

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

Pineland 2017 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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Pineland Forest 2017 Independent Forest Audit

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Date:

Introduction

An Independent Forest Audit (IFA) of the Pineland Forest was conducted by ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd. in the month of October 2017. The audit scope included the 5 years of operations from April 1, 2012 through March 31, 2017.

The Pineland Forest (PF) SLF # 550816 is managed by EACOM.

The IFA Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on February 14, 2018 and provided to EACOM, MNRF Chapleau District and Northeast Region on February 15, 2018. The report contained 9 findings, including 1 which was directed to corporate MNRF, and 8 which were directed to either district MNRF or NFI. This Action Plan addresses all 9 findings.

Findings

Finding #1:

There is a lack of training opportunities and materials for both new and existing LCC members.

Action Required:

1. New LCC members will receive onboarding training packages upon acceptance to the Local Citizen's Committee.
2. Training will be a standing agenda item at each LCC meeting. The agenda item will be to provide training or to discuss ideas for training topics.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Management Forester, Chapleau District MNRF
2. Management Forester, Chapleau District MNRF

Deadline Date:

1. Within one month of acceptance to the Local Citizens Committee
2. Ongoing – Standing agenda item at each LCC meeting

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. LCC digital files
2. LCC Meeting Minutes

Finding #2:

The Chapleau District MNRF has not maintained records of consultation with the LCC on all 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. ORB adjustments and the addition of AEAs).

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. Management Forester, Chapleau District MNRF

Deadline Date:

1. December 31, 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. LCC Meeting Minutes and LCC Terms of Reference.

Finding #3:

There is no protocol in place between the MNRF Chapleau District Manager and the Pineland and the Timmins local citizens committees.

Action Required:

1. A protocol will be developed between Chapleau and Timmins Districts which documents how the Pineland and Timmins LCCs will be involved during Forest Management planning and Implementation.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. District Manager (Chapleau District), District Manager (Timmins District)

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2019

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Pineland Forest Inter-District Protocol

Finding #4:

The actual harvest level has been well below the planned level in 2011 FMP period to date, which if it continues, is likely to limit the degree of achievement of 2011 FMP objectives and targets.

Action Required:

1. Development of the Pineland 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 Pineland 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.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. EACOM Plan Author, MNRF Region and District MNRF, Pineland Forest Planning Team.

Deadline Date:

1. October 31, 2019

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Development of Long-Term Management Direction.

Finding #5:

During the audit period, there was inconsistent effectiveness of sites treated with the herbicide Vision Max, that included varying degrees of damage and mortality to planted jack pine.

Action Required:

1. EACOM will formally document the ongoing investigation into the cause(s) of crop tree damage arising from the application of chemical aerial herbicide and the remedial actions taken to date.
2. Based on the results from the investigation, EACOM will, where feasible, take further remedial action.
3. EACOM will formally report on the investigation and remedial actions taken to address the crop tree damage arising from the application of chemical aerial herbicide in the Year 7 Annual Report, and possibly the Year 10 Annual Report, if needed.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. EACOM, Silviculture Manager, Silviculture Supervisor, Planning Forester
2. EACOM, Silviculture Manager, Silviculture Supervisor, Planning Forester
3. EACOM, Silviculture Manager, Silviculture Supervisor, Planning Forester

Deadline Date:

1. On-going
2. On-going
3. Year 7 Annual Report (February 2019) and Year 10 Annual Report if required (February 2022)

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Documented investigation available at EACOM office.
2. Annual Post-Spray assessments, documented remedial action, and annual regeneration assessments available at EACOM office.
3. Year 7 Annual Report and Year 10 Annual Report if required.

Finding #6:

The washout on the branch road off Goose Range North Road (Audit Stop P14-738) is a safety hazard.

Action Required:

1. At a minimum, a sign will be posted before the washout.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. EACOM Operations Group

Deadline Date:

1. June 30, 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. EACOM internal records, e-mail correspondence will be sent to MNRF Chapleau District post signage installation.

Finding #7:

Road maintenance may be threatened by the absence of a mutually-agreeable mechanism to control nuisance beaver.

Action Required:

1. A task team will be assembled
2. Task team to document protocols that are currently being used on the Forest and develop a series of options and/or strategies, and benchmarks for the Pineland Forest.
3. Task team to complete an analysis of the advantages and disadvantage of each approach.
4. Task team to formalize a mutually agreeable protocol for Nuisance Beaver Management.
5. Task team to examine results of the protocol following the first year of implementation.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. EACOM Timber Corp – Planning Forester, MNRF Chapleau District – Management Forester
2. Task Team (EACOM Timber Corp – Planning Forester, MNRF Chapleau District – Management Forester, MNRF Timmins District – Management Forester or designate)
3. Task Team
4. Task Team
5. Task Team

Deadline Date:

1. June 2018
2. Between June 2018 and December 2018
3. Between June 2018 and December 2018
4. December 2018
5. December 2019

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Emails, Terms of Reference
2. Emails, meeting minutes
3. Meeting minutes, emails, documents on file
4. Documents on file at MNRF and EACOM offices
5. Meeting Minutes

Finding #8:

The Trend Analysis did not meet key requirements identified in the FMPM related to making recommendations for improvements in management of the forest.

Action Required:

1. EACOM will follow FMPM requirements when preparing the Year 7 and 10 Annual Report/Trend Analysis.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. EACOM, Planning Forester

Deadline Date:

1. February, 2019 (Year 7 Annual Report), February, 2022 (Year 10 Annual Report)

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Year 7 and 10 Annual Reports

Finding #9:

Contrary to direction in the CFSA, MNRF has not extended the licence to recognize the positive results of the previous audits.

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.