

Trout Lake Forest

2015-2022 Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

TROUT LAKE FOREST 2022 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Submission Signature Page

Prepared By:



Cole Wear, R.P.F.,
Forest Management Superintendent
Domtar Inc. Dryden
Date



Mitchell Legros R.P.F.,
Regional Planning Forester
Northwest MNRF Region
Date:

Reviewed By:




Chris Grant R.P.F.
Forest Resource Manager
Domtar Inc. Dryden
Date:



Shawn Burke
Resources Management Supervisor
Red Lake Sioux Lookout District MNRF
Date:

Submitted By:

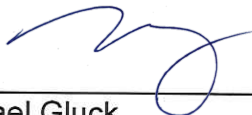


Myles Perchuk
District Manager
Red Lake Sioux Lookout District MNRF
Date: 04/28/2023

Trout Lake Forest 2022 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Approval Signature Page

Approved By:



Michael Gluck
Regional Director
Northwest MNRF Region
Date: 2023/08/01

Introduction

The 2022 Trout Lake Forest Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Report was accepted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's (MNRF) Divisional Support Branch in response to the Trout Lake Forest IFA conducted by NorthWinds Environmental Services Ltd. for the period April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2022.

Upon review of the audit report, it has been determined that an action plan is needed to address its findings.

A total of ten findings were noted for the management unit. For each finding, this action plan provides a description of the actions required, the entity 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 2022 IFA findings, finding No. 2 and 10 have been assessed MNRF corporate 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:

Measurements against the planned herbicide target may not effectively portray the intent of 2021-2031 FMP Objective 8d.

Action Required:

1. The SFL and District MNRD will consult with Wabauskang First Nation to discuss FMP Objective 8d of the 2021-2031 FMP (relating to herbicide) and refine the indicator with mutually agreed to wording and amend it into the forest management plan. Wabauskang First Nation requested that their comments for this finding be recorded in the IFA action plan. This information can be found in the Appendix of this document.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1. Sustainable Forest Licensee (SFL) SFL Forest Management Superintendent, MNRD District Management Forester and the District Resource Liaison Specialist.

Deadline Date:

1. 08/30/2023

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. The Natural Resource Information Portal (NRIP) submission for the amendment will track the progress of this amendment. The annual report will track the annual results of the new indicator in the IFA section of the annual reports.

Finding #2:

The Ministry submission of the Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) was late (August 2016) and was one of the reasons for the delay in the development of a 10-year FMP.

Action Required:

1. N/A

Entity and Position Responsible:

1. N/A

Deadline Date:

1. N/A

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. The term 2 FRI that is being developed for the forest is an update to the term 1 FRI. The information gathered in the term 2 FRI will be summarised in the Annual Reports and specifics will be documented in emails between the SFL and the MNRD District and Region. As we are receiving a different type of FRI which will

have different repercussions on the development of a forest management plan any action item developed for finding 1 at this time would be irrelevant. By the time the new inventory is incorporated into the forest management plans planning composite inventory. For this reason, no action will be taken to address this finding.

Finding #3:

Large topping in certain sawlog-only blocks has resulted in merchantable volume being left unutilized which is considered a wasteful practice under the Ontario Scaling Manual.

Action Required:

1. SFL will review current resources with respect to operational oversight of harvest and roadside processing operations (i.e. both SFL and Overlapping licensees) to ensure adherence to the scaling manual's utilization standards.
2. MNRF District will schedule monthly operational/compliance meetings between the SFL, overlapping license holder(s) and the MNRF District to facilitate open and timely discussions on compliance issues before they become a trend.
3. The SFL will review utilization and applicable compliance standards as well as the company's standard operating procedures (SOP) with supervisors to increase operator awareness and ensure their implementation.
4. SFL and MNRF District will collaborate to review and compare their annual compliance plans, and reporting targets to identify areas where there are synergies and any efficiencies which could be added to their compliance programs so that the risk based approach to compliance inspections for both parties is optimized, while meeting their unique needs as per the forest compliance handbook.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1. SFL and Overlapping Licensee Supervisors
2. MNRF District Resources Operations Supervisor
3. SFL and Overlapping Licensee Operations Foresters
4. SFL and Overlapping Licensee Operations Foresters and MNRF District Resources Operations Supervisor

Deadline Date:

- 1-3. COMPLETED and ONGOING as of 02/23/2023
4. 08/05/2024

Method of Tracking Progress:

1-4. AWS (compliance plan), MNRF District annual compliance plan and Annual Reports. The Annual Reports provide a status on the progress of each action item as well as a discussion of compliance and compliance issues and serves as a qualitative assessment of operations integration success.

Finding #4:

Delays in renewal assessments have reduced the accuracy of renewal reporting and the opportunities for timely intervention with supplementary treatments.

Action Required:

1. The SFL Silviculture Forester will review the Forest Operations Prescriptions (FOP) for the areas identified in the audit to determine the appropriate treatment and apply the treatments as necessary/appropriate.
2. The SFL and MNRF District will review its annual silvicultural monitoring program, with regard to monitoring assessment data and assessment targets on the forest to identify candidate areas requiring retreatment or supplemental treatment.
3. For areas identified through annual silvicultural assessment which demonstrate a need for retreatment/supplemental treatment, the SFL will review the FOP and revise as appropriate.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1. SFL Forest Management Superintendent, Management Forester and Silvicultural Forester.
2. SFL's Silvicultural Forester and the MNRF District Management MNRF District Management forester
3. SFL's Silvicultural Forester

Deadline Date:

1-3. 05/30/2024

Method of Tracking Progress:

1-3 Subsequent renewal and establishment assessments. When available MNRF District will provide Silviculture Monitoring program results by July 10 annually for incorporation into the annual report. Annual Reports provide a status update on the progress of each IFA action item as per the FMPM.

Finding #5:

There are safety and overall conformance issues during times of inactivity in Forestry Aggregate Pits as well as the delayed rehabilitation of aggregate pits.

Action Required:

1. The SFL will review the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) with licences and supervisors to raise awareness regarding operating in or rehabilitating/deactivating aggregate pits as well as the expectations around use and reporting of Forestry Aggregate Pits (FAP's).
2. The SFL will review messaging and information provided at annual contractor Environmental Management System Training sessions to better raise contractor

awareness of their obligations with respect to SOP's for operating in and around FAP's.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1-2. SFL Forest Management Superintendent

Deadline Date:

1-2. 05/05/2023

Method of Tracking Progress:

- 1-2. The annual report section that is responsible for reporting on progress towards IFA action plans will specifically identify observed trends in compliance of pits and summarize actions taken to improve compliance within the operating year. SFL annual contractor agenda, meeting materials (ex SOPs) and presentation.

Finding #6:

District compliance targets on the Forest are not being met.

Action Required:

1. The MNRF district Level 2 (L2) compliance inspectors will review achievement of compliance inspection targets on the Trout Lake Forest and identify areas for improvement.
2. The MNRF District and the SFL will collaborate to review their annual compliance programs (i.e SFL and District) to identify synergies needed to move towards fully implementing the "risk-based" approach to compliance that is more efficient and appropriate for each of their needs as per the forest compliance handbook.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1-2. MNRF District Integrated Resource Management Technicians, MNRF District Management Forester and MNRF District Resources Operations Supervisor

Deadline Date:

1-2 06/05/2024

Method of Tracking Progress:

- 1-2 The Annual Reports will document the results of changes in FOIP inspector certification as well as providing a summary of the number inspections conducted. The annual report will document when the risk based FOIP approach is revised as appropriate.

Finding #7:

SFL compliance targets and requirements on the Forest are not being met.

Action Required:

1. The SFL Level 2 (L2) compliance inspectors will review achievement of compliance inspection targets on the Trout Lake Forest and identify areas for improvement.
2. The SFL and the MNRF District will collaborate to review their annual compliance programs (i.e SFL and District) to identify synergies needed to move towards fully implementing the "risk-based" approach to compliance that is more efficient and appropriate for each of their needs as per the forest compliance handbook.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1-2 SFL Level 2 Compliance inspectors and, Management Forester and SFL Forest Management Superintendent

Deadline Date:

1-2 05/05/2024

Method of Tracking Progress:

- 1-2 The Annual Reports will document the results of changes in FOIP inspector certification as well as providing a summary of the number inspections conducted. The annual report will document when the risk based FOIP approach is revised as appropriate.

Finding #8:

There is a lack of a consistent method of reporting on winter road and trail features.

Action Required:

1. During the development of the next FMP's existing road use layer (ERU) the MNRF District and the SFL will collaborate to review and evaluate the observed historic winter roads that were not reported and harvest equipment trail features. Where historic winter roads are identified and liabilities are present, the SFL and the MNRF District will consider the location, age, regeneration status, quality, and risk of the road feature to determine an appropriate reporting mechanism.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1. SFL Management Forester and MNRF District Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. 03/16/2031 (or upon approval of the next FMP)

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Approval of the Forest Management Plan will be the completion of the action required. The Annual Reports will provide a status update towards completion of the action required and will document progress on the evaluation of winter roads and trail features.

Finding #9:

The current process for reporting and verifying road decommissioning activities is inconsistent in its application.

Action Required:

1. The MNRF district and the SFL will collaborate to review and evaluate the current road use transfer/decommission plan process and revise where needed include a more efficient and effective road responsibility transfer/decommissioning process.

Entity and Position Responsible:

1. SFL Management Forester and MNRF Management forester

Deadline Date:

1. 08/15/2023

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Progress of this road use transfer agreement will be monitored in subsequent annual reports.

Finding #10:

Since 2018, Ministry 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. TBD

Deadline Date:

1. TBD

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. TBD

APPENDIX

Wabauskang First Nation Comments on Finding 1 for the Action Plan

“To strengthen this indicator, we would like to see steps taken to reduce the total area identified in the Spray Plan over time. To help achieve this, commitments should be in place to:

- Shorten the period between harvesting and planting, especially on conifer-mixed sites where competing vegetation is aggressive, with the goal of achieving a planting target within 12 months of harvesting
- Reduce the stand conversion (hardwood dominant stands to Conifer dominant stands) post-harvest, with the long-term goal of eliminating this practice
- Identify proactive and alternative silviculture practices to reduce the hectares identified in the spray plan over time

In order to ensure accountability, we request that these commitments are recorded in the IFA action plan in a form that ensures meaningful, detailed and informative regular reporting on the progress made.”