

**NORTHSHORE FOREST**  
**2017 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT**  
**MANAGEMENT UNIT ACTION PLAN**

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# Action Plan Signature Page

## Prepared by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Moryto, R.P.F.  
General Manager  
Northshore Forest Inc.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Harvey, R.P.F.  
Management Forester  
MNRF, Sault Ste Marie District  
Blind River Field office

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

## Reviewed by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Francisco Murphy  
Project Forester  
MNRF, Northeast Region

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

## Submitted by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Wayne Fiset  
District Manager  
MNRF, Sault Ste Marie District

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

## Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Corrinne Nelson  
Regional Director  
MNRF, Northeast Region

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

# Introduction

An Independent Forest Audit (IFA) of the Northshore Forest was conducted by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. during 2017. The audit scope included the 5 years of operations from April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2017.

The Northshore Forest (NF) Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) (# 542521) is managed by Northshore Forest Inc. (NFI). Shareholders include Domtar Inc., EACOM Timber Corporation, Midway Lumber Mills Ltd and the Northshore Independent Forestry Association Inc. EACOM acts as an agent for NFI to administer the forest management program of the SFL.

The IFA Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on December 20, 2017 and provided to NFI, MNR Sault Ste. Marie District and Northeast Region on January 9, 2018. The report contained 5 findings, including 2 which were directed to corporate MNR, and 3 which were directed to either district MNR or NFI. This Action Plan addresses all 5 findings.

## Findings

### **Principle #2: Public Participation and Aboriginal Involvement**

#### **Finding #1:**

The infrequent meetings of the Northshore Resource Management Advisory Committee (RMAC) prevent it from meeting the intent of the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) or the direction of its Terms of Reference (ToR).

#### ***Action(s) required:***

1. The MNR District Manager must ensure that RMAC vacancies are filled
2. As per the RMAC ToR, RMAC meetings will be held monthly

***Organization and position responsible:***

1. MNRF Sault Ste. Marie District Manager
2. MNRF Sault Ste. Marie District (Blind River) Resource Management Supervisor
3. MNRF Sault Ste. Marie (Blind River) Management Forester

***Deadline date:***

1. On-going – as candidate members become available

***Method of tracking progress:***

1. Review RMAC records indicating frequency of meetings (e.g., RMAC minutes)

**Principle 3: Forest Management Planning**

**Finding #2:**

There were a considerable number of inaccuracies and inconsistencies in the Enhanced Forest Resources Inventory (eFRI) inventory data and information.

***Action(s) required:***

1. A Root Cause Analysis was undertaken for this finding and it was deemed Corporate. Corporate or policy level findings will be considered as part of the regular corporate work planning and policy review cycle.

**Principle 6: Monitoring**

**Finding #3:**

The Annual Reports contain confusing text as well as errors and omissions.

***Action(s) required:***

1. Report shelterwood and selection natural regeneration in future Annual Reports (AR) commencing with the 2016 AR, and correct and update the "To Date" columns to reflect the total amount of natural regeneration of each since plan start.
2. In the 2016 AR, correct and update the "To Date" columns to reflect the total site preparation and tending carried out by specific treatment since plan start.

3. When entering the silvicultural information into the GIS system, verify the data with the actual invoices from the contractors, and also verify with the invoices submitted to the Renewal Trust Fund.
4. Modify the table in the text compliance section that summarizes the information contained in Table AR-6 to include a column of "Outstanding Issues" which will record the number of Compliance Reports that are still pending MNRF review, and verify that the total numbers in this table are the same as the total numbers in table AR-6.
5. Compose the text for the Compliance section to make it less confusing, and provide better explanation of the compliance program.
6. Annual Report submissions need to be reviewed to ensure that they contain all the required information.

***Organization and position responsible:***

1. SFL – Plan Author and General Manager
2. SFL – Plan Author and General Manager
3. SFL – Plan Author and General Manager
4. SFL – Plan Author and General Manager
5. SFL – Plan Author and General Manager
6. MNRF - Management Forester

***Deadline date:***

1. 1), 2), 3), 4), 5) November 15 of each year
2. 6) December 15 of each year

***Method of tracking progress:***

1. 1), 2), 3), 4), 5), 6) The list of Required Alterations from the MNRF

## **Principle 6: Monitoring**

**Finding #4:**

The MNRF did not consistently meet Compliance Handbook timelines for the submission of reports in the Forest Operations Information Program (FOIP) system.

***Action(s) required:***

1. Report approver will review reporting timeline on submitted reports and seek & document rationale where Handbook timelines are exceeded.

***Organization and position responsible:***

1. Blind River Resource Management Supervisor
2. Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist
3. Forestry Technical Specialist
4. Resource Management Technician(s)

***Deadline date:***

1. On-going

***Method of tracking progress:***

1. Periodically review FOIP and Compliance handbook to ensure timelines are being met

## **Principle 8: Contractual Obligations**

**Finding #5:**

The term of Sustainable Forest License #542521 has not been extended.

***Action(s) required:***

1. A Root Cause Analysis was undertaken for this finding and it was deemed Corporate. Corporate or policy level findings will be considered as part of the regular corporate work planning and policy review cycle.