

**BLACK SPRUCE FOREST**  
**2011- 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 Black Spruce 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 February 12, 2018.

This status report is required to be submitted by February 12, 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:

FMP standards for residual tree retention were not consistently met.

### Action Required:

1. All operators will be trained / refreshed, as to the requirements regarding residual wildlife tree prescriptions with-in the 2011 FMP.
2. The Forest Operations Inspection Program (FOIP) reports will be monitored, issues will be addressed as they arise and FOIP reports will be summarized for issues related to wildlife tree retention in the Annual Reports.

### Progress to Date:

1. **Complete.** EMS Environmental Awareness training held during the Resolute Contractor Spring Training Session in 2018 and 2019, highlights the requirements regarding residual wildlife tree prescriptions as outline in the FMP. Operational direction for residual wildlife trees is referenced in the EMS handbook for field use, and discussed through tailgate sessions and Continuing Education Bulletins. EMS awareness training incorporates residual wildlife tree requirements; it is mandatory for all individuals working on the forest. This training is verified annually.
2. **Complete and Ongoing.** The Forest Operations Inspection Program (FOIP) reports have been monitored. FOIP reports submitted by contract compliance inspectors are reviewed by Resolute operations staff for accuracy and approval. When a potential residual tree retention issue is encountered either in the field or

identified in a FOIP report, Resolute operations staff samples the block. The harvesting contractor is informed of any residual tree retention issues, at which time an action plan is discussed and implemented promptly. To date, one incident was reported where wildlife tree requirements in one harvest block were not met. Issues will continue to be addressed as they arise. FOIP reports for issues related to wildlife tree retention have been in the Annual Report(s).

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

1. None.
2. Management Unit Annual Report(s).

#### **Finding #2:**

The efficacy of the herbicide tending program was uneven.

#### **Action Required:**

1. Weedmaster is a new/alternate herbicide product used by Resolute in conduct of the 2017-2018 spray program as one measure in attempting to achieve a more effective herbicide program. Review the effectiveness of 2017-2018 herbicide program Weedmaster branded herbicide in 2018-2019.
2. If control was effective continue with use of Weedmaster (or similar formulation). In the event control is found to be ineffective Resolute will consult with the herbicide applicator contractor and/or others to find options/alternatives to increase effectiveness.
3. Areas where ineffective control was noted and silviculture objectives could still be achieved are included in the 2018-2019 herbicide spray program and will be reported in the 2018-2019 annual report.

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

1. **Complete.** Areas treated with Weedmaster® were reviewed in 2018-2019. Overall the areas achieved more effective and even control than previous years. Competition control via Weedmaster was found to be effective.
2. **Complete.** Resolute will continue to use Weedmaster® (now branded as Gylsil) moving forward until an equal or more effective alternative is found. Resolute continually reviews its programs seeking options and/or alternatives for vegetation control
3. **Complete.** A re-spray did not occur in 2018-2019 as originally planned. The spray program was shortened due to early onset of leaf-off condition. During the 2019-2020 program year 124.5 hectares received a re-treatment on areas where silviculture objectives could still be met.

**Future Tracking Requirements:**

1. None.
2. None.
3. Spray activities conducted in the 2019-2020 fiscal year will be reported in the 2019-2020 Annual Report.

**Finding #3:**

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

**Action Required:**

1. Both MNRF and Resolute Forest Product to increase Forest operation inspections as a part of their compliance program
2. Resolute FP Canada Inc. will review aggregate pit requirements with contractors.

**Progress to Date:**

1. **Complete and Ongoing.** Forest operation inspections of forest aggregate pits has increased, and will continue to do so until the end of the 2011 term.
2. **Complete.** EMS Environmental Awareness training held in April 2018 during the Resolute Contractor Spring Training Session, highlights the requirement of aggregate pit inspections and reporting as well as the operation standards for forest aggregate pits as outline in the FMP. Operational direction for aggregate pits is referenced in the EMS handbook for field use, and discussed through tailgate sessions and Continuing Education Bulletins.

**Future Tracking Requirements:**

1. None.
2. None.

**Finding #4:**

The term of Sustainable Forest Licence # 542526 has not been extended.

**Action Required:**

1. The MNRF Regional Director and Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Forestry Manager Ontario will continue to support the review process (if required or necessary) associated with SFL license extension as per Subsection 26 (4) of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act.

**Progress to Date:**

1. Complete. Sustainable Forest licence No. 542526 was amended on January 2019 to reflect Minister approved SFL extension to March 31, 2038.