

Caribou Forest

2014-2019 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

Caribou Forest 2019 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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Introduction

The final 2019 Caribou Forest Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on October 1, 2019 for an IFA conducted by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. for the period April 1, 2014 to March 31, 2019.

The 2019 Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol (IFAPP) requires a Management Unit Action Plan be prepared in response to the audit recommendations.

A total of four 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:

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry District and Regional Office did not implement a satisfactory Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring program on the Caribou Forest.

Action Required:

1. The Silvicultural Effectiveness Monitoring (SEM) program is currently undergoing a review which will transition the program to a Silvicultural Monitoring (SM) program with a focus on assessing establishment and performance. Such a transition will involve changes made regarding terminology, assessment methodology, sample intensity and reporting requirements to be implemented in 2020. To address the finding as written would involve the development of action items which would be focused on the present program which is currently being phased out. As a result, any action item developed for SEM at this time would be irrelevant by the time the new SM program requirements are implemented.

For this reason, no action will be taken to address this finding.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. N/A

Deadline Date:

1. N/A

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. N/A

Finding #2:

Resolute FP Canada Inc.'s initial submissions of Annual Work Schedules and Annual Reports to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry required revision and resubmission.

Action Required:

1. The Company will review planning staff work commitments and scheduling to facilitate increasing the internal review period length for Annual Work Schedules and Annual Reports prior to submission to MNRF.
2. Company planning staff will review FMPM and FIM reporting requirements, technical specifications and submission timelines for Annual Work Schedules and Annual Reports with support staff.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Planning Superintendent
2. Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Planning Coordinator

Deadline Date:

- 1 & 2. Annual review and refresher to be completed by October 30th

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Senior Management internal notification to company staff to extend review of company AWS and AR submissions
2. Reduction in number of requested changes by MNRF after review period(s) of Annual Work Schedules and Annual Reports.

Finding #3:

Resolute FP Canada Inc.'s implementation of its compliance program did not meet its Compliance Plan direction and did not adhere to the directions in the Forest Management Plan or Annual Work Schedules.

Action Required:

1. The Company will review the compliance requirements for FMP's and AWS's as described in the 2020 FMP, with all staff to ensure that the compliance program and submission of reports meets the stated requirements.
2. The Company will explore opportunities to organize and attend a minimum of one joint Company and District MNRF compliance meeting(s) to review and discuss outstanding compliance issues or reports.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Resolute FP Canada Inc. - Area Superintendent and Operations Coordinator,
2. MNRF District Forester, MNRF District Compliance staff, Area Superintendent and Operations Coordinator.

Deadline Date:

1. Annual Meeting to be completed prior to March 31st.
2. March 31st, 2020 and annually thereafter.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Status of Operation Notifications (Section 4.7.1.8); Forest Operations Inspection Reports.
2. Minutes and agendas from Annual Joint Company/ District MNRF compliance meetings.

Finding #4:

The underachievement of planned harvest, if continued, will have serious negative implications for the achievement of long-term management objectives related to caribou habitat.

Action Required:

1. The Company will continue to attempt to increase the amount of area harvested annually based upon available markets.

Deadline Date:

1. November 15th, 2020 and annually thereafter.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Harvest levels to be tracked in the Annual Reports.