

White River Forest Management Unit  
2014-2019 Independent Forest Audit  
Management Unit Action Plan

# White River Forest 2019 Independent Forest Audit

## Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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# White River Forest 2019 Independent Forest Audit

## Action Plan Approval Signature Page

Approved By:

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## Introduction

An Independent Forest Audit (IFA) of the White River Forest was conducted by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants Ltd. during 2019. The audit scope included the 5 years of operations from April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2019.

The White River Forest (WRF) Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) (# 550399) is managed by Nawiiginokiima Forest Management Corporation (NFMC). The Sustainable Forest Licence was transferred to NFMC in January 2018. NFMC is the first Local Forest Management Corporation to be established pursuant to the Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act (2011). The Forest is administered by the Wawa District and the Northeast Region of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Prior to the transfer of the licence to NFMC, the Sustainable Forest Licence was held by White River Forest Products Ltd. In 2016, White River Forest Products Ltd. was re-organized and the Sustainable Forest Licence was transferred to White River Forest Products LP. Jackfish River Management Ltd. functioned as the forest management service provider until March 1, 2019.

The IFA Report was accepted by the Forestry Futures Committee on August 15, 2019 and provided to NFMC, MNRF Wawa District and Northeast Region on August 16, 2019. The report contained 4 findings, including 2 directed to MNRF Wawa District, 1 to NFMC and 1 joint finding. This Action Plan addresses all 4 findings.

# Findings

## Finding #1:

Enhanced oversight and training initiatives have not resolved compliance issues associated with Maygwayyawk Forestry Services. (MNRF and NFMC).

### Action Required:

1. Wawa District MNRF commits to sending at minimum the Forestry Technical Specialist, the White River Forest Resource Management Technician and the White River Forest Management Forester to all joint compliance meetings between the SFL, contractors (including MFS) and the MNRF. These typically occur on an annual or semi-annual basis and are organized by the SFL.
2. Wawa District MNRF commits to increasing # of field visits of active MFS operations to 2/year every year and during which will discuss compliance with operators/foreman where appropriate and complete a FOIP report once operations are complete. The intent is to work through compliance issues as they happen rather than when operations are complete. This is in addition to the recent increase in communication between MNRF staff and MFS management.
3. NFMC commits to offering any training to Maygwayyawk Forestry Services in regard to proper forest harvesting and standards. NFMC will cover the cost of such training and have it available to MFS as needed.
4. NFMC commits to increasing the number of field visits to active MFS operations to help assist in following compliance during operations rather than fixing issues after harvesting is completed. The NFMC field technician will assist MFS operators and foreman with skills and best practices when they are visiting these active sites.

### Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Wawa District MNRF White River Forest Management Forester.
2. Wawa District MNRF White River Forest Resource Management Technician.
3. NFMC clerk, operations manager, planning forester
4. NFMC field technician

### Deadline Date:

1. Annually
2. March 31, annually.
3. March 21, annually, ongoing
4. March 21, annually, ongoing

### Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Meeting sign-in record and/or meeting minutes
2. FOIP
3. Training files and Invoices
4. Field technician notes and FOIP reports

**Finding #2:**

During the audit term there was a backlog of Forest Operations Information Program Operational Issues assigned a Pending designation. (MNRF)

**Action Required:**

1. Wawa District MNRF commits to not allowing “pending” status to occur on any new or existing FOIP issue past 18 months.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Wawa District MNRF White River Forest Resource Management Technician.

**Deadline Date:**

1. December 1, 2019 and continually thereafter.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. FOIP

**Finding #3:**

Forest Operations Information Program documentation is incomplete, or has not been submitted, for a number of forest management activities. (NFMC)

**Action Required:**

1. NFMC field technicians commit to completing past FOIP reports and also staying up to date with current forest management activities.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. NFMC field technician

**Deadline Date:**

1. August 2020 and ongoing

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. FOIP

**Finding #4:**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (Wawa District) did not fully meet the Silviculture Effectiveness Monitoring program direction on the White River Forest (MNRF).

**Action Required:**

1. Wawa District MNRF commits to fully meet the Regional SEM direction of required items (as opposed to optional).

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Wawa District MNRF White River Forest Management Forester.

**Deadline Date:**

1. February of each year, as per regional direction.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Annual SEM report.