

Red Lake Forest

2015-2020 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

# Red Lake Forest 2020 Independent Forest Audit

## Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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## Introduction

The 2020 Red Lake Forest Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Report was accepted by MNRF Integration Branch on December 21, 2020 for an IFA conducted by ArborVitae Environmental Services Ltd. for the period April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2020.

The 2020 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 2020 IFA findings, finding No. 11 and finding No.13 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:

MNRF Red Lake did not meet all its obligations related to overseeing and auditing operational aspects of forest management.

### Action Required:

1. MNRF District will ensure that the requirements for inspecting and reporting are followed, as required by the Forest Management Plan.
2. 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.
3. MNRF annual compliance targets will be assigned to each forest compliance inspector within their performance plans.
4. As prioritized through the development and review of employee specific performance plans, MNRF District will ensure staff receive adequate compliance inspector mentoring to enable them to become certified inspectors if the need presents itself.
5. Hold regular meetings between MNRF compliance inspectors to discuss new/ongoing compliance issues.

### Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF District - Resources Management Supervisor, Integrated Resources Management Technical Specialist and Forestry Technical Specialist.
2. MNRF District - Resources Management Supervisor.
3. MNRF District - Resource Management Supervisor.
4. MNRF District - Compliance staff.
5. MNRF District – Resource Management Supervisor, Compliance Staff

### Deadline Date:

1. April 1, 2021 and ongoing.
2. April 1, 2021 and ongoing.
3. April 1, 2021 and ongoing.
4. April 1, 2021 and ongoing.
5. April 1, 2021 and ongoing.

### Method of Tracking Progress:

1. District Compliance Plan & ACOP.
2. ACOP.
3. Performance Plans.

4. Email & records of conversation as required.
5. Record of meetings and spreadsheet

**Finding #2:**

The Company did not meet its requirements to notify MNRF regarding the status of operations.

**Action Required:**

1. RLFMCL will provide MNRF District with regular notifications on the status of operations as required by the Forest Management Plan.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. RLFMCL – General Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2021.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Notification table.

**Finding #3:**

The Company is not planning/ listing the appropriate water crossings in Table AWS-1 or listing decommissioning in Table AWS-2.

**Action Required:**

1. RLFMCL will provide list of water crossings as required by MNRF.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. RLFMCL – General Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2021.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. AWS.

**Finding #4:**

MNRF's review of proposed amendments to the Forest Management Plan have not been 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 (in accordance with the FMPM).

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF Resources Management Supervisor, MNRF Management Forester.
2. MNRF Resources Management Supervisor, MNRF Management Forester.

**Deadline Date:**

1. March 31, 2022.
2. March 31, 2022.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

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

**Finding #5:**

The Company did not meet its requirements in the Annual Work Schedule compliance plans to mark the boundaries of harvest blocks.

**Action Required:**

1. Harvest boundaries will be marked as per compliance plan in FMP. An amendment will be required to update the compliance plan in the FMP to reflect and be consistent with the field alteration section in the 2020 FMP.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. RLFMCL – General Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. September 1, 2021.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. FOIP Inspections. FMP amendment

**Finding #6:**

Installations of several water crossings did not meet safety and environmental standards as identified in the Forest Management Plan. Recommendations to address this issue as identified in the 2015 and 2010 Independent Forest Audits have not been addressed. The MNRF/Department of Fisheries and Oceans Protocol for the Review and Approval of Water Crossings was not applied as intended.

**Action Required:**

1. Water crossings will be installed which meet safety and environmental standards as identified by the Forest Management Plan and Annual Work Schedule.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. RLFMCL – General Manager, OLL – Operations Forester/Owner/Operator.

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2021.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. FOIP inspections.

**Finding #7:**

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

**Action Required:**

1. MNRF District will develop a comprehensive plan that will outline yearly compliance targets.
2. Track our compliance target and achievements through the annual compliance plan.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF District – Resource Management Supervisor, Management Forester, Forestry Technical Specialist and Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist.



2. MNRF District – Resource Management Supervisor, Management Forester, Forestry Technical Specialist and Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist.

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.
2. April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. District Compliance Plan / ACOP.
2. District Compliance Plan / ACOP.

**Finding #8:**

Red Lake MNRF District staff and industry staff do not have a shared understanding of what constitutes operational compliance and have not used mechanisms to improve consistency.

**Action Required:**

1. MNRF will conduct a joint information session with all MNRF and RLFMC compliance inspectors for the forest, to review inspection and reporting requirements.
2. RLFMC and MNRF District Inspectors will request joint inspections with their counter parts to ensure consistency on the identification and reporting of operational issues. At a minimum, one joint inspection will occur on an annual basis. Joint inspection will be filed by RLFMC (as per the Forest compliance Handbook requirements). FOIP reports will document if a joint inspection had been requested but did not occur.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF Region- Regional Forest Operations Specialist, MNRF District – MNRF Resources Management Supervisor, RLFMC General Manager.
2. MNRF District - Resources Management Supervisor, Integrated Resources Management Technical Specialist and Forestry Technical Specialist and MNRF Inspectors. RLFMC inspectors.

**Deadline Date:**

1. March 31, 2022.
2. March 31, 2022.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Meeting requests, training/knowledge transfer materials.
2. FOIP report.

**Finding #9:**

Aggregate pits do not meet the operational standards for forestry aggregate pits as identified in the Forest Management Planning Manual.

**Action Required:**

1. Both MNRF District and RLFMC to increase forest operations inspections on FAP as a part of their compliance program.
2. RLFMC will review aggregate pit requirements with licensee and contractors.
3. RLFMC will report new and existing FAPs in the annual reports (in accordance with the FMPM/FIM and reflected in the following years annual work schedule).

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF District - Resources Management Supervisor, Integrated Resources Management Technical Specialist and Forestry Technical Specialist (and MNRF Inspectors). RLFMC General Manager and RLFMC inspectors.
2. RLFMC General Manager.
3. RLFMC General Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2021 and ongoing.
2. April 1, 2021 and ongoing.
3. November 15, 2021 and ongoing.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. FOIP and ACOP.
2. FOIP.
3. Annual reports.

**Finding #10:**

The requirements (as identified in the 2020 IFAPP Procedure 8.1.9) of the Action Plan Status Report related to the 2015 IFA Recommendation # 19) were not addressed.

**Action Required:**

1. Early in the production of the next FMP this audit recommendation will be identified to the Planning Team. All FMP objectives under development will be reviewed to avoid having compliance as the only indicator of success of the objective.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. RLFMC – General Manager (lead), Plan Author; MNRF Northwest Region - Planning Forester, MNRF Red Lake - District Management Forester, District Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. Next FMP expected in 2030.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Planning Team meeting minutes, FMP.

**Finding #12:**

There is insufficient evidence that local First Nations received sufficient benefits from forest management planning on the RLF to conclude that Section 20 of the SFL was met during the audit period.

**Action Required:**

1. MNRF will confirm the definition of “benefits” and expectations related to Section 20 of the SFL document.
2. RLFMCL will improve on the documentation of efforts related to benefits as clarification provided (see previous action No.1).
3. MNRF will document all efforts with local First Nations / Metis communities to identify and implement ways of achieving a more equal participation in the benefits provided through forest management planning.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF Region - Regional Forest Operations Specialist.
2. RLFMCL General Manager.
3. MNRF District – District Manager, Resource Management Supervisor, Resource Liaison Specialist, Management Forester, Forestry Technical Specialist

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2022.
2. April 1, 2022.
3. April 1, 2021 and ongoing

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Email, correspondence.
2. Consultation summaries.

3. Meetings, Training/Knowledge Transfer, Documentation of all meetings/discussions.

**Finding #14:**

The requirements (as identified in the 2020 IFAPP Procedure 8.1.9) of the Action Plan Status Report related to the 2015 IFA Recommendation #21 have not been addressed.

**Action Required:**

1. MNRF will organize a meeting with the SFL to start the discussion on a path forward to the OLL Commitment P2370.
2. MNRF will approach RLFMC with potential options.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF District – District Manager, Resource Management Supervisor, Management Forester and Forestry Technical Specialist.
2. MNRF District – District Manager.

**Deadline Date:**

1. Starting April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.
2. Starting April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Organize meeting and document minutes of the discussion.
2. Letter to RLFMC outlining options, follow-up with meeting document minutes of discussion on file and spreadsheet documenting effort.