

Finding #2:

Initiatives and activities that contribute towards achievement of the goals of Condition 56 are often undertaken in other parts of the Ministry and the accounting of them is ignored or under-represented in the Condition 56 reports.

Action Required:

1. This finding was deemed the responsibility of Corporate MNRF. The action will specify that corporate or policy level findings will be considered as part of the regular corporate work planning and policy review cycle.

Finding #3:

Available information on the thermal status of many streams was inadequate for sufficient Area of Concern (AOC) planning, leading to many requests to extend the timing window for water crossing installations.

Action Required:

1. As per regular on-going data collection regarding values and values updates, the District MNRF will collect and manage data that will result in more precise mapping of cold, cool, and warm waterways.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Northeast Region MNRF - Regional Terrestrial Ecosystem Science Specialist (involvement from Chapleau District MNRF, Science and Research Branch, and Regional Information and Analysis Unit).

Deadline Date:

1. Commencing in 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Water Classification Tool – Output, Land Information Ontario (LIO) data, and Ontario Hydro Network (OHN) updates

Finding #4:

The Chapleau District MNRF has not maintained records of consultation with the LCC on all administrative amendments issued over the audit period, and has not formalized its approach with the LCC regarding the automatic categorization of specific types of amendments (e.g. Operational Road Boundary (ORB) adjustments and the addition of Aggregate Extraction Area (AEA)).

Action Required:

1. A formal approach will be developed in consultation with the LCC to automatically categorize a pre-approved list of Amendments as Administrative.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Chapleau District MNRF - Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. December 31, 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. LCC meeting minutes and Terms of Reference

Finding #5:

RYAM Forest Management (formerly Tembec) did not monitor some winter water crossing installations and upgrade them where necessary in the following spring.

Action Required:

1. RYAM Forest Management (RYAM) will remove the installed winter culvert W-615 and then assess the need for a permanent installation.
2. RYAM will track winter water crossing installations to ensure removal prior to spring freshet.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. RYAM - Operations Superintendent
2. RYAM - Operations Superintendent

Deadline Date:

1. Prior to September 1, 2018
2. Commencing in 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Forest Operations Information Program (FOIP)
2. Tracking spreadsheet for winter water crossing installs and removals

Finding #6 a:

- a) Chapleau District MNRF's approach to approving slash pile burning operations is perceived as being so restrictive that RYAM did not conduct any slash pile burns on the Martel Forest during the audit period.

Action Required:

1. Chapleau District MNRF and RYAM will work with Aviation, Forest Fire, and Emergency Services (AFFES) to determine which restrictions currently exists within the Low-Complexity Burning Protocol that limits RYAM from conducting slash pile burning operations.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Chapleau District MNRF - Management Forester & RYAM - Area Forester

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2019

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Meeting minutes

Finding #6 b:

b) RYAM is not minimizing the amount of productive area lost to roadside slash and unused wood.

Action Required:

1. The Planning Superintendent will work with the Forest Information System Coordinator to estimate amount of area of roads, landings and slash.
2. If the amount of area of roads, landings and slash is considered above target, RYAM will review its slash management strategy and consider alternatives to reduce the amount of productive area lost.
3. RYAM will update the 2021-2031 Martel Forest Management Plan (FMP) objective and slash management strategy.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. RYAM - Planning Superintendent & Forest Information System Coordinator
2. RYAM - Area Forester
3. RYAM - Planning Superintendent

Deadline Date:

1. December 1, 2018
2. April 1, 2019
3. April 1, 2021

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2021-2031 Martel FMP - Analysis Package
2. Alternatives described in Annual Work Schedule (AWS), if applicable
3. 2021-2031 Martel FMP

Finding #7:

Basic information about the tree improvement sites on the Martel Forest is not adequately documented in the FMP.

Action Required:

1. RYAM will work with Northeast Seed Management Association (NESMA) to determine what tree improvement sites exist on the Martel Forest.
2. RYAM will work with the MNRF to ensure areas are appropriately mapped (i.e., on values maps or otherwise) or documented in the planning forest resource inventory.
3. RYAM will include sufficient background information on the tree improvement sites in the 2021-2031 Martel FMP.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. RYAM - Planning Superintendent
2. RYAM - Planning Superintendent & Chapleau District MNRF - GIS Data Technician
3. RYAM - Planning Superintendent

Deadline Date:

1. July 31, 2018
2. October 31, 2018
3. April 1, 2021

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Communication record
2. Planning Composite Inventory and/or Values Maps for the 2021-2031 Martel FMP
3. 2021-2031 Martel FMP

Finding #8:

Chapleau District MNRF has not provided a comprehensive description of how it intends to implement its forest compliance monitoring efforts, as suggested in the Forest Compliance Handbook.

Action Required:

1. The current block prioritization approach and monitoring efforts description will be added to the applicable AWS.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Chapleau District MNRF - Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. December 31, 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Revision documentation, AWS documentation

Finding #9:

RYAM is not using FOIP properly to track operational issues.

Action Required:

1. RYAM to utilize the MNRF online FOIP system for reporting and submitting operational issues when encountered.
2. RYAM to schedule two annual joint compliance meetings with Chapleau District MNRF to discuss operational issues.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. RYAM - Operations Superintendent
2. RYAM - Operations Superintendent & Chapleau District MNRF - IRM Technical Specialist

Deadline Date:

1. Commencing in 2018
2. Commencing in 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. FOIP
2. Meeting minutes

Finding #10:

Northeast Region MNRF is not providing the technical support to allow forest managers to complete the determination of forest disturbances required for the Year 7 Annual Report.

Action Required:

1. Northeast Region MNRF will confirm which FMPs require the determination of forest disturbances analysis.
2. Northeast Region MNRF will investigate the alternatives of using the original program, other programs or the opportunity to create a new version of the NDpegTool program/application in a current platform.
3. Northeast Region MNRF will provide a methodology to ensure that this analysis can be carried out and share the approach and/or tool with forest managers on the affected FMPs.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Northeast Region MNRF - Forest Management Planning Specialist, Regional Planning Unit (RPU) Supervisor and Resources Information and Analysis Unit (RIAU) Supervisor
2. Northeast Region MNRF - Resources Information and Analysis Unit (RIAU) Supervisor
3. Northeast Region MNRF - Resources Information and Analysis Unit (RIAU) Supervisor

Deadline Date:

1. April 30, 2018
2. May 31, 2018
3. June 30, 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. List of FMPs on file
2. Meeting minutes and email correspondence
3. Implementation bulletin, email correspondence and/or software application

Finding #11:

RYAM is not collecting the information required to enable assessment of the target of maintaining or reducing the road density on the forest.

Action Required:

1. RYAM to review existing road inventory and identify drivability status.
2. RYAM to determine internally what roads are available for abandonment and/or transfer.
3. RYAM to meet with Chapeau District MNR to discuss road abandonment and/or transfer strategies.
4. RYAM to revisit the objectives related to road density when developing the 2021-2031 Martel FMP to ensure they are consistent with the access needs on the forest and planned decommissioning and/or abandonment strategies.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. RYAM - GIS Technician & Operations Superintendent
2. RYAM - Operations Superintendent & Area Forester
3. RYAM - Area Forester
4. RYAM - Planning Superintendent

Deadline Date:

1. October 31, 2018
2. March 1, 2019
3. October 31, 2019
4. April 1, 2020

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Existing roads inventory layer
2. Existing roads inventory layer
3. Communication record
4. 2021-2031 Martel FMP

Finding #12:

RYAM has experienced difficulties in conducting comprehensive and long-term assessment of forest change on the Martel Forest because there is no guidance or tools provided by Corporate MNRF to enable forest managers to deal with the challenges created by changes in factors such as landbase area and forest unit definitions that limit their ability to conduct a comprehensive and long-term assessment of forest change on their respective management units.

Action Required:

1. This finding was deemed the responsibility of Corporate MNRF. The action will specify that corporate or policy level findings will be considered as part of the regular corporate work planning and policy review cycle.