

Missinaibi Forest

April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2024
Independent Forest Audit

Management Unit Action Plan

Missinaibi Forest 2024 Independent Forest Audit Action Plan Submission Signature Page

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Date: March 14th, 2025



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Approved By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Sylvain Levesque'.

Sylvain Levesque, RPF
Regional Director
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Date: March 25, 2025

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Introduction

The 2024 Missinaibi Forest Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Report was accepted by the Ministry of Natural Resources on December 17th, 2024 for an IFA conducted by NorthWinds Environmental Services for the eight-year period of April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2024.

Upon acceptance of the audit report, it was determined that an action plan is needed to address the findings. A total of five findings were noted for the management unit. For each finding, this action plan provides a description of the actions required, the organization and position responsible, timelines for each of the action items, as well as the method of tracking progress for each action.

Findings

Finding #1: The documentation for the 2019 Magpie Contingency Plan and 2021 Missinaibi Forest Management Plan did not meet the Forest Management Planning Manual requirements for First Nation and Métis consultation as follows:

- a) The summaries of First Nation and Métis consultation for the 2019 Magpie Contingency Plan and 2021 Missinaibi Forest Management Plan as provided do not include sufficient documentation to assess the extent of engagement or nature of any concerns identified, or in some cases the Ministry's responses.
- b) The Report on the Protection of Identified First Nation and Métis Values for the 2021 FMP was not updated.

Action Required:

1. Regional Operations Division (ROD) Region will provide the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) district staff with the training required to complete the summaries of First Nation and Métis consultation and Reports on the Protection of Identified First Nation and Métis Values and ensure this training is maintained and available for future staff.

2. The MNR District Manager will ensure that the appropriate staff from the MNR District attend the training opportunities and will assign the role of completing these documents for the 2031-2041 Forest Management Plan (FMP) planning cycle.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNR Region - Regional Indigenous Initiatives Coordinator
2. MNR District Manager

Deadline Date:

1. March 31st, 2026
2. March 31st, 2031

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Training Materials (Saved on MNR SharePoint site)
2. Attendance Record of those that attend the training. A copy of the attendance record will be saved within the District's Forest Management Planning files. Roles and responsibilities for completing these documents will be included in the District workplan.

Finding #2: Chapleau/Wawa District Ministry of Natural Resources could not provide evidence of efforts to implement a wider range of approaches to support the growth and retention of a diverse Local Citizens Committee. This finding is carried forward from the 2017 Martel Forest Independent Forest Audit.

Action Required:

1. The MNR District Forester will develop and maintain a list of vacancies on the Missinaibi Local Citizens' Committee and actively recruit to ensure a range and balance of interests on a regular basis leading into the development of the 2031-2041 FMP.
2. The MNR District Forester will keep a record of the reasons for members leaving the committee and survey the existing membership on a regular basis to determine if there are ways to improve retention leading up to the development of the 2031-2041 FMP.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNR District Management Forester
2. MNR District Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. March 31st, 2028
2. March 31st, 2028

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. A summary of recruitment efforts including the number of vacancies as well as individuals or interest groups contacted will be recorded and saved in the District files under the Missinaibi Forest Local Citizens Committee.
2. A summary of retention efforts including the number of resignations as well as survey results will be recorded and saved in the District files under the Missinaibi Forest Local Citizens Committee.

Finding #3:

The current level of slash management and road construction observed during the field audit does not appear to align with modelled targets related to the loss of productive land.

Action Required:

1. Confirm the conversion of area lost to roads and landings does not exceed the levels modeled (average 4%) (by FU re. Objective 9) using data from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2024 as benchmark.
2. If exceeding 4% target (see Action 1), implement operational changes to reduce amount of slash and/or roads to minimize loss of productive area. This could include slash piling, cut-to-length harvesting, and road density management [*per Supp. Doc. 6.1.20*]
3. Summarize efforts and outcomes of strategy to minimize loss of productive area in the Year 6 and Final Year Annual Reports (Objective 16).

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MFMI, Area Forester.
2. MFMI, General Manager.
3. MFMI, Planning Superintendent.

Deadline Date:

1. February 15, 2026
2. March 1, 2026
3. February 15, 2028 (Year 6), and February 15, 2032 (Final Year).

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Generate a summary report of % area lost to roads and landings for the period April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2024.
2. Include discussion of any changes to operations implemented to reduce the loss of productive land in the Annual Report.
3. Document actual results achieved to date as a percentage in the Year 6 and Final Year Annual Reports.

Finding #4:

Not all water crossings were installed consistent with the Ministry of Natural Resources/Fisheries and Oceans Canada Protocol for the Review and Approval of Forestry Water Crossings, 2020.

Action Required:

1. Implementation of DFO water crossing standards training, including proper crossing installation techniques in the field, for new operations supervisors and operators (installers and grader operators), and refresher training for existing operations supervisors and operators.
2. Jointly develop a communications plan for use by supervisors and operators that encounter situations in the field that do not align with conditions outlined in the water crossing construction details outlined in the Annual Work Schedule Appendix 1 documentation. The plan will include a distribution list for new approval requests, and information types that can expedite MNR response times. Joint site visits to view challenging site conditions for installing water crossings are encouraged.
3. The company and MNR will complete joint site visits to a select number of installed water crossings to ensure common understanding of compliance standards.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MFMI General Manager, Overlapping Licensee Forest Operations Managers.
2. MFMI General Manager, Overlapping Licensee Forest Operations Managers, and MNR District Biologist
3. MNR District Biologist, MNR District Forester, MFMI General Manager, Overlapping Licensee Forest Operations Managers.

Deadline Date:

1. September 15, 2026.
2. September 15, 2026.
3. September 15, 2026

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Training attendance sheets and training materials.
2. Written communications plan developed and accepted by MFMI & District MNR.
3. Record of field site visits including attendance, site locations, description of conditions observed, and a record of training materials used if applicable.

Finding #5:

Both the Magpie 2016 and Martel 2017 Independent Forest Audit action plans and status reports were lacking quantitative measures that would allow a conclusive assessment of progress to address some previous Independent Forest Audit findings.

Note on Finding #5:

During the development of this action plan, through means of a cause analysis it was determined that recent updates to the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocols (IFAPP), including, auditors wording recommendations as findings, completing cause analyses, and having yearly status reporting requirements within the Annual Reports should greatly increase follow through of actions for the 2024 Action Plan. These updates that have already been done, should address the concerns from the auditors going forward with the new action plan, encouraging complete follow through with yearly Annual Reporting requirements for Status updates as opposed to the old version of a complete stand-alone status report that used to be due two years after the Independent Forest Audit (IFA). The Northeast Region has also developed and implemented templates to aid Districts and the SFLs in keeping consistent reporting of actions that meet all of the requirements outlined in the FMPM and IFAPP.

The Findings from the prior 2017 Martel IFA and the associated status report and the recommendations from the 2016 Magpie IFA and the associated status report that were identified as incomplete or lacking quantifiable progress tracking within Finding #5 of the 2024 Missinaibi Forest IFA report have been incorporated into other findings above and will be addressed through the newly developed action plan.

Action Required:

1. This action plan will be developed ensuring that each assigned action has a method of tracking progress that it is measurable in order to demonstrate reasonable efforts to address whether an action and its intent has been achieved. In some cases, this will be a measure of the process as opposed to the outcome.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNR Wawa Chapleau District – Management Forester, District Manager, MNR Region – Regional Director, MFMI - General Manager

Deadline Date:

1. March 31st, 2025

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Enhanced AR – Year 6, April 15th, 2028