

Dryden Forest

2013-2018 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

Dryden Forest 2018 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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Action Plan Approval Signature Page

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Introduction

The 2018 Dryden Forest Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on November 20, 2018 for an IFA conducted by ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd. for the period April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2018.

The 2018 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP) requires a Management Unit Action Plan be prepared in response to the audit findings.

A total of fourteen 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.

Based on a cause analysis on the 2018 IFA findings, findings No. 7, 9, 13, and 14 have been assessed at a corporate MNRF level and will be considered as part of the regular corporate planning and policy review cycle. They will not be reported on in this Management Unit Action Plan.

Findings

Finding #1:

There are considerable barriers to the meaningful participation of Indigenous communities in management planning on the Dryden Forest.

Action Required:

1. Coordinate meeting with external individual(s) who have expertise in developing and implementing effective and constructive engagement in forest management plan development.
2. Outreach with First Nations and Metis Councils to fully understand the barriers which will be used to develop a strategy that will allow for more meaningful participation.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. DFMC General Manager and MNRF District Resources Management Supervisor.
2. MNRF District Resources Management Supervisor, MNRF Resource Liaison Specialist, MNRF Management Forester.

Deadline Date:

1. June 30, 2020.
2. Outreach completed September 31, 2020, and strategy prepared by October 30, 2020.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Meeting scheduled, and summary prepared.
2. Community outreach takes place, and strategy prepared.

Finding #2:

The relationship between Eagle Lake First Nation and the Company and MNRF has become strained during the last year of the audit period, while the Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation and Northwest Métis Council have very limited relationships with MNRF and DFMC.

Action Required:

1. MNRF and DFMC will continue to follow the consultation process as outlined by Metis Nation of Ontario (MNO) which involves direct communication to the Regional Councillor and Chair of MNO Region 1 Consultation Committee. This is the designated one-window contact for forest management planning and no further action is required.
2. Coordinate a meeting with Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation to discuss preferred approaches to engagement that allows the community to effectively participate in the forest management planning process.

3. Coordinate meeting with Eagle Lake First Nation to understand the interests the First Nation may have in local forestry operations and concerns.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. N/A.
2. MNRF District Resources Management Supervisor, MNRF Resource Liaison Specialist, MNRF Management Forester, DFMC General Manager.
3. MNRF District Manager.

Deadline Date:

1. N/A.
2. June 30, 2020.
3. June 30, 2020.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. N/A.
2. Meeting Minutes.
3. Meeting Minutes.

Finding #3:

The silvicultural effectiveness monitoring program described in the plan does not fully align with the implemented program for monitoring complex stand types.

Action Required:

1. Ensure 2021-2031 Dryden Forest FMP contains the methodology for a monitoring program to assess establishment and performance of regeneration is practical and achievable and allows for flexibility in implementation (i.e. view from air, ground surveys, aerial images, and other technology). Doing so will ensure that the plan provides the opportunity for monitoring complex stand types as the finding suggested.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. DFMC Operations Forester.

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2021.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Methodology for monitoring of regeneration included in the 2021-2031 FMP as noted in the supplementary documentation.

Finding #4:

Three provincially rare species were omitted from the background information in the Phase II Planned Operations.

Action Required:

1. In the 2021-2031 Dryden Forest FMP, the background information will include provincially rare species that have been identified on Farabout peninsula.
2. All species listed by NHIC in the forest management unit will be described in the background information.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Management Biologist and MNRF Management Forester.
2. MNRF Management Biologist and MNRF Management Forester.

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2021.
2. March 31, 2021.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Documented within text of the 2021-2031 Dryden Forest FMP.
2. Documented within text of the 2021-2031 Dryden Forest FMP.

Finding #5:

Reviews of amendments to the FMP are often not completed and approved in a timely manner.

Action Required:

1. Amendment submission and review process will be developed and implemented.
2. Review timelines will be established upon acceptance of amendment.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Resources Management Supervisor, MNRF Management Forester, DFMC General Manager.
2. MNRF Resources Management Supervisor, MNRF Management Forester, DFMC General Manager.

Deadline Date:

1. May 30, 2019.
2. May 30, 2019.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Record and tracking of amendments.
2. Amendment reviewed and approved by documented timelines.

Finding #6:

MNRF approval of AWS revisions has not consistently followed appropriate procedures regarding the sequence of the approval signatures for AWS revisions.

Action Required:

1. Appropriate procedures for approving AWS revisions, as per the FMPM, will be stringently followed.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF District Manager, MNRF Resources Management Supervisor, MNRF Management Forester, DFMC General Manager.

Deadline Date:

1. May 30, 2019.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Records demonstrate approval signatures follow approval chronology, and no sign-off by District Manager or Resources Management Supervisor prior to formal submission of AWS revisions.

Finding #8:

Active regeneration of roads is not being pursued so as to make a meaningful contribution to the company's efforts to maintain the productive land area of the forest.

Action Required:

1. DFMC will propose road decommissioning in 2019/20 or 2020/21 AWS. Where roads have been decommissioned subsequent regeneration will take place.
2. DFMC will ensure that any road decommissioning and regeneration activities that take place within the AWS fiscal term will be reported in the annual reporting product as per the FMPM.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. DFMC, Operational Forester.
2. DFMC, General Manager.

Deadline Date:

1. April 1, 2019 or April 1, 2020.
2. November 15, 2020 or November 15, 2021.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Roads scheduled for decommissioning in AWS.
2. Roads reported as decommissioned in Annual Reports.

Finding #10:

The lack of joint compliance inspections is not consistent with the intent of the compliance planning documents to carry out effective monitoring.

Action Required:

1. DFMC and MNRF Inspectors will request joint inspections with their counter parts.
2. FOIP Report to document if joint inspection requested but did not occur.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Compliance Inspectors – DFMC, MNRF.
2. Compliance Reviewer – DFMC, MNRF.

Deadline Date:

1. On-Going.
2. On-Going.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Annual Reports to discuss numbers of joint inspections
2. Annual Reports to discuss number of inspections requested for joint but didn't occur.

Finding #11:

MNRF did not meet its obligations associated with the development of comprehensive district compliance plans or implementation of compliance targets identified in the plans.

Action Required:

1. MNRF District will implement a District Compliance Plan and enhance their 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 performance plans.
3. As prioritized through the development and review of employee specific performance plans, the Dryden District MNRF Resources Management Supervisor will ensure staff receive adequate 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 staff.

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2019.
2. March 31, 2019.
3. Annually.
4. Ongoing & as required.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. District Compliance Plan & ACOP.
2. ACOP.
3. Performance Plans.
4. Email & records of conversation as required.

Finding #12:

Several of the FMP's objectives and their related indicators, desirable levels and targets are not appropriate or reasonable measures of the management goals set for the Forest.

Action Required:

1. The 2021-2031 FMP will ensure objective indicators, and targets are reasonably achievable. When targets are provided, i.e. through Boreal Landscape Guide, a discussion on unreasonableness, if needed, should occur in the text.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. DFMC Plan Author.

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2021.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Approval of 2021-2031 FMP.