

Wabigoon Forest

2015-2020 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

# Wabigoon Forest 2020 Independent Forest Audit

## Action Plan Submission Signature Page

### Prepared By:

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Date: March 17, 2021

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### Reviewed By:

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Date: March 17, 2021

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Date: March 16, 2021

# Wabigoon Forest 2020 Independent Forest Audit

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### Submitted By:

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Date: March 17, 2021

### Approved By:

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Date: March 23, 2021

## Introduction

The 2020 Wabigoon Forest Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Report was accepted Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Integration Branch on December 21, 2020 for an IFA conducted by Arbex Forest Resource Consultants 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 seven 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 #1 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 #2:

The operational standards for forestry aggregate pits identified in the 2019 Forest Management Plan were not consistently met.

### Action Required:

1. MNRF District Compliance Staff will increase the priority to conduct Forest Aggregate Pit inspections.
2. MNRF/Domtar Joint Compliance Committee will ensure field meetings include Forest Aggregate Pits to highlight operational standards and discuss continued improvement to adherence to those standards.
3. Domtar will review the requirements in the FMP, identify where changes may be needed to put in place a practical solution and amendment to the FMP to keep the areas safe and in compliance.
4. Requirements will be relayed to operators through training annually.

### Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF District – IRM Technician (or District Compliance Lead)
2. MNRF District Compliance Lead, MNRF Management Forester and SFL Operations Foresters
3. Domtar SFL/ Domtar Operations Foresters
4. Domtar Operations Foresters

### Deadline Date:

1. Implementation 2021. Ongoing
2. Implemented 2021. Include sites at least once per year field meeting.
3. April 1, 2022
4. Annually

### Method of Tracking Progress:

1. MNRF Forest Compliance Inspections – FOIP, AR Summary of IFA progress (include yearly findings)
2. Wabigoon Joint Compliance Team Meeting Minutes
3. Annual Report – 2021/2022
4. Annual Reports

**Finding #3:**

On some competitive sites the aerial chemical tending program achieved variable success.

**Action Required:**

1. Domtar will evaluate the root cause of the IFA findings with regards to documented variable results with tending. The root cause analysis will be discussed in the AR.
2. Processes may change depending on the root cause analysis. The changes, if necessary, will be documented in the AR.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Domtar Silviculture Forester and SFL Forester
2. Domtar Silviculture Forester and SFL Forester

**Deadline Date:**

1. April 1, 2022
2. April 1, 2022

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Annual report
2. Annual report

**Finding #4:**

Passive disc trenching often failed to create suitable site conditions for renewal on some harvested sites and within chipper debris pads.

**Action Required:**

1. Domtar will contract power disc trenchers and monitor their performance as per the contract.
2. Review operating procedures on the chipper pad with site preparation contractors and highlight requirements at the Annual Training Session.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Domtar Silviculture Forester
2. Domtar Silviculture Forester

**Deadline Date:**

1. Fall 2021
2. Spring 2022

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Annual Report will document any contract changes and monitoring results.

2. Annual Report will document the training has taken place.

### **Finding #5:**

A significant percentage of Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Domtar Inc. compliance inspection reports were not submitted in accordance with the timelines identified in the Forest Management Plan and the Forest Compliance Handbook.

### **Action Required:**

1. MNRF District and Domtar will conduct a review of compliance inspection reporting to confirm the time to complete the FOIP reports, from inspection to approvals, and identify rational for those not meeting Forest Compliance Handbook timelines to inform of potential root causes.
2. MNRF District and Domtar will compile a report of factors affecting the timely reporting for compliance inspection and strategies to improve process and procedures to bring reporting in compliance with Forest Compliance Handbook.
3. Agreed strategies will be updated within the FMP and the clarification will be reviewed with all FOIP inspectors and approvers.

### **Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF IRM Technical Specialist – Domtar SFL Operations Forester
2. MNRF IRM Technical Specialist – Domtar SFL Operations Forester
3. MNRF Management Forester, Domtar SFL Forester and Domtar Operations Forester

### **Deadline Date:**

1. October 1, 2021
2. October 1, 2021
3. March 31, 2022

### **Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Report will be archived and summarized as part of IFA progress reporting in AR.
2. Report will be archived and summarized as part of IFA progress reporting in AR.
3. 2021/22 Annual Report will summarize any changes

**Finding #6:**

Domtar's monitoring and reporting programs were insufficient to evaluate the effectiveness of some forest operations.

**Action Required:**

1. Domtar will review the overall monitoring plan and ensure completeness to address the examples found in the IFA.
2. Required reporting will be done as required through FIM and Annual reports.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. Domtar SFL Forester and Domtar Stewardship Coordinator
2. Domtar SFL Forester

**Deadline Date:**

1. March 31, 2022
2. February 15, 2023

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. The Annual report for 2021/22 will document the findings of the monitoring plan review.
2. The Annual report for 2021/22 will document any monitoring plan changes to address shortcomings.

**Finding #7:**

The implementation of the 2015 Independent Forest Audit Action Plan did not fully resolve issues associated with the production, review and approval of forest management documents and products.

**Action Required:**

1. MNRF will conduct a review of past FMP Amendment/AWS and AWS Change/AR product submission, review, approvals for timelines and identify root causes of excessive submission/review/approval duration.
2. MNRF/Domtar will work together to address findings from the FMP/AWS/AR product submission review to identify recommendations and implement actions to improve the submission and approval of these products.
3. Domtar will ensure that product submission is of good quality by ensuring the product is in line with FMPM and FIM standards and consistent with the approved FMP prior to submission to MNRF by following a reliable method that is updated annually using required alterations.
4. Continue joint meetings between Domtar and MNRF prior to or post product submission with focus on clear expectation, identified timelines and addressing issues and/or challenges. Where possible the MNRF District and Domtar should



establish reliable processes that documents the expectation, timelines and procedure for various products.

**Organization and Position Responsible:**

1. MNRF Management Forester
2. MNRF and Domtar management team
3. Domtar SFL Team lead/ Planning Forester
4. Domtar SFL Team lead and MNRF District Resource Management Supervisor

**Deadline Date:**

1. October 1, 2021
2. October 1, 2022
3. Immediate implementation
4. Meet following development of reliable processes by April 1, 2022 and after product submission or as needed.

**Method of Tracking Progress:**

1. Report of review finding will be archived for reference.
2. Report will be archived for reference. Progress of IFA Finding will be documented in the AR with report of time to complete submission and approval.
3. Submission tracking sheet for certification and approval.
4. Meet following development of reliable processes by April 1, 2022 and after product submission or as needed.