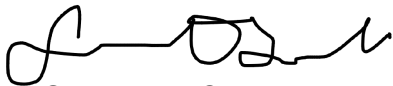


Timiskaming Forest Management Unit
2016- 2023 Independent Forest Audit
Management Unit Action Plan


Timiskaming Forest 2016-2023 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Submission Signature Page

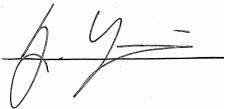
Prepared By:



Samantha O'Donnell, RPF
Regional Planning Forester
MNRF Northeast Region
Date: April 19th, 2024



Camilla Rewucki, RPF
Management Forester
Timmins- Kirkland Lake MNRF
District Date: April 19th, 2024

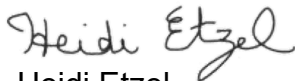


Shay Yaskovitch, RPF
Planning Forester
Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc.
Date: April 19th, 2024



Steve Thuerig, RPF
General Manager
Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc.
Date: April 19th, 2024

Submitted By:

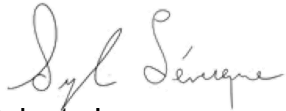


Heidi Etzel
District Manager
Timmins-Kirkland Lake MNRF District
Date: April 19th, 2024

Timiskaming Forest 2016-2023 Independent Forest Audit

Action Plan Approval Signature Page

Approved By:



Sylvain Levesque
Regional Director

MNRF Northeast Region
Date: May 13, 2024

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Introduction

The 2023 Timiskaming Forest Independent Forest Audit (IFA) Report was accepted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) on January 19th, 2024, for an IFA conducted by NorthWinds Environmental Services for the seven-year period of April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2023.

The audit team concluded, with the critical exceptions noted below, that management of the Timiskaming 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 No. 542247 held by Timiskaming Forest Alliance Inc. (TFAI) The forest is being managed consistently with the principles of sustainable forest management, as assessed through the Independent Forest Audit Process and Protocol. The critical exceptions noted are as follows:

- The effectiveness of public, First Nation, and Métis consultation during 2021 - 2031 F.M.P. development was reduced. (Finding #2)
- The 2020-2021 final year Annual Report for the Timiskaming Forest does not provide an appropriate assessment of objective achievement for its forest diversity objectives. (Finding #10)

Upon acceptance of the audit report, it was determined that an action plan is needed to address the 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 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 final Forest Management Plan is incomplete with regard to several required public, Local Citizens' Committee, First Nation and Métis consultation documents.

Action Required:

1. The MNRF and TFAI will review the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan (FMP) and address any substantive missing required elements through an amendment to the FMP.
2. Regional Operations Division (ROD) Region will work jointly with ROD Divisional Services Branch and Policy Division to develop Forest Management Plan training opportunities as well as provide templates for the summary of public consultation and First Nation and Metis community involvement and consultation documents.
3. The MNRF District Manager will ensure that the appropriate staff from the District attend the MNRF- led FMP training opportunities.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Management Forester and TFAI Plan Author
2. MNRF Regional Planning Forester
3. MNRF District Manager

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2025
2. March 31, 2029
3. March 31, 2029

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2021-2031 FMP Amendment
2. Training Materials
3. Attendance record

Finding #2:

The effectiveness of public, First Nations, and Métis consultation during the 2021 -2031 Forest Management Plan development was reduced.

Action Required:

1. Continue to provide in-person and/or virtual participation opportunities for First Nation and Metis Communities to identify potential values through the inspection of Annual Work Schedules.
2. Provide additional information sessions and training opportunities for the Kirkland Lake Local Citizens Committee and encourage members to have methods of sharing the materials from the meetings with their respective stakeholder groups that they represent.
3. MNRF will do a dry run of open houses with the Kirkland Lake LCC prior to going to the public during the 2031- 2041 FMP development.
4. Outreach with First Nations and Metis Councils to examine potential barriers which should be considered during consultation for the 2031-2041 FMP development.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Management Forester & TFAI Plan Author
2. MNRF District Manager, KL LCC Chair
3. MNRF District Manager, KL LCC Chair
4. MNRF District Manager

Deadline Date:

1. Annually
2. Ongoing up to and including plan development
3. March 31st, 2031
4. March 31st, 2027

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Report in annual Timiskaming Forest AWS Summary of Engagement
2. LCC Meeting Minutes, training materials
3. LCC Meeting Minutes
4. Meeting Minutes, Information Summary

Finding #3:

The 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan lacks a summary of three Issue Resolution requests made during the development of the plan and the resulting changes to the Final Plan.

Action Required:

1. The Ministry and TFAI will review the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan and address the missing required elements of the Issue Resolution Summary through an amendment.
2. Regional Operations Division (ROD) Region will work jointly with ROD Divisional Services Branch and Policy Division to develop Forest Management Plan training opportunities as well as provide templates for the summary of public consultation which will include a section summarizing Issue Resolution Processes.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Management Forester & TFAI Plan Author
2. MNRF Regional Planning Forester

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2025
2. March 31, 2031

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2021-2031 FMP Amendment
2. Training Materials

Finding #4:

The 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan text and tables do not provide medium-/long-term projections as required by the Forest Management Planning Manual for Landscape Class indicators.

Action Required:

1. Correct the 2021-31 FMP to provide medium/long-term projections for Landscape Class indicators and amend them into the 2021-31 FMP.
2. TFAI staff to attend MNRF-led, joint training to support the production of the next FMP.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. TFAI Plan Author
2. TFAI General Manager

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2025
2. March 31, 2031

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2021-2031 FMP Amendment
2. Training Materials and attendance records

Finding #5:

Inadequate planning is resulting in large number of Forest Management Plan amendments.

Action Required:

1. TFAI to work jointly with MNRF Regional FMP Specialist to quantify and review amendments. Using the amendment data, a report will be prepared that analyses the data and provides recommendations for actions that may help reduce the number of amendments.
2. TFAI to review other FMPs within the region to determine if operational flexibility within the FMPM and the Timiskaming FMP is being fully utilised to help reduce amendments.
3. TFAI to explore operational planning tools with Forest Operations Group (FOG)- 3D Station, LiDAR, etc. to have in place for the development of the next FMP.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. TFAI General Manager
2. TFAI General Manager
3. TFAI General Manager & Forest Operations Group (FOG)

Deadline Date:

1. March 31st, 2025
2. March 31st, 2025
3. Prior or during 2031-41 FMP.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Report prepared by TFAI GM and submitted to MNRF DM
2. Report prepared by TFAI GM and submitted to MNRF DM
3. Minutes of the FOG

Finding #6:

Water crossing installations did not always follow the requirements in the approved Forest Management Plan.

Action Required:

1. Field Training, in consultation with the Forest Operations Group (FOG), will be scheduled that includes supervisors, equipment operators and FOIP inspectors who will be on-site during culvert installations and/or performing the inspection following installation.
2. Enhanced monitoring by the MNRF. MNRF's Annual Compliance Operating Plan will prioritize inspections on culvert installations to increase the percentage of culvert installations inspected relative to the number installed. All inspections will be documented through the FOIP program.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. TFAI General Manager
2. MNRF District Manager

Deadline Date:

1. October 31st, 2025
2. Annually until 2026, extended if concerns persist.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Training materials and attendance to be kept on file by SFL
2. Compliance Program (FOIP) and AR Instances on Non-Compliance

Finding #7:

The Sustainable Forest Licensee Free-to-Grow assessment results as they pertain to jack pine species composition are different from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry district silviculture monitoring results.

Action Required:

1. Continue annual review sessions of MNRF audit results and assess for any emerging trends to feed into FTG calibration.
2. Enhanced FTG calibration of aerial ocular assessment through targeted ground calibration and increased levels of ground surveying for challenging sites.
3. Joint Surveying - SFL to join MNRF annually during MNRF survey of a block-targeting blocks that have variability between survey results. Additionally, SFL to invite MNRF, if available, to join SFL on aerial ocular assessments to jointly view areas being assessed.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF District Management Forester
2. TFAI Silviculture Manager
3. TFAI Silviculture Manager & MNRF District Management Forester

Deadline Date:

1. Annually, Up to March 31st, 2027, extend as required.
2. Annually, Up to March 31st, 2027, extend as required when using aerial ocular method.
3. Annually, Up to March 31st, 2027, extend as required.

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Meeting minutes
2. Flight notes and Silviculture Budget to be kept on file by SFL.
3. Survey notes to be kept on file by lead survey organisation.

Finding #8:

Road density information for the Timiskaming Forest is not up-to-date and not reported in Annual Reports

Action Required:

1. TFAI to report road density information in Annual Reports (AR), local discussion to take place with MNRF to ensure the reporting method meets the intent of the FMP objective, as per the 2021 FMP.
2. Provide road density information in the remaining 2021-31 FMP Annual Reports.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. TFAI Plan Author
2. TFAI Plan Author

Deadline Date:

1. September 30th, 2024
2. 2024-25 AR and each AR until plan end (2031)

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Minutes of meeting with MNRF
2. Annual Reporting- Assessment of Objective Achievement Section

Finding #9:

No surveys were conducted to support the assessment of 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan Management Objective #16, Indicator 16.1 as it pertains to Local Citizen Committee's self-evaluation of its effectiveness in plan development.

Action Required:

1. Ensure Local Citizen Committee's self-evaluation surveys are conducted and included in the 2031-2041 FMP by clearly defining the MNRF District roles and responsibilities. District forester will ensure all surveys are completed and submitted.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF District Manager

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2031

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Documentation outlining District roles and responsibilities for FMP development, LCC meeting minutes, 2031-2041 FMP

Finding #10:

The approved Timiskaming Forest final year Annual Report does not provide an appropriate assessment of objective achievement for Objectives #1 to 8 of the 2011-2021 Forest Management Plan.

Action Required:

1. MNRF- led training to be provided for the development of enhanced ARs
2. TFAI to review and update 2011-2021 final year Annual Report with an appropriate assessment of objective achievement for Objectives #1-8.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. MNRF Regional FMP Specialist
2. TFAI Plan Author

Deadline Date:

1. March 31st, 2031
2. March 31st, 2025

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Training materials and attendance records
2. Final Year AR Resubmission or direction from MNRF stating otherwise