

**Nipissing Forest**  
**April 1, 2016 – March 31, 2025 Independent Forest Audit**  
**Management Unit Action Plan**

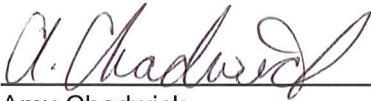
Nipissing Forest 2016-2025 Independent Forest Audit Action Plan  
Action Plan Submission Signature Page

Prepared by:



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Planning Forester  
Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.

Date: May 11, 2026



Amy Chadwick  
A/ Management Forester  
MNR North Bay District

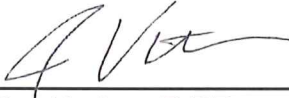
Date: May 11, 2026



Laurie Nuhn, R.P.F.  
Forest Operations Specialist  
MNR Northeast Region

Date: May 11, 2026

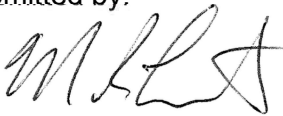
Reviewed by:



Ron Vautour, R.P.F.  
General Manager  
Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.

Date: May 11, 2026

Submitted by:



Mark Lockhart, R.P.F.  
District Manager  
MNR North Bay District

Date: May 11, 2026

Nipissing Forest 2016-2025 Independent Forest Audit Action Plan  
Action Plan Approval Signature Page

Approved by:

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

Date: May 13th, 2026

Sylvain Levesque, R.P.F.  
Regional Director  
MNR Northeast Region

*Cette publication hautement spécialisée (Independent Forest Audit Report – Nipissing Forest 2016-2025) n'est disponible qu'en anglais conformément au Règlement 671/92, selon lequel il n'est pas obligatoire de la traduire en vertu de la Loi sur les services en français. Pour obtenir des renseignements en français, veuillez communiquer avec le Ministère des Richesses naturelles au [NRISC@ontario.ca](mailto:NRISC@ontario.ca)*

## **Introduction**

In September 2025 an Independent Forest Audit (IFA) was conducted on the Nipissing Forest for the period of April 1, 2016, to March 31, 2025. Auditees were notified of the Divisional Support Branch's acceptance of the report as being final on February 18, 2026. A Management Unit Action Plan is due May 18, 2026.

The final audit report for the Nipissing Forest included four findings which will be addressed in this action plan.

For each management unit audit finding, the action plan outlines the actions required, responsibility, timelines and method of tracking progress of said actions.

Finding #1: Clear assignment of road and infrastructure duties, along with effective maintenance planning, is needed for the Nipissing Forest

Action Required:

1. A joint Ministry and Industry task team will review and update the roads responsibility for the 2029 forest management plan, with the District and Sustainable Forest Licensee reviewing all roads and infrastructure and determining the associated responsibility for each.
2. The forest management plan text will include information around roads where the MNR and SFL have shared interests. This text will provide further details including but not limited to; maintenance/upgrading responsibilities, cost sharing, communications

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. District Manager, North Bay Ministry of Natural Resources and General Manager, Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.
2. District Manager, North Bay Ministry of Natural Resources and General Manager, Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.

Deadline Date:

1. March 31, 2029
2. March 31, 2029

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2029 Nipissing Forest Management Plan
2. 2029 Nipissing Forest Management Plan

Finding #2: Commercial thinning of red pine on the Nipissing Forest is not fully optimized

Action Required:

1. Create a working group to discuss a consistent and effective approach to commercial thinning in the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Forest given Forest Resource Inventory limitations, species specific silvics, and spatial modeling considerations and constraints.
2. Perform a binning exercise for the Nipissing Forest to highlight stands that have already received silvicultural investment as well as prioritized known stands requiring commercial thinning and ensure that they are included in the next forest management plan for commercial thinning.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Regional Analyst, Northeast Region Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
2. Silvicultural/Operations Forester, Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.

Deadline Date:

1. September 30, 2026
2. March 31, 2029

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. 2029 Nipissing Forest Management Plan
2. 2029 Nipissing Forest Management Plan

Finding #3: The Ministry of Natural Resources District does not have an effective monitoring program in accordance with the Ministry of Natural Resources manuals, policies, and procedures.

Action Required:

1. District to update their Annual Compliance Operating Plan (ACOP) for 2026-2027 with compliance targets reflecting District priorities for the operating year. The District will then update this document annually to reflect compliance priorities based on risk and current direction.
2. District will ensure that enough certified forest compliance inspectors are available for meeting the inspection targets as outlined in the Annual Compliance Operating Plan (ACOP).

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. District Supervisor, North Bay Ministry of Natural Resources
2. District Supervisor, North Bay Ministry of Natural Resources

Deadline Date:

1. May 30, annually
2. March 31, 2028

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Annually within the Annual Compliance Operating Plan document
2. Annually within the Annual Compliance Operating Plan document

Finding #4: The Sustainable Forest Licence holder and the Ministry of Natural Resources are not reporting consistent regeneration monitoring results

Action Required:

1. Ministry to contact Sustainable Forest License holder to compare the results from the monitoring programs. Where results are inconsistent, a joint field visit will be scheduled between the Ministry and Sustainable Forest License holder to work together to verify/validate results on the ground.

Organization and Position Responsible:

1. Management Forester, North Bay Ministry of Natural Resources

Deadline Date:

1. Annually for inclusion in the annual report

Method of Tracking Progress:

1. Annual report