

Crossroute Forest

2012-2017 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

Crossroute Forest 2017 Independent Forest Audit Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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Introduction

The final 2017 Crossroute Forest Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on October 31, 2017 for an IFA conducted by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. for the period April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2017.

The 2017 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP) requires a Management Unit Action Plan be prepared in response to the audit recommendations.

A total of eleven findings were noted for the management unit. For each finding, this action plan provides a description of the actions required, the organization and position responsible, timelines for each of the action items, as well as the method of tracking progress for each action.

Findings

Finding #1:

Recommendation # 2 of the 2012 IFA that required that *“MNR shall work with the LCC to offer the Company a larger role on the LCC”* has not been fully addressed.

Action Required:

1. The MNRF District Manager to send a Natural Resources Advisory Committee (NRAC) Membership confirmation letter to Resolute FP Canada Inc. confirming role and membership on committee.
2. Resolute FP Canada Inc. to confirm receipt of letter.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF - District Manager
2. Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Forestry Manager Ontario

Deadline Date:

1. December 8, 2017
2. December 15, 2017

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Copy membership letter on NRAC file.
2. Copy of receipt letter on NRAC file.

Finding #2:

The delivery of FRI products is late and out of synchrony with the forest management planning cycle. The quality of the product has resulted in operational and planning challenges and additional costs for RFP.

Action Required:

1. MNRF Regional Planning Unit 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 Planning Unit Supervisor

Deadline Date:

1. n/a

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Email, meeting minutes of conversations with the Coordinator of the Forest Resource Inventory Unit.

Finding #3:

Amendments to address 2017 Contingency Plan “*required alterations*” (#’s 68122, 68123, 68130, and 68280) have not been drafted and approved.

Action Required:

1. Draft and submit amendment to update section 9.9.1 Forest Operations Inspection of the 2017-2020 Contingency Plan, to address required alterations.
2. Review and approve amendment.
3. Roll out of new Compliance Plan to the Forest Operations Inspectors on the forest.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Resolute FP Canada Inc. – Planning Coordinator / Forestry Manager Ontario
2. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Management Forester
3. Resolute FP Canada Inc. – Planning Coordinator / Forestry Manager Ontario and Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry – Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. February, 2018
2. March, 2018
3. April, 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Upload amendment to Forest Information Portal.
2. Accept / Approval of amendment of Forest Information Portal.
3. Meeting minutes and attendance.

Finding #4:

The efficacy of the herbicide tending program was uneven across ecosites and operating years. The inability to effectively control site competition has resulted in increased hardwood densities and conifer mortality on some artificially renewed conifer sites.

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.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Resolute FP Canada Inc. – Forest Renewal Superintendent
2. Resolute FP Canada Inc. – Forest Renewal Superintendent
3. Resolute FP Canada Inc. – Forest Renewal Superintendent

Deadline Date:

1. June 30, 2018
2. July 30, 2018
3. November 15, 2019 for the 2018-2019 Annual Report

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Record of herbicide effectiveness review.
2. Record of continued use or record of discussion and revisions to product/procedures.
3. 2018-2019 Herbicide Project Plan; 2018-2019 Annual Report

Finding #5:

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.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF, Forestry Technical Specialist and Resolute FP Canada Inc. – Area Superintendent
2. Resolute FP Canada Inc. – Production Manager, West Operations, Ontario Woodlands and Area Superintendent

Deadline Date:

1. March 2020
2. May, 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. FOIP
2. FOIP

Finding #6:

A wood utilization compliance issue that persisted for two years was not reported by MNRF or Resolute. MNRF and Resolute failed to identify and report on operational issues that had the potential to result in non-complaint operations. Management staff in MNRF and Resolute failed to provide an appropriate level of oversight of the staff and programs under their jurisdiction.

Action Required:

1. MNRF and Resolute FP Canada Inc. will ensure that the requirements for inspecting and reporting are followed, as required by the Forest Management Plan.
2. MNRF Fort Frances district to discuss Forest Compliance coordination.
3. Regular monthly meetings between MNRF and Industry (SFL/FRL) Compliance Inspectors, with a focus on any operational issues.
4. Resolute FP Canada Inc. will conduct a joint information session with all MNRF and Resolute FP Canada Inc. FOIP inspectors for the forest, to review reporting requirements.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF - District Manager and Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Forestry Manager Ontario.
2. MNRF - District Manager
3. MNRF – Management Forester and Resolute FP Canada Inc. – Area Superintendent

4. Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Forestry Manager Ontario and Production Manager, West Operations, Ontario Woodlands

Deadline Date:

1. Fall of 2019.
2. March 31, 2018
3. 2018 and ongoing
4. May, 2018

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Current Forest Management Plan
2. Forest Compliance Inspector certification
3. Appointment of Coordinator
4. Agenda / Minutes from spring meeting

Finding #7:

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.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF - Resources Management Supervisor, Integrated Resources Management Technical Specialist and Forestry Technical Specialist
2. MNRF - Resources Management Supervisor
3. MNRF - Resource Management Supervisor
4. MNRF - Compliance Inspectors

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2018
2. 2018, ongoing
3. Fall of 2019
4. 2018, ongoing

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. District Compliance Strategy/ Annual Compliance Plan
2. Personal Development Plan(s)
3. Forest Compliance Inspector certification
4. Forest Operational Inspection Program

Finding #8:

The schedule for the completion of the clean-up of 2014-2016 harvest blocks has proven to be unrealistic and unattainable.

Action Required:

1. MNRF and Resolute FP Canada Inc. to agree on new schedule for clean-up of the 2014-2016 harvest blocks.
2. MNRF and Resolute FP Canada Inc. to provide regular updates every 4-6 month

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF - District Manager and Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Production Manager, West Operations, Ontario Woodlands
2. MNRF - Management Forester and Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Planning Coordinator

Deadline Date:

1. March 15, 2018
2. February, 2020

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Copy of agreement on file
2. Copy of updates on file.

Finding #9:

A backlog in area requiring FTG survey exists.

Action Required:

1. Conduct queries and mapping of any backlog survey needs and assess the scope of any backlog.
2. Schedule and conduct surveys to address any backlog and report in annual reports. Depending on the size of the program this may take two years to accomplish.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Resolute FP Canada Inc. – Forest Renewal Superintendent
2. Resolute FP Canada Inc. – Forest Renewal Superintendent

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2018

2. November 15, 2020

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Record of queries and maps.
2. Annual reports 2018-2019 and 2019-2020

Finding #10:

The Action Plan Status Report was submitted three months late.

Action Required:

1. The MNRF District Manager and Resolute Forest Products must ensure that the 2017 Crossroute IFA Action Plan Status Report is submitted and implemented in accordance with the schedule specified in the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol Document.
2. The MNRF Regional Forest Operations Specialist, in consultation with MNRF district staff, will provide regional coordination with the development and approval of the Crossroute Action Plan Status Report.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF - District Manager and Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Forestry Manager Ontario
2. MNRF - Regional Forest Operations Specialist

Deadline Date:

1. January 31, 2020
2. 2017 and ongoing

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Submission of 2017 IFA action plan status report

Finding #11:

The term of Sustainable Forest Licence # 542245 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.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF - Regional Director and Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Forestry Manager Ontario

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2020

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Crossroute SFL licence document Appendix G