

Dog River Forest Management Unit

Forest Audit: April 1, 2015 to March 31,
2022

Management Unit Action Plan

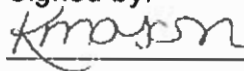
Dog River Forest 2022 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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**Dog River Forest 2022 Independent Forest Audit
Action Plan Approval Signature Page**

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Date: July 25, 2023

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Introduction

The Independent Forest Audit for the Dog River-Matawin Forest covered a seven-year period of April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2022. Resolute FP Canada Inc. is the sustainable forest licence holder for the management unit, with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Thunder Bay District in the Northwest Region, and Corporate MNRF also being audited. The following forest management planning processes were subject to audit:

- 2009-2019 Forest Management Plan: implementation of years 7 to 10 (April 1, 2015 to March 31, 2019)
- 2019-2021 Contingency Plan: planning and implementation
- 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan: preparation and implementation of Year 1 (April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022).

On February 7th, 2023, the Director of the Regional Operations Division accepted the final audit report from NWES. Each of the findings from the report have been addressed in the following action plan.

The last Independent Forest Audit (2015) included five findings . The audit team (NorthWinds Environmental Services, NWES) has identified four findings to address instances of non-conformance to a regulation and/or policy, or an identified lack of effectiveness in forest management activities. Of the 4 findings, 1 finding was directed to MNRF District; 1 to the SFL and 1 to MNRF Region. A fourth finding was not actioned for reasons that the SEM program is still in transition as explained further on.

Based on causal analysis, Finding #1 from the 2022 IFA final audit report has been assessed at MNRF Corporate level and will be considered as part of the regular corporate planning and policy review cycle. As a result, it will not be included in this Action Plan

The audit team concluded that management of the Dog River-Matawin Forest was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the Forest was managed in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Sustainable Forest Licence held by Resolute FP Canada Inc., #542459. The forest is being managed consistently with the principles of sustainable forest management, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol.

Findings

Finding #2:

The SFL holder was not in compliance with the Conditions on New and Existing Roads, Landings and Aggregate Pits in the Phase 2 Planned Operations (2014-2019), specifically as it pertains to landings

Action Required:

1. Through routine silvicultural field work and inspections during the field season(s), area's where Existing Roads, and Landings in the Phase 2 Planned Operations (2014-2019) previously operated in, which are determined to require further treatment, will be identified and tracked by the company.
2. As operations occur in proximity to area's identified where Existing Roads, and Landings in the Phase 2 Planned Operations (2014-2019) previously operated in, are determined to require further treatment, they will be assessed and treated with the appropriate Silvicultural Ground Rule (SGR). Treatments may include, but are not limited to slash treatment, site preparation, planting, or seeding. Areas requiring future treatment will be scheduled in the Annual Work Schedule (AWS) and reported in the subsequent Annual Report (AR) as required.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1. SFL holder - Resolute FP Canada Inc., Renewal Forester, and Forestry Coordinator.

Deadline Date:

1. Work will be ongoing on an annual basis through routine silvicultural field work and inspections during the field season(s).
2. November 15th, 2026 (Year 5 management unit Annual Report) and November 15th, 2031 (Year 10 management unit Annual Report for the final year of plan).

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Completion of assessment surveying by the end of the annual field season, treatment areas identified and scheduled in the AWS, and completion and submission of the subsequent Annual Report by the submission date.

2. Completion and submission of the Year 5 management unit Annual Report, and the Year 10 management unit Annual Report for the final year of plan by the submission date.

Finding #3:

MNRF did not meet its compliance monitoring targets from the fiscal years 2019/20 to 2021/22.

Action Required:

1. MNRF District will ensure forest compliance work remains a priority and will work towards achieving district-level Annual Compliance Operations Plan (ACOP) targets.
2. MNRF District will assign compliance targets, as per the ACOP, to designated forest compliance inspectors and review monthly.
3. MNRF District will work towards ensuring that a sufficient compliment of staff receive compliance inspector training and mentoring to enable more certified inspectors to complete work assigned in the District ACOP.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Thunder Bay Ignace District; District Supervisor, Resource Management Technician, Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist.
2. MNRF Thunder Bay Ignace District Manager; District Supervisor
3. MNRF Thunder Bay Ignace District Manager; District Supervisor.

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2024, and ongoing.
2. March 31, 2024, and ongoing.
3. Ongoing and as needed.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. District ACOP & FOIP Inspections.
2. District ACOP.
3. FOIP Inspections & List of certified inspectors.

Finding #4:

Since 2018, MNRF has not had an assessment program in place to validate the accuracy of the SFL's establishment assessment results.

Action Required:

1. The Silvicultural Effectiveness Monitoring (SEM) program is currently undergoing a review which will transition the program to a Silvicultural Monitoring (SM) program with a focus on assessing establishment and performance. Such a transition will involve changes made regarding terminology, assessment methodology, sample intensity and reporting requirements to be implemented in 2023. To address the finding as written would involve the development of action

items which would be focused on the present program which is currently being phased out. As a result, any action item developed for SEM at this time would be irrelevant by the time the new SM program requirements are implemented. For this reason, no action will be taken to address this finding.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1. N/A

Deadline Date:

1. N/A

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. N/A