

Temagami Forest

2016-2021

Management Unit Action Plan

Temagami Forest 2021 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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June 6, 2022

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Temagami Forest 2021 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Approval Signature Page

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Introduction

An Independent Forest Audit was conducted on the Temagami Management Unit covering the period April 1st, 2016-March 31st, 2021. The audit assessed the development of the 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan, implementation of the final three years of the 2009-2019 Forest Management Plan and the first two years of the 2019 Plan, including the performance of the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (Ministry or auditee) in the management of the Temagami Management Unit.

Temagami Forest Management Corporation (TFMC) was recently issued Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) No. 554687 for the Temagami Forest, effective April 1, 2022. The SFL has been granted in accordance with the provisions of the Crown Forest Sustainability Act, 1994. The TFMC was established on December 15, 2020, and is the second Local Forest Management Corporation (LFMC) to be formed under the Ontario Forest Tenure Modernization Act, 2011 (OFTMA).

The final Audit report was accepted by the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (Ministry or auditee) on February 11, 2022. The report contained fourteen findings for improvement and issued one best practice.

The audit team concluded that the management of the Temagami Management Unit was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations, and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry met its obligations. The forest is being managed consistently with the principle of sustainable forest management, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol.

Findings

Finding #1:

Some road signs on the forest, designed to protect public safety, are not compliant with the Occupational Health and Safety Act Section 24(1) and the Public Lands Act Section 59(4).

Action Required:

1. The Ministry will review and update road sign inventory and provide it to TFMC.
2. The Ministry and TFMC will repair, and/or replace road safety signage for which they are responsible.
3. TFMC will maintain a road sign inventory and track their condition during routine road inspections.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry (NDMNRF) North Bay District Supervisor.
2. Sustainable Forest Licence (SFL) holder, TFMC General Manager

Deadline Date:

1. 2022-2023 Fiscal Year – March 31, 2023.
2. FMP implementation.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Annual Reporting

Finding #2:

The 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan is missing the required elements and important discussions required to fully meet the 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual and the management strategy for the Plan.

Action Required:

1. The Ministry and TFMC will review the 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan and address any substantive missing required elements through an amendment if necessary.
2. The Ministry and TFMC to ensure that all comments, suggestions, editorials and required alterations provided for the 2029-2039 Forest Management Plan are fully addressed before plan approval.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager
2. NDMNRF North Bay District Supervisor.
3. NDMNRF Northeast Regional Planning Unit Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. 2022-2023 Fiscal Year – March 31, 2023.
2. 2028-2029 Review of draft and final plan.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2019-2029 FMP Amendment
2. Annual Reporting
3. 2029-2039 Forest Management Plan for the Temagami Forest, preliminary and final list of alterations.

Finding #3:

Amendment information posted to the public Natural Resource Information Portal was found to be incomplete, missing amendment decision/approvals, and, in most instances, the same information repeated under different tabs.

Action Required:

1. The Ministry will review and add where necessary language to the NRIP public facing website describing approval process and where to find additional information.
2. TFMC and the Ministry will ensure all required amendments, revisions and changes to the approved FMP will be posted on the Natural Resources Information Portal (NRIP)

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. NDMNRF Integration Branch Regional Operations Division Supervisor
2. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager
3. NDMNRF North Bay District Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. 2022-2023 Fiscal Year – March 31, 2023
2. FMP implementation and before approval in NRIP.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Updates to the public facing side of NRIP
2. Annual Reporting

Finding #4:

The Social and Economic description in the forest management plan provided little value to the development of the management strategy for the Temagami Management Unit.

Action Required:

1. TFMC and the Ministry will ensure that the 2029-2039 Forest Management Plan meets the Social and Economic Description requirements.
2. TFMC will ensure their mandate for social and economic development activities are included in the 2029-2039 Forest Management Plan.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager
2. NDMNRF North Bay District Supervisor.
3. NDMNRF Northeast Regional Planning Unit Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. 2028-2029 Review of draft and final plan.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2029-2039 Forest Management Plan for the Temagami Forest, preliminary and final list of alterations.

Finding #5:

No alternative road corridors were presented for the Clement Road and Banting Chamber Road as required in the 2017 Forest Management Planning Manual.

Action Required:

1. TFMC and the Ministry will ensure that the 2029-2039 Forest Management Plan meets the all the roads planning requirements

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager
2. NDMNRF North Bay District Supervisor.
1. NDMNRF Northeast Regional Planning Unit Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. 2028-2029 Review of draft and final plan.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2029-2039 Forest Management Plan for the Temagami Forest, preliminary and final list of alterations.

Finding #6:

The 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan does not adequately describe the degree to which the quality or quantity of habitat for species at risk could be affected by forest management operations, nor the potential implications of Species at Risk on forest management.

Action Required:

1. The Ministry and TFMC will review and amend the 2019-2029 FMP to address adequacies.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. NDMNRF Northeast Regional Planning Unit Supervisor.
2. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager
3. NDMNRF North Bay District Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. 2022-2023 Fiscal Year – March 31, 2023.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2019-2029 FMP Amendment
2. Annual Reporting

Finding #7:

The 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan is missing a forecast of expenditures for Renewal Support and associated discussion in the text to support the renewal program proposed in the FMP as required in the Forest Management Planning Manual.

Action Required:

1. Amend the 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan to correct deficiency.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager

Deadline Date:

1. 2022-2023 Fiscal Year – March 31, 2023.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2019-2029 FMP Amendment
2. Annual Reporting

Finding #8:

The 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan text does not include a discussion or explanation for objectives that do not have targets or timing of assessment making it difficult to meaningfully assess objective achievement for those objectives and/or indicators.

Action Required:

1. Review FMP-10 desirable levels and targets for each indicator and provide the explanation for missing targets through an amendment to the 2019-2029 FMP.
2. The 2029-2039 forest management planning team to ensure all management objectives have desirable levels and targets for each indicator to assess objective achievement.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager
2. NDMNRF Northeast Regional Planning Unit Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. 2022-2023 Fiscal Year – March 31, 2023.
2. Preliminary Endorsement of 2029-2039 Long-Term Management Direction

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Annual Reporting
2. 2019 FMP Amendment
3. 2029-2039 Long-Term Management Direction

Finding #9:

Not all clearcut harvest blocks met the residual retention requirements, for species representation or size, as required in the Forest Management Guide for Conserving Biodiversity at the Stand and Site Scales.

Action Required:

1. The FMP conditions on regular operations within residual forest cover will be reviewed at the 2022 Spring Operator's meeting and during all Start-ups meetings.
2. Compliance Monitoring by the forest industry and ministry inspectors.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager
2. NDMNRF North Bay District Supervisor.
3. Temagami Forest Overlapping License Holders.

Deadline Date:

1. May 12, 2022 Spring Operator's meeting
2. Term of the FMP

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Spring Operator's presentation, and operational start-up check lists
2. Compliance Reporting
3. Annual Reporting

Finding #10:

Existing tree improvement assets were not included in the 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan.

Action Required:

1. Amend the 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan to correct deficiency.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager

Deadline Date:

1. 2022-2023 Fiscal Year – March 31, 2023.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2019-2029 FMP Amendment
2. Annual Reporting

Finding #11:

There are discrepancies between the kilometers reported as constructed in the 2017-2018 and 2019-2020 Annual Reports and what was invoiced to the Provincial Roads Funding Program.

Action Required:

1. Correct discrepancies and include in the 2022-2023 Annual Report.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager

Deadline Date:

1. 2022-2023 Annual Report – November 2023

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Annual Report.

Finding #12:

Poor grading practices are contributing to sediment flow into streams at water crossings.

Action Required:

1. The FMP conditions for construction, use and maintenance of roads and landings will be reviewed at the 2022 Spring Operator's meeting and during all Start-ups meetings.
2. Compliance Monitoring by the forest industry and ministry inspectors.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager
2. NDMNRF North Bay District Supervisor.
3. Temagami Forest Overlapping License Holders.

Deadline Date:

1. May 12, 2022 Spring Operator's meeting
2. Term of the FMP

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Spring Operator's presentation, and operational start-up check lists
2. Compliance Reporting
3. Annual Reporting

Finding #13:

The 2019-2020 annual report does not include a discussion on progress on Management Objective 8 (invasive species monitoring) as per the 2019-2029 Forest Management Plan.

Action Required:

1. Review 2019-2029 FMP objective achievement at year-five and review desirable levels and targets for each indicator.
2. The 2029-2039 forest management planning team to ensure all management objectives have desirable levels and targets for each indicator.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager
2. NDMNRF Northeast Regional Planning Unit Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. Year-five Annual Report (2023-2024)
2. Preliminary Endorsement of 2029-2039 Long-Term Management Direction

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Annual Reporting
2. 2019 FMP Amendment
3. 2029-2039 Long-Term Management Direction

Finding #14:

The objective to reduce herbicide use in the 2019-2029 forest management plan does not propose a target and, as such, cannot address concerns raised by the public and affected Indigenous communities.

Action Required:

1. Review 2019-2029 FMP objective achievement at year-five and review desirable levels and targets for each indicator.
2. The 2029-2039 forest management planning team to ensure all management objectives have desirable levels and targets for each indicator.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder, TFMC General Manager
2. NDMNRF Northeast Regional Planning Unit Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. Year-five Annual Report (2023-2024)
2. Preliminary Endorsement of 2029-2039 Long-Term Management Direction

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Annual Reporting
2. 2019 FMP Amendment
3. 2029-2039 Long-Term Management Direction