

Whitefeather Forest (M.U. #994)

2018 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

Whitefeather Forest 2018 Independent Forest Audit Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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Introduction

During the period July 23 - August 15th, 2018 an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) was conducted by Arborvitae Environmental Services Ltd. on the Whitefeather Forest Management Unit for the period April 1, 2011 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 six 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, finding No. 5 has 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:

The Authority did not prepare a Phase II Planned Operations.

Action Required:

1. The SFL will meet with MNRF Region and District to determine what is required to bring the Whitefeather Forest into compliance with the Crown Forest Sustainability Act (CFSA) to enable forest operations to take place.
2. Based on the outcome of #1, the MNRF and SFL will decide the most cost-effective and timely option (i.e. Phase II FMP, Contingency Plan, etc.) to bring the Whitefeather Forest into compliance and begin planning immediately.
3. The SFL will develop a forest management plan (e.g. Phase II FMP, Contingency Plan, FMP) and Annual Work Schedule.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. WFCRMA President, WF Steering Group Representatives, WFCRMA Planning Forester, MNRF Regional Resources Planning Supervisor, MNRF District Resource Management Supervisor, MNRF District Manager, MNRF District Management Forester
2. WFCRMA President, NWR FMP Specialist, MNRF Regional Planning Forester, MNRF Regional Resources Planning Supervisor, WFCRMA Planning Forester, MNRF District Management Forester
3. WFCRMA President, WFCRMA Planning Forester, MNRF District Management Forester, MNRF District Resource Management Supervisor, MNRF District Manager, MNRF Regional Planning Forester, MNRF Regional Forest Management Planning Specialist, MNRF Regional Resources Planning Supervisor, MNRF Regional Resources Manager, NWR MNRF Regional Director

Deadline Date:

1. April 10, 2018
2. September 17, 2018
3. April 1, 2019

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Documentation of meeting(s) between MNRF Regional and District planning supervisors to discuss options for compliance with the CFSA. Planning Team
2. Approved plan proposal.
3. Approved 2019 Contingency Plan and Annual Work Schedule.

Finding #2:

WFCRMA and MNRF have a strained relationship which has stalemated activity on the Whitefeather Forest.

Action Required:

1. The MNRF will continue to provide Indigenous Cultural Awareness training via the corporate platform for MNRF Red Lake District staff, Regional Planning staff and any other MNRF staff or MNRF consultants working with the Whitefeather Forest. This includes any work for or with Pikangikum First Nation.
2. MNRF District, Regional Planning staff will liaise with Forest Industry Division involved with the Whitefeather Forest Initiative and Pikangikum First Nation, and together, will review the Principles and Objectives described in the *Keeping the Land(KTL): A Land Use Strategy* for the Whitefeather Forest with particular attention to Principles 1, 2 &10 as well as Objectives 1 & 2 prior when delivering presentations or attending meetings with WFCRMA or Pikangikum Community on forest management activities and/or economic development opportunities.
3. The MNRF District Manager will liaise with Corporate MNRF Forest Industry Division and WFCRMA to support discussions regarding new initiative funding opportunities to facilitate further development of the KTL' s economic and employment objectives and principles. WFCRMA and MNRF District Manager will meet to touch base on and discuss upcoming opportunities or ongoing initiatives on an annual basis. This meeting will also serve as a reset/review of progress on this finding.
4. MNRF District will review procedures for forest management oversight (e.g. compliance inspections, water crossing approvals) in the context of KTL. MNRF District will develop procedures, where required, and review with WFCRMA to ensure an open and transparent process.
5. MNRF District and WFCRMA will develop a communications protocol/process to facilitate discussions regarding forest management activities on the Whitefeather Forest or any economic opportunities through MNRF initiatives for First Nations. This communications protocol will include how notifications regarding forest management or other MNRF programs are communicated to Pikangikum First Nation to ensure that WFCRMA is apprised of any and all communication. This will ensure communication with Pikangikum is transparent and all parties are informed.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF District Manager, MNRF District Resource Liaison Specialist, MNRF Regional Resources Manager, MNRF Regional Resources Planning Supervisor
2. MNRF District Manager, MNRF Regional Resources Manager

3. MNRF District Manager, WFCRMA President, WFI Representative and Steering Group,
4. WFCRMA Planning Forester, MNRF District Resources Management Supervisor, MNRF District Resource Liaison Specialist, MNRF District Management Forester, WFCRMA President, WFI representative and Steering Group, MNRF District Resource Management Technician
5. WFCRMA Planning Forester, WFCRMA President, WFI representative and Steering Group, MNRF District Resources Management Supervisor, MNRF District Manager, MNRF District Resource Liaison Specialist, MNRF District Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2020 and annually thereafter or as required
2. March 31, 2020 and annually thereafter or as required
3. March 31, 2020 and annually thereafter or as required
4. March 31, 2020
5. March 31, 2020

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. OPS Indigenous Cultural Competency Training registrar's records, San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training registrar's records, course materials, seminar/workshop records, WFCRMA and District records of field education or presentations given by WFCRMA staff, or MNRF District Resource Liaison Specialist.
2. Field trips/training sessions, presentations to and/or from MNRF and WFCRMA and/or Pikangikum, information centres.
3. Initiative/Projects funding, processing facility funding announcements, joint ventures with other company's, media announcements, completed projects, Annual Reports, Annual Work Schedules, meeting agendas, minutes and correspondence
4. Record of MNRF District staff's review of KTL, MNRF District procedures where required.
5. MNRF District and WFCRMA communications protocol.

Finding # 3:

MNRF did not prepare Forest Operations Inspections Reports following inspections it undertook of roadwork on the Whitefeather Forest.

Action Required:

1. District MNRF will review the compliance reporting and monitoring sections of the 2012 FMP as well as the currently approved 2019 Contingency Plan and amend or revise to facilitate future District Annual Compliance Operating Plans (ACOP)'s and AWS text with respect to MNRF district compliance FOIP report inspection requirements prescribed in the MNRF Compliance Handbook.
2. District MNRF will incorporate WF inspection requirements in ACOP and ensure inspections are entered in FOIP.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF District Management Forester, MNRF Regional Forest Operations Specialist, MNRF District Compliance staff, MNRF District Resources Supervisor, MNRF Regional Planning Forester
2. MNRF District Compliance staff, MNRF District Resources Supervisor, MNRF Regional Planning Forester, MNRF District Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. April 1, 2020
2. April 1, 2020 and annually thereafter.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. FOIP reports submitted by MNRF District; 2019 Whitefeather Forest CP and AWS Compliance Monitoring and Reporting sections
2. Future Red Lake District ACOPs submitted, FOIP reports and inspections

Finding #4:

WFCRMA did not report the harvesting that took place in 2014-15 in the Annual Report for that year and MNRF's review of the Annual Reports did not detect inaccuracies related to the reporting of harvest volume.

Action Required:

1. The SFL will conduct a review of the 2014 -15 annual report to identify any potential shortfalls with reporting inaccuracies and will ensure that any future annual reports follow the content requirements for annual reporting as per the Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) and the Forest Information Manual (FIM).
2. The MNRF will ensure that future annual reports meet the content requirements for annual reports as per the FMPM.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. WFCRMA Planning Forester, MNRF District Management Forester
2. MNRF District Management Forester, MNRF Regional Planning Forester

Deadline Date:

1. November 15th, 2019
2. November 15th, 2019

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Meeting minutes/agendas to review requirements for annual reporting to meet FMPM, Annual report submission
2. District Review of non-enhanced Annual Reports, review of Year 3, 7 and 10 AR's as well as future audit findings

Finding #6:

WFCRMA has had very little formal interaction with adjacent Indigenous communities with an interest in the Whitefeather Forest.

Action Required:

1. WFCRMA will review the consultation process requirements in the 2017 FMPM (specifically Part A section 3.0 and Part F) for Indigenous and Métis Communities adjacent to the Whitefeather Forest.
2. WFCRMA will work with the District Resource Liaison Specialist to develop a formal consultative approach for interacting with communities adjacent to the Whitefeather Forest.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. WFCRMA Planning Forester,
2. MNRF District Resource Liaison Specialist, WFCRMA Planning Forester.

Deadline Date:

1. February 1st, 2019 and each subsequent year as prescribed in the 2017 FMPM
2. March 31st, 2020

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Records of correspondence and communication (e.g. meeting minutes, emails, phone calls, presentations) to affected Indigenous communities with interests on the Whitefeather Forest.
2. Formal consultation protocol for adjacent communities and FMPM mailing list, correspondence, meeting minutes, agendas, attendance records.