

Independent Forest Audit

Bancroft-Minden Forest

2017 IFA

Action Plan

Bancroft-Minden Forest, June 2018

2018 Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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Introduction

In November 2017 an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) was conducted on the Bancroft-Minden Forest for the period April 1, 2011, to March 31, 2017. Integration Branch was notified of the Forestry Futures Committee's acceptance of the report as being final on March 7, 2018. A Management Unit Action Plan is due June of 2018.

The final audit report for the Bancroft-Minden Forest included findings and the recommendation to extend the licence are addressed in this action plan. For each finding, the action plan outlines the actions required, responsibility, timelines, and method of tracking progress of actions.

2017 IFA Findings

Finding #1

District Condition 34/56 reports and surveys are lacking in detailed information that would support a conclusive assessment of efforts to identify and provide opportunities to Indigenous communities over the audit term.

Action Required:

This is no longer a requirement in the 2017 FMPM (Pg. ii, Line 38-39). In response to the Declaration Order MNR-75: Environmental Assessment Requirements for Forest Management on Crown Lands in Ontario, MNRF Bancroft District will:

1. Request BMFC provide input into the Condition 34/56 report
2. Ensure Condition 34/56 report contents meet MNRF requirements.
3. Ensure MNRF staff responsible for completing the report are trained.
4. MNRF Bancroft District Manager and BMFC GM will continue to have ongoing discussions with indigenous communities in the Forest Management Unit.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Resource Liaison Specialist (Lead).
2. MNRF Regional Aboriginal Advisor (Lead) and MNRF Bancroft District RLS.
3. MNRF Bancroft District Manager and MNRF Regional Aboriginal Advisor (Lead) and MNRF Resource Liaison Specialist.
4. MNRF Bancroft District Manager (Lead) and BMFC General Manager.

Deadline Date:

1. Annually beginning 2018.
2. Annually beginning 2018.
3. January 1, 2019.
4. Annually beginning 2019.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Approved Condition 56 report.
2. Approved Condition 56 report.
3. Training records.
4. Meeting minutes.

Finding #2

A Report on the Protection of Identified Aboriginal Values for Curve Lake First Nation is outstanding.

Action Required:

- The Bancroft District Manager will ensure the planning requirements for the 2017 FMPM are adhered to by the 2021 FMP planning team.
- The Bancroft District Manager will ensure the position of the District Resources Liaison Specialist is filled to promote understanding, co-operation and participation in MNRF's sustainable resource management programs with Indigenous people, non-Indigenous communities and other resource management users.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Bancroft District Manager.
2. MNRF Bancroft District Manager

Deadline Date:

1. Fall 2020 (prior to submission of final FMP).
2. December 2018.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Approved 2021 FMP.
2. Position filled.

Finding #3

There is a need for MNRF to hasten its review of its forest genetics conservation and seed handling programs and communicate a new strategy to SFL holders.

Action Required:

1. An analysis was undertaken for this finding and it was deemed Corporate. Corporate or policy findings will be considered as part of the regular corporate MNRF planning and policy review cycle.

Finding #4

Better communication between MNRF and BMFC would allow for more efficient use of MNRFs limited resources, and provide the MNRF with the opportunity to focus values collection efforts where they are most essential.

Action Required:

1. Database identifying operating blocks in 2011 FMP has been created and will continue to be updated, maintained and shared with both organizations with forest values information.
2. Creation of an FMP habitat layer to capture SAR habitat information will be developed, maintained and shared with both organizations.
3. Provide BMFC with training on values collection and verification as needed.
4. Develop prescriptions for recreational values as deemed necessary by 2021 FMP planning team.
5. Encourage ongoing dialogue between organizations related to forest values.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. BMFC Office Manager and MNRF GIS Technician and Management Biologist (Lead).
2. Regional GIS Specialist (Lead) and MNRF GIS Tech and BMFC Office Manager.
3. MNRF Management Biologist.
4. Plan Author (Lead).
5. MNRF Bancroft District Resource Management Supervisor and BMFC General Manager.

Deadline Date:

1. As values are identified in the preparation of the AWS. Frequency of info sharing will be agreed to by MNRF and SFL in the 2018/19 AWS.
2. As forest values are identified during the implementation of the AWS.
3. November 2018.
4. April 1, 2021.
5. March 2019.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Email.
2. Shapefile/Email/FiPortal.
3. Training Records.
4. Approved 2021 FMP/Planning Team minutes.
5. Meeting notes.

Finding #5

Evidence of poor operating practices was found on 4 of the 22 blocks sampled.

Action Required:

1. Review and adjust training needs on a more regular basis for operators and contractors to respond to emerging trends and changes.
2. More thorough documentation of unusual circumstances in FOIP reports.
3. Joint inspections with district compliance staff will be initiated.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. BMFC Senior Operations Technician.
2. BMFC Senior Operations Technician.
3. BMFC Senior Operations Technician and MNRF Bancroft Forestry Technical Specialist.

Deadline Date:

1. Fall 2018.
2. Fall 2018.
3. March 31, 2019.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Internal BMFC training records.
2. FOIP reports submitted.
3. FOIP.

Finding #6

The number of MNRF compliance inspections fell below planned levels on a consistent basis throughout the term of the audit.

Action Required:

1. Ensure staff are trained and available to conduct inspections and prepare FOIP reports
2. Increase number of certified compliance inspectors in the district.
3. Ensure MNRF Bancroft District risk based approach to forest compliance is consistent with the 2014 forest compliance handbook.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. District Resource Management Supervisors
2. District Resource Management Supervisors
3. District Resource Management Supervisors (Lead) and Forestry Technical Specialist

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2019 for current staff prepared to obtain certification. District will monitor training opportunities moving forward to build capacity.

2. March 31, 2019 by ensuring existing and new staff receive sufficient training to successfully complete certification.
3. May 31st 2018 as part of annual ACOP development.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Training Records and FOIP.
2. Training Records and FOIP.
3. District ACOP.

Finding #7

There is inconsistent silvicultural effectiveness monitoring (SEM) data collection, compilation, analysis and reporting procedures between the SFL and MNRF.

Action Required:

An analysis was undertaken for this finding and it was deemed Corporate. Corporate or policy finding will be considered as part of the regular corporate MNRF planning and policy review cycle.

Finding #8

Actions taken by MNRF in response to three of the previous IFA recommendations related to the FRI, SAR and license extension have been ineffective at solving associated problems identified in the preceding audit report.

Action Required:

1. An analysis was undertaken for this finding and it was deemed Corporate. Corporate or policy findings will be considered as part of the regular corporate MNRF planning and policy review cycle.

Recommendation to Extend Licence - MNRF

The audit team concludes that management of the Bancroft-Minden Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Bancroft Minden Forest Company Inc. The forest is being managed consistently with the principles of sustainable forest management, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The audit team recommends the Minister extend the term of Sustainable Forest Licence #542585 for a further five years.

Action Required:

1. An analysis was undertaken for this finding and it was deemed Corporate. Corporate or policy findings will be considered as part of the regular corporate MNRF planning and policy review cycle.