

# **SAPAWE FOREST**

**2012- 2017 INDEPENDENT FOREST AUDIT**

**MANAGEMENT UNIT ACTION PLAN**

**Status Report**

# Status Report Signature Page

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# Introduction

In 2017, an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) was conducted on the Sapawe Forest by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2017. The final audit report was accepted by Forestry Futures Committee on November 30, 2017 and the action plan was approved January 30, 2018.

This status report is required to be submitted by January 30, 2020. The status report includes the original approved actions for findings from the Management Unit Action Plan. The progress to date is listed below the actions required. Future tracking is shown for any actions not yet completed.

## Findings

### **Finding #1:**

The delivery of the FRI products was late.

### **Action Required:**

1. MNRF Regional Resources Planning Supervisor will continue to advocate for the Forest Resource Inventory to be delivered on time and within technical specifications.

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

1. MNRF - Regional Resources Planning Supervisor

### **Progress to Date:**

1. Complete. MNRF Regional Planning Unit Supervisor continues to support planning teams in advocating for the forest resource inventory to be delivered on time and within technical specifications. The Sapawe Forest was one of the first Forest Management Units to be delivered the new FRI in the province. Since then, delivery of forest inventory products that meet FIM technical specifications on other management units have improved since the Sapawe FRI delivery schedule.

### **Finding #2:**

The slash management strategy of igniting linear rows of slash was ineffective in reducing the loss of productive forest land.

### **Action Required:**

1. Linear slash piles will continue to be assessed for renewal success, and silviculture treatments will be identified in accordance with the FMP.
2. Operational procedures will be adjusted, as required, to minimize loss of productive land.
3. Expectations on slash pile burning outcomes (80% consumption of 80% of the piles), will be included in slash pile burning requests for quotation and/or contract commencing with the 2018 contract.
4. MNRF to increase forest operation inspections and monitoring as part of their compliance and Silviculture Effective Monitoring programs.

### **Progress to Date:**

1. Ongoing. Renewal staff include linear slash piles as part of their renewal success assessments through post harvest FOP's, and renewal success surveys. Silviculture treatments are identified in accordance with the FMP.
2. Ongoing. Operations staff have emphasized the importance of adequately dealing with roadside debris with harvest contractors. The majority of harvest operations on the forest now processes trees at the stump, which removes the concern of debris piles at roadside.
3. Complete. The most recent 2018 slash pile burn plan associated with the 2018 contract states that: "Consumption of the slash piles to allow for renewal of the forest. Ideally, tree planting at 6-8 ft spacing will achieve sufficient renewal targets, i.e. a ring of slash allowing trees to be planted inside and outside about 6-8 ft apart. This may translate to about 80% of the slash pile area having the ground exposed."
4. Ongoing. MNRF have increased Forest Operations Inspections and have inspected slash management in harvest blocks. MNRF has also included slash management as a compliance item in their ACOP. SEM priorities will be revised in 2020.

### **Future Tracking Requirements:**

1. Post Harvest Forest Operations Prescriptions, Renewal Success Surveys.
2. Harvest Sign-Off maps, Forest Operations Inspection Program.
3. Slash Pile Burn Contracts/Associated Burn Plan.
4. Forest Operations Information Reporting Program

### **Finding #3:**

FMP operational standards for forestry aggregate pits were not consistently met.

#### **Action Required:**

1. Both MNRF and RLTRMI to increase forest operation inspections as a part of their compliance program
2. RLTRMI will review forest aggregate pit (FAP) requirements with contractors.

#### **Progress to Date:**

1. Ongoing. Both MNRF and RLTRMI have increased Forest Operations Inspections and have inspected FAP in harvest blocks. MNRF has also included FAP as a compliance item in their ACOP.
2. Ongoing. Operations staff have put an increased emphasis on requirements for forestry aggregate pit requirements with contractors, as part of ongoing Environmental Management System tailgate reviews associated with internal forest certification.

#### **Future Tracking Requirements:**

1. FOIP and ACOP
2. Harvest Sign-Off maps with contractors.

### **Finding #4:**

There is no evidence of broader MNRF District priority setting and risk assessment for the allocation of available resources in the Annual District Compliance Plan.

#### **Action Required:**

1. MNRF District will revise and update the District Compliance Plan and maintain an Annual Compliance Operations Plan (ACOP) in order to meet objectives within the Compliance strategy.
2. MNRF Annual Compliance targets will be assigned to each Forest Compliance Inspector within their Personal Development Plan (PDP)
3. MNRF Resource Management Supervisors will ensure new staff will receive compliance inspector mentoring to enable them to complete the forest compliance inspector certification course.
4. Hold regular meetings between MNRF Compliance Inspectors to discuss new/ongoing compliance issues.

**Progress to Date:**

1. Complete. ACOP on file and district compliance committee has been created.
2. Complete.
3. Ongoing. District MNRF will continue to mentor potential candidates when possible.
4. Ongoing. District is working on holding periodic District Forest Compliance Meetings between Forest Compliance Inspectors and Management to discuss new and ongoing compliance items.

**Future Tracking Requirements:**

1. Annual Compliance Operations Plan
2. Personal Development Plan
3. Staff attendance at provincial compliance certification session, MNRF training records on file.
4. District Compliance Committee meeting minutes, Company/MNRF operational meeting minutes (meeting invites), forest compliance tracking worksheet, and the Forest Operation Inspection Reports.

**Finding #5:**

MNRF failed to file compliance inspections in the FOIP database and had an inadequate compliance presence during the audit term.

**Action Required:**

1. MNRF District will revise and update the District Compliance Plan and maintain an Annual Compliance Operations Plan (ACOP) in order to meet objectives within the Compliance strategy.
2. MNRF Fort Frances district to discuss Forest Compliance coordination.
3. All MNRF District inspections will be entered into the Forest Operations Information Program as per the standards outlined in the 2014 Forestry Compliance Handbook.

**Progress to Date:**

1. Complete. ACOP on file and district compliance committee has been created.
2. Complete. ACOP on file and district compliance committee has been created.
3. Complete. 2017- Nine MNRF inspections were entered, 2018- Two MNRF inspections were entered. 2019 will be completed during the March 2020 Flight. All blocks are planned for inspection.