

Nagagami Forest  
April 1, 2012 – March 31, 2017  
Management Unit Action Plan

# Nagagami Forest 2017 Independent Forest Audit

## Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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# **Nagagami Forest 2017 Independent Forest Audit**

## **Action Plan Approval Signature Page**

**Approved By:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Regional Director  
MNRF, Northeast Region*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Introduction

An Independent Forest Audit (IFA) of the Nagagami Forest was conducted by ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd. in the month of October 2017. The audit scope included the 7 years of operations from April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2017.

The Nagagami Forest Sustainable Forest License (SFL #550047) is held by Nagagami Forest Management Ltd. (NFM), and forest management activities are carried out by Jackfish River Management Ltd. (JRM) on their behalf. Hornepayne Lumber Ltd. is the sole shareholder for the Nagagami Forest.

The IFA Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on March 5, 2018 and was provided to JRM, MNRF Wawa District and Northeast Region on March 13, 2018. The report contains 16 findings, including 3 directed to Corporate MNRF, 5 to District MNRF and 8 to the SFL. This Action Plan addresses all 16 findings.

## Findings

### Finding #1

Wawa District MNRF did not respond promptly to the administrative needs of the LCC; senior MNRF managers attended only one meeting over the five year audit term; there is no commitment for MNRF attendance in the LCC TOR.

#### Action Required:

1. Senior Wawa District MNRF management staff (either a Supervisor or the District Manager) will attend minimum 1 Nagagami LCC meeting per year.
2. The senior management attendance commitment will be amended into the Nagagami LCC ToR "MNRF Responsibilities" section.

#### Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Wawa District, District Manager and Resource Management Supervisor
2. MNRF, Wawa District, Management Forester

#### Deadline Date:

1. A Wawa Manager/Supervisor will attend minimum 1 meeting throughout the respective fiscal year starting in 2017-2018. Wawa District Manager attended a Nagagami LCC meeting in Hornepayne on February 7, 2017 and on January 16, 2018.
2. December 31, 2018.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. LCC minutes
2. LCC ToR

**Finding #2**

Wawa District MNRF and the Company have infrequently contacted Ginoogaming First Nation and Constance Lake First Nation to discuss possible benefits from the Nagagami Forest.

**Action Required:**

1. The District Manager will offer to meet both Ginoogaming First Nation and Constance Lake First Nation to discuss possible benefits from the Nagagami Forest.
2. The District Manager will discuss at said meeting(s) the option for the communities to have a Nagagami Forest LCC and planning team representative.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF, Wawa District, District Manager
2. MNRF, Wawa District, District Manager

**Deadline Date:**

1. June 30, 2018
2. November 28, 2018

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Email record
2. Meeting minutes

**Finding #3**

Wawa District MNRF and the Company have not negotiated with Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (Pic River First Nation) and Pic Mobert First Nation communities to identify and implement ways of achieving more equal participation in the benefits provided through forest management planning.

**Action Required:**

1. The District Manager will offer to meet both Biigtigong Nishnaabeg (Pic River First Nation) and Pic Mobert First Nation communities to identify and implement ways of achieving more equal participation in the benefits provided through forest management planning.

2. The District Manager will discuss at said meeting(s) the option for the communities to have a Nagagami Forest LCC and planning team representative.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF, Wawa District, District Manager
2. MNRF, Wawa District, District Manager

**Deadline Date:**

1. June 30, 2018
2. November 28, 2018

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Email record
2. Meeting minutes

**Finding #4**

Wawa District MNRF and the Company have not contacted the Métis residents of Hornepayne who have an interest in the Forest Management Plan and activities in the forest.

**Action Required:**

1. The District Manager will offer to meet the Métis residents of Hornepayne through their respective LCC representative.
2. The District Manager will discuss at said meeting the interests the Métis have in Forest Management Planning and why the group has not been contacted previously.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF, Wawa District, District Manager
2. MNRF, Wawa District, District Manager

**Deadline Date:**

1. June 30, 2018
2. November 28, 2018

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Email record
2. Meeting minutes

## **Finding #5**

Corporate MNRF has not fulfilled its commitment to develop a strategy for managing the discontinuous range of woodland caribou.

### **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 #6**

The fire return time of 2,655 years is not appropriate and there is no consideration of the effects of climate change on this and other parameters in the review of model assumptions.

### **Action Required:**

1. The 2021 FMP planning team will incorporate the most up to date policies and guidelines into the FMP.

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

1. Nagagami Forest Management Limited - Plan Author

### **Deadline Date:**

1. This will be incorporated in the 2021 FMP scheduled for implementation April 1, 2021

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

1. The 2021 FMP and associated meeting minutes.

## **Finding #7**

The total area of renewal conducted during the first six years of the 2011 FMP term was approximately 3,086 ha less than the area harvested during the same period.

**Action Required:**

1. The current owners of the SFL (2016) have demonstrated their commitment to this forest and to bring the renewal trust balance to the minimum levels while increasing renewal activities to fulfill their commitment as per FMPM.
2. The 3,086 hectares of renewal area remain as an outstanding task as areas that will be treated. Our priority is to meet minimum levels in the renewal trust fund by March 31, 2019 followed by an aggressive approach to treat this area appropriately and in manner that is consistent with the FMP.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Nagagami Forest Management Limited - Plan Author
2. Nagagami Forest Management Limited - Plan Author

**Deadline Date:**

1. The completion date is March 31, 2021
2. The completion date is March 31, 2021

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Reporting of the areas through Annual Reports.
2. Reporting of the areas through Annual Reports.

**Finding #8**

Wawa District MNRF did not meet its targets for free-to-grow survey work and optional tasks for Silvicultural Effectiveness Monitoring were not completed for the Nagagami Forest during the audit period.

**Action Required:**

1. Following the NER Silvicultural Effectiveness Monitoring (SEM) protocol, Wawa District will select and stratify minimum 10% (i.e. the target sampling intensity) of the Free-to-Grow area submitted in the Nagagami Forest Annual Report.
2. Wawa District will create digital and map products in preparation for data collection (field work) and then collect data during the field season.
3. Wawa District will compile the data and produce a report that will analyze the feasibility of the silviculture program, to be submitted once complete to the Northeast Regional office with a copy to the District Manager.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF, Wawa District, Management Forester (Lead)
2. MNRF, Wawa District, IRM Technical Specialist (Lead)



3. MNRF, Wawa District, Management Forester (Lead); MNRF, Wawa District, Resources Management Supervisor (Support)

**Deadline Date:**

1. Annually, June 1
2. Annually, November 31
3. Annually, February 15

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. The final stratified area captured in a shapefile.
2. The final SEM field maps and data.
3. The final SEM report that is submitted to Northeast Region.

**Finding #9**

During the audit period, the Company did not report the areas of partial, or first-pass harvesting, in the Annual Report as required by the Northeast Region Operations Guide for Marketability Issues (2013).

**Action Required:**

1. Nagagami Forest Management will report the depleted areas as per 2009 FMPM.
2. The SFL will ensure that all requirements and direction identified in the Northeast Region Operations Guide for Marketability Issues (2013) that are appropriate for this forest are adhered to.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Nagagami Forest Management Limited - Plan Author
2. Nagagami Forest Management Limited - Plan Author

**Deadline Date:**

1. 2017/18 Annual Report - November, 2018
2. 2017/18 Annual Report - November, 2018

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. 2017/18 Annual Report
2. 2017/18 Annual Report

**Finding #10**

The Year Ten AR/ Trends Analysis does not meet all of the requirements of the 2009 FMPM.

**Action Required:**

1. The Company will ensure that all requirements of the 2017 FMPM are strictly followed.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Nagagami Forest Management Limited - Plan Author

**Deadline Date:**

1. The AR/Trend Analysis will be updated and accurate for submission in the year 7 AR of the FMP - January, 2019

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Development of the year 7 Annual Report.

**Finding #11**

Table AR-10 (Summary of Harvest and Regeneration Trends), which accompanied the Trends Analysis Report, has not been completed correctly. Corporate MNRF does not provide a clear set of instructions to plan authors explaining how to properly complete Table AR-10.

**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 #12**

The 2011 FMP contains a number of objectives and targets that are unlikely to be achievable.

**Action Required:**

1. Development of the Nagagami Forest 2021-2031 FMP:
  - a. Under the 2017 FMPM, SFLs are required to complete a risk assessment for the proposed Long-Term Management Direction. The assessment will identify risks associated with the implementation of the LTMD. When identifying risks, the planning team will consider access limitations,

recommendations identified in independent forest audits, and the year 7 and 10 management unit Annual Reports. The risk assessment will include an investigation of recent wood utilization (e.g., last 10 years) and other identified risks, and an evaluation of the potential implications on the achievement of management objectives”.

- b. During the development of the Nagagami Forest 2021 FMP, the planning team will be required to consider the use of strategic management zones (SMZs). The establishment of strategic management zones is expected to offer spatial context when completing forest estate modeling. Zones may be established to highlight areas within the forest where operability may be limited due to terrain, distance to markets and/or processing facilities for hardwood species, access restrictions, harvest seasonality, etc. NFM will assess the effectiveness of the current objectives and targets and work with the MNRF to establish new objectives and targets for the 2021 plan that will reflect a more modern and achievable set of values and goals.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Nagagami Forest Management Limited - Plan Author, District and Region MNRF, and the Nagagami Forest Planning Team.

**Deadline Date:**

1. October 31, 2019

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Development of the Long Term Management Direction

**Finding #13**

At March 31, 2017, the Company was in arrears for Crown Charges, and in arrears to both the Forestry Futures Trust and the Forest Renewal Trust. In addition, the balance in the Forest Renewal Trust for the Nagagami Forest was below the required minimum balance for each of the five years of the audit period.

**Action Required:**

1. An agreement between the MNRF and SFL dated December 13, 2017 is in place that will bring the balance back to minimum levels.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Nagagami Forest Management Limited - NFM corporate

**Deadline Date:**

1. March 31, 2019

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. The Forest Renewal Trust tracking sheet.

**Finding #14**

The local level status report for the 2012 IFA was prepared six months late.

**Action Required:**

1. Efforts are being made by both MNRF and SFL to address the Action Plan in a timely fashion and meet the contractual obligations as per the 2018 IFAPP.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Nagagami Forest Management Limited - Plan Author and NER Forest Operations Specialist

**Deadline Date:**

1. June, 2020

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. 2017 - IFA Status Report

**Finding #15**

Corporate MNRF has not met its obligation to produce the provincial status report for the 2012 IFAs within two years of the approval of the Action Plan.

**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 #16**

The planned renewal approach in the caribou continuous distribution zone cannot be funded adequately under the existing schedule of forest renewal trust rates on the Nagagami Forest.

**Action Required:**

1. Future harvesting activities in the area must be concentrated on conifer stands to avoid an unbalanced expenditure on the forest renewal trust fund.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Nagagami Forest Management Limited - Plan Author

**Deadline Date:**

1. Incorporate the planned harvest activities in the 2021 FMP - February, 2021

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Inclusion into the 2021 FMP.