

Gordon Cosens Forest

2023 Independent Forest Audit  
Action Plan

# Gordon Cosens Forest 2023 Independent Forest Audit

## Action Plan Submission Signature Page

### Prepared By:



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MNRF NER  
Date: April 3, 2024



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MNRF Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing District  
Date: April 9, 2024



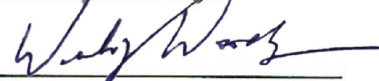
Darcy Unger R.P.F.  
Area Forester  
GreenFirst Forest Products  
Date: April 09, 2024

### Reviewed By:



Kevin Del Guidice R.P.F.  
Planning Superintendent  
GreenFirst Forest Products  
Date: April 09, 2024

### Submitted By:

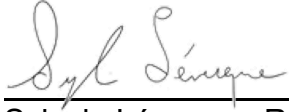


Wesley Woods  
District Manager  
MNRF Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing District  
Date:

# Gordon Cosens Forest 2023 Independent Forest Audit

## Action Plan Approval Signature Page

**Approved By:**



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Sylvain Lévesque R.P.F  
Regional Director  
MNR/NR Northeast Region  
Date: April 24, 2024

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# Introduction

An Independent Forest Audit (IFA) was conducted on the Gordon Cosens Forest (GCF) Management Unit covering the period of April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2023, by Caliber Forestry Consulting. The audit assessed the implementation of Phase II of the 2010-2020 Forest Management Plan (Years 7 through 10), the preparation and implementation of the 2020-2030 Forest Management Plan (Years 1 through 3), including the performance of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) in the management of the GCF Management Unit.

The final audit report was accepted by the MNRF on January 19, 2024. The report contained six findings for improvement and two best management practices.

The audit team concluded that the management of the GCF was generally in compliance with the legislation, regulations and policies that were in effect during the term covered by the audit, and the MNRF 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 (IFAPP).

Based on a cause analysis on the 2023 IFA Findings, Findings 1, 2, and 3, 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 action plan.

# Findings

## Finding #4.

“The District Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry did not complete a compliance monitoring program in accordance with Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry manuals, policies, and procedures.”

### Actions Required:

1. To add a reoccurring target in the NE Region, Work Planning Tool to track progress towards the completion of the Hearst Cochrane Kapuskasing District Annual Compliance Operations Plan (ACOP).
2. To add a reoccurring target in the NE Region, Work Planning Tool to track progress towards the completion of the results and achievements for the targets identified in the current fiscal year ACOP.
3. To update the current fiscal year ACOP prior to year-end with the results and achievements for the targets identified for the program areas of the district.
4. To complete the upcoming fiscal year’s ACOP for all program areas and to have it finalized and approved for implementation prior to the start of the new fiscal year.

### Entity and position responsible:

1. MNRF, District Supervisors
2. MNRF, District Supervisors
3. MNRF, District Supervisors
4. MNRF, District Manager

### Deadline Date:

1. June 1, 2024
2. June 1, 2024
3. Annually by April 30<sup>th</sup>
4. Annually by March 31<sup>th</sup>

### Method of Tracking:

1. Confirm that the ACOP has been entered into the NE Region Work Planning Tool as a reoccurring yearly target.
2. Confirm that the updating of the results and achievements of the current ACOP has been entered into the NE Region Work Planning Tool as a reoccurring yearly target.
3. Have an updated ACOP document with the results and achievements of the current years targets, and update the NE Region Work Planning Tool once completed.
4. Have a District Manager approved ACOP document filed on the District Server, and update the NE Region Work Planning Tool once completed.

## **Finding #5.**

“The Sustainable Forest Licensee’s Annual Compliance Plan has not been implemented to consistently assess the compliance of water crossing installations, silviculture activities and aerial tending with the FMP, AWS, and related legislation.”

### Actions Required:

1. Complete and submit compliance inspections for water crossing installations, silviculture activities and aerial tending on the GCF on a regular basis.
2. Review GreenFirst’s internal bridge inspection checklist against the checklist referenced in the Crown Land Bridge Guidelines (OMNR, February 2008) and revise GreenFirst’s checklist as required to ensure the required elements outlined in the Crown Land Bridge Guidelines are included.
3. Develop an improved internal Bridge Inspection Tracking spreadsheet for the GCF.
4. Develop an improved Forestry Aggregate Pit tracking spreadsheet for the GCF.
5. Update the AWS start-up sheet for the GCF on GreenFirst’s Sharepoint system and submit to MNRF on a weekly basis (while forestry operations are active).

### Entity and position responsible:

1. GreenFirst, Senior Forestry Technician, Forestry Technician
2. GreenFirst, Forestry Technician
3. GreenFirst, Forestry Technician
4. GreenFirst, Area Forester
5. GreenFirst, Planning Forester

### Deadline Date:

1. Ongoing (effective April 1, 2024)
2. April 1, 2024
3. June 1, 2024
4. June 1, 2024
5. Ongoing (effective April 1, 2024, while forestry operations are active)

### Method of Tracking:

1. Submitted through Forest Operations Information Program (FOIP) system and included in annual report.
2. Revised bridge inspection checklist developed and available.
3. Bridge inspection tracking spreadsheet developed and available.
4. Forestry Aggregate Pit tracking spreadsheet developed and available.
5. AWS start-up sheet for the GCF updated and available.

## **Finding #6.**

“For the current 2020-2030 Gordon Cosens Forest Management Plan, progress towards achieving management objectives 2.7, 7.1, 8.1, and 8.3 are not on track.”

### Actions Required:

1. Objective 2.7
  - a. Seek out potential sources of White Pine (Pw) and/or Red Pine (Pr) seeds/cones suitable for use on the GCF and have seedlings grown as required.
  - b. Select suitable sites for artificial regeneration of Pw/Pr and proceed with planting these sites.
2. Objective 7.1
  - a. Meet with MNRF District staff to confirm the process to be used on the GCF for submitting and tracking natural/physical road decommissioning and subsequent transfer of responsibility.
  - b. Identify roads that have been physically/naturally decommissioned since the start of the 2020 FMP.
  - c. Identify roads requiring physical decommissioning and roads that will be naturally decommissioned (as per FMP) during the remainder of the 2020 FMP.
  - d. Complete physical decommissioning of roads where applicable.
  - e. Submit road decommissioning layer as part of annual report(s).
3. Objective 8.1 and 8.3
  - a. Complete required establishment surveys on the GCF (including areas tagged to be resurveyed).
  - b. Submit establishment survey results as part of annual report(s).

Entity and position responsible:

- 1a. GreenFirst, Planning Forester
- 1b. GreenFirst, Senior Forestry Technician, Forestry Technician
- 2a. GreenFirst, Planning Superintendent
- 2b. GreenFirst, Planning Forester
- 2c. GreenFirst, Planning Forester
- 2d. GreenFirst, Infrastructure Superintendent
- 2e. GreenFirst, Area Forester, GIS Technician
- 3a. GreenFirst, Senior Forestry Technician
- 3b. GreenFirst, Area Forester, GIS Technician

Deadline Date:

- 1a. April 1, 2029
- 1b. Ongoing (to be completed by July 1, 2029)
- 2a. April 1, 2024
- 2b. October 15, 2024
- 2c. Ongoing (to be completed by April 1, 2029)
- 2d. Ongoing (to be completed by March 31, 2030)
- 2e. Annually by Feb 15
- 3a. Ongoing (to be completed by October 15, 2029)
- 3b. Annually by Feb 15

Method of Tracking:

- 1a. Records of engagements/communications documented and available.
- 1b. Renewal layers/maps available. Renewal layer included as part of annual report.
- 2a. Record/notes of meeting documented and available.
- 2b. GIS layer/maps documented and available.
- 2c. GIS layer/maps documented and available.
- 2d. Records of work and pictures documented and available.
- 2e. Included in annual report(s).
- 3a. GIS records and project maps.
- 3b. Included in annual report(s).