

French-Severn Forest

2016-2021 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

French-Severn Forest 2021 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Submission Signature Page

Prepared By:



Barry Davidson R.P.F.
General Manager
Westwind Inc.
Date: March 7, 2022

Original Signed by: *Mike Henry R.P.F.*
Insert NDMNRF Parry Sound District
Date: April 20, 2022

Original Signed by: *Hassan Mohamed R.P.F.*
Regional Operations Forester
NDMNRF Southern Region
Date: April 19, 2022

Reviewed By:

Original Signed by: *Barry Davidson R.P.F.*
General Manager
Westwind
Date: March 7, 2022

Submitted By:

Original Signed by: Adam Wakefield
District Manager
Insert NDMNRF Parry Sound District
Date: April 20, 2022

French-Severn Forest 2021 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Approval Signature Page

Approved By:

Original Signed by: Renée Bowler

Regional Director

Insert NDMNRF Southern Region

Date: May 6th, 2022

Cette publication hautement spécialisée n'est disponible qu'en anglais conformément au Règlement 671/92, selon lequel il n'est pas obligatoire de la traduire en vertu de la *Loi sur les services en français*. Pour obtenir des renseignements en français, veuillez communiquer avec le ministère du Développement du Nord, des Mines, des Richesses naturelles et des Forêts au NRISC@ontario.ca

Introduction

In September 2021 an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) was conducted on the French-Severn Forest for the period April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2021. Auditees were notified of the Integration Branch's acceptance of the report as being final on January 18, 2022. A Management Unit Action Plan is due April 18, 2022.

The final audit report for the French-Severn Forest included three management unit findings that are being addressed in this action plan. For each management unit audit findings, the action plan outlines the actions required, responsibility, timelines, and method of tracking progress of actions.

Findings

Finding #1:

Tree planting in pine shelterwood cuts completed during the 2020 season was found to have reduced levels of success.

Action Required:

1. Westwind will pursue other seedling suppliers and insist on appropriate size specifications in contracts;
2. Westwind will ensure it receives sampling results prior to taking possession of the planting stock;
3. Westwind is pursuing some 2-year-old seedlings from other suppliers to ensure larger stock is received;

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc., Forester.
2. Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc., Forester.
3. Westwind Forest Stewardship Inc.

Deadline Date:

1. January 2022
2. May 2022
3. January 2023

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Seedling contract specifications will be updated.
2. Receipt of sampling stock specifications that match contract specifications upon receipt of seedlings, general verification.
3. Seedling contracts for some 2-year-old stock.

Finding #2:

The mandatory operational requirements for Forest Aggregate Pits were not fully implemented on all the sites viewed during the field audit.

Action Required:

1. Westwind will include training reminders to the operators at its annual Spring Operating meeting and during operational inspections the need for pit rehabilitation during periods of inactivity as well as clearing trees 5 meters from pit edge.
2. Westwind will ensure that its compliance inspectors specifically target aggregate pits during inspections to ensure trees are adequately cleared from pit faces and the FMP Conditions on Operations for Forestry Pits be followed, specifically, "When the site is inactive, all pit faces must be sloped to a stable angle of repose".

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Westwind Forest Stewardship, General Manager
2. Westwind Forest Stewardship compliance inspectors.

Deadline Date:

1. April 2022
2. This action will be ongoing annually. Discussions will occur at start up of operations and where possible while operations are in progress.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Training reminders given, 2022 Spring Operator Meeting agenda.
2. Informal reminders and notifications through discussions with operators and formal reporting through the Forest Operations Inspection Program (FOIP).

Finding #3:

The 2018-19 year-10 annual report was found to have numerous data accuracy issues.

Action Required:

1. Westwind will use one source of information for its annual reports and that source will be the spatial data.
2. Westwind will evaluate at every AR clearcut areas that have not yet been treated after 5 years report them in the AR as naturally regenerated areas. This will

provide time to determine if there is opportunity or need to pursue artificial regeneration treatments. In the 2021/22 Annual Report to be submitted November 15, 2022, clearcut areas not yet treated that are older than 5 years but not yet reported as naturally regenerated will be included in that report to ensure there are no missed areas. The timeframe may be extended for harvests that occur over multiple years.

3. Westwind will review previous annual reports at enhanced annual report stages to help ensure consistency and address in text any inconsistencies found.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Westwind Forest Stewardship, Forester
2. Westwind Forest Stewardship, Forester.
3. Westwind Forest Stewardship, Forester

Deadline Date:

1. Mid-November 2022 AR submission and subsequent years.
2. Mid-November 2022 AR submission and subsequent years.
3. Year 5 and Year 10 Annual Report submission. 2025 and 2030.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. AR Reports sources of data.
2. AR Reports text and tables.
3. Enhanced AR Text.