

# ANNUAL WORK SCHEDULE

for the

## **DRYDEN FOREST**

**Year Four**

**For the period  
April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025**

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**The Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd.**

I/We hereby confirm that this annual work schedule has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Forest Management Planning Manual* and the *Forest Information Manual* and is consistent with the approved forest management plan.

Submitted by: Steven Young, R.P.F.<sup>\*</sup> December 14, 2023  
General Manager (Plan Author), DFMC Date

R.P.F. Seal Steven Young, R.P.F. \* December 14, 2023  
 General Manager (Plan Author), DFMC Date

NRIP Submission Identifier: \*\*

**\*\* The NRIP Submission Identifier will be added to the original signed and sealed Title and Certification Page after the Portal Submission is complete and an identification number has been assigned.**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Dryden Forest SFL #542444 lies within the Dryden, Fort Frances, Atikokan District and the Northwest Region of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF). The District office is in the City of Dryden; the Regional office is in the City of Thunder Bay (See Figure 1). The Dryden Forest Management Co. Ltd administers the Dryden Forest.

This annual work schedule for the Dryden Forest details the operations scheduled for the period of April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. This is the fourth year of the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan. This annual work schedule was completed in accordance with the Forest Management Planning Manual (2020) for Ontario's Crown Forests, Part D, Section 3, and follows the direction set out in the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan for the Dryden Forest.

The implementation of the annual work schedule will follow the 'Conditions on Regular Operations' found in Section 4.2.2.2 and the 'Conditions on Roads, Landings and Aggregate Pits' found in Section 4.5.8 of the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan for the Dryden Forest.

## 2.0 HARVEST

The Forest Management Planning Manual (FMPM) allows up to 3 years of the average annual available harvest area to be included for flexibility in harvesting. This is the fourth Annual Work Schedule (AWS) in the 2021-2031 Forest Management Plan (FMP). Table FMP-12 of the Dryden Forest 2021-2031 FMP identifies a total 10-Year Available Harvest Area to be 14,769.4 ha. The average annual available harvest area is approximately 1,477 ha and three-year total that DFMC can be schedule up to is 4,431 ha. DFMC's allocation is submitted in the AWS as MU535\_24SHR00 shapefile and is under the 4,431ha limit.

Bridging Harvest area is to be completed before March 31, 2024. Bridging area is no longer being scheduled after March 31, 2024.

Scheduled harvested areas are identified on the AWS index map and operational map products.

Residual patches will be left in blocks as identified in the 2021-2031 FMP Section 4.3.2. Specific direction around operational considerations for residual patches are found in Sections 4.2.2.2, Conditions on Regular Operations, and Section 4.5.9, Conditions on Roads, Landings and Aggregate Pits, of the 2021-2031 FMP that identifies the requirements and movement conditions for residual patches. Mapped residual will be identified in the AWS MU535\_24SRP00 shapefile and unmapped residual for the 0.5 ha residual patches will be identified to operators on their operational block maps.

Harvest allocation boundaries are marked on the ground to reflect approved, mapped boundaries; however, some minor discrepancies are inevitable. DFMC is committed to ensuring that all boundaries are marked in the field as accurately as possible. Any slight

deviations of harvest boundaries should not significantly affect the net block configuration, location, or size.

Where it is evident that there is a substantial shift between the GPS unit and the actual stand boundary, the intent will be to allocate the actual area that was intended to be harvested. For example, if a harvest block was adjacent to a recent cutover and the GPS unit located the boundary 30 meters inside the standing timber, then the boundary will be marked along the recent cutover. Areas of Concern will be laid out to protect the actual location of the value with the approved AOC width according to the prescription described in FMP-11.

Persons wishing to obtain fuelwood for personal use must obtain a Personal Fuelwood Permit from the MNRF, if required. No fuelwood collection will be permitted in harvest blocks where operations are ongoing unless the operating Overlapping Licensee, DFMC Shareholder or DFMC office has given written permission to collect fuelwood. Once operations have ceased and the merchantable wood has been hauled, the fuelwood will be available without written permission. Fuelwood harvesting in these sites shall comply with the Joint Ministry of Labour/Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry Forest Management Bulletin – Working around Chicots and Wildlife Trees (Nov. 2007).

To provide for the maximum utilization of timber, any un-merchantable timber left near roadside on the ground in piles, or left standing after harvesting operations are completed, may be made available for fuelwood. Fuelwood will only be available if it was not left on site for a specific reason. In all blocks, timber will be left standing intentionally to enhance wildlife habitat and will therefore, be unavailable for fuelwood. Also, no fuelwood will be considered available within a block once renewal activities have commenced, or after a period of two years after harvest operations have ended. This strategy is intended for the protection of regenerating trees, whether they were initiated naturally or artificially.

## 2.1 WOOD STORAGE YARDS

There are two wood storage yards included in the FMP and they will be included in the AWS. Wood storage yards are included in MU535\_24WSY00 shapefile. Operational standards for wood storage yards are included in the 2021-2031 FMP section 4.5.9.

Wood storage yard locations areas are identified on the AWS index map and operational map products.

## 2.2 RENEWAL AND MAINTENANCE

Seedlings are being grown for the 2024 tree planting season. Aerial seeding with jack pine is also planned as part of the renewal program for 2024/25. Additional area is expected to renew naturally. Renewal activities scheduled for treatment are included in the AWS MU535\_24SRG00 shapefile. Treatment Method (TRTMTHD) codes PLANT identify planting areas and SEED indicating aerial seeding areas.

Site preparation is planned in this AWS. All site preparation planned in this AWS is mechanical. Site preparation activities scheduled for treatment are included in the AWS

MU535\_24SSP00 shapefile. Treatment Method (TRTMTHD) codes SIPMECH identify mechanical site preparation areas, SIPCHEMA for aerial chemical site preparation, SIPCHEMG for ground chemical site preparation and/or SIPPB for site preparation by prescribed burn.

Tending is planned in this AWS. Tending activities scheduled for treatment are included in the AWS MU535\_24SSP00 shapefile. Treatment Method (TRTMTHD) codes CLCHEMA identify where aerial application of herbicides are planned, CLMANUAL indicates where manual tending by brush saw may be used and THINPRE indicates where pre-commercial thinning is planned. Due to the small area requiring herbicide application, DFMC conducts this project every 2 years. If required, a herbicide project plan will be developed prior to July 1<sup>st</sup> and appended to this AWS as per Part D, Section 5 of the 2020 FMPM.

Renewal and Maintenance areas are identified on the AWS index map and operational map products.

A low-complexity prescribed burn plan for slash pile burning will be prepared and approved prior to November 1<sup>st</sup> and appended to this AWS as per Part D, Section 4 of the 2020 FMPM. Slash pile burning is planned to occur in blocks that were allocated for harvesting during previous Annual Work Schedules. Slash pile burning is part of the overall management of logging debris on the Dryden Forest. The 2021-2031 FMP Sections 4.2.2.2, Conditions on Regular Operations, and Section 4.5.9, Conditions on Roads, Landings and Aggregate Pits, identify additional debris management to prevent permanent loss of productive land.

Establishment assessment areas will be submitted prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> as part of an AWS changes submission, as per the 2020 FIM Tech Spec section 4.2.19.

## 2.3 ROADS

Primary and branch roads construction is planned to occur in this AWS. All primary and branch road corridors are identified on the AWS index map and operational map products, as approved in the 2021-2031 FMP. Primary and branch road corridors scheduled for construction are included in the AWS MU535\_24SRC00 shapefile.

Operation road construction is planned to occur in this AWS. Areas where operational road construction can occur are identified on the AWS index map and operational map products, as approved in the 2021-2031 FMP. Areas where operation road construction can occur are included in the AWS MU535\_24SOR00 shapefile.

Roads planned to be decommissioned, transferred, or have access controls implement during this AWS are identified on the AWS index map and operational map products, as approved in the 2021-2031 FMP.

### **2.3.1 Water Crossing Construction**

Water crossings proposed for construction or replacement in 2024/25 are listed in table AWS-1. Water crossing activities are included in the AWS MU535\_24SWC00 shapefile. Planned water crossing activities are identified on the AWS index map and operational map products. The water crossing data information sheets are attached in Appendix A.

DFMC has developed a 'Water Crossing Protocol' to provide consistent direction to Shareholders, Overlapping Licensees and contractors who will be constructing water crossings. This Protocol is found in Appendix D.

### **2.3.2 Other Crossings of Areas of Concern**

Any crossing of an Area of Concern (AOC) that does not involve a water crossing will follow conditions outlined in FMP-11 for the appropriate AOC prescription as approved in the 2021-2031 FMP. If the appropriate AOC prescription does not exist in the FMP, one will be amended into the FMP. AOC's are identified on the AWS index map and operational map products, as approved in the 2021-2031 FMP. AOC's are included in the AWS MU535\_24SAC00 shapefile.

### **2.3.3 Water Crossing Decommissioning**

Water crossings proposed for decommissioning in 2024/25 are listed in table AWS-2. Water crossing activities are included in the AWS MU535\_24SWC00 shapefile. Planned water crossing activities are identified on the AWS index map and operational map products.

### **2.3.4 Forestry Aggregate Pits**

Forestry Aggregate Pits (FAPs) follow the procedures outlined in Section 4.5.7 of the Dryden Forest 2021-2031 FMP. Existing FAPs are included in the AWS MU535\_24AGP00 shapefile while new FAPs are permitted to be constructed within scheduled aggregate extraction areas, in AWS MU535\_24SAG00 shapefile, operational road boundaries, primary or branch road corridors. FAP activities are identified on the AWS index map and operational map products.

Specific conditions relating to FAP's can be found in FMP-11, and section 4.5.8 (CORLAPS) of the Dryden Forest 2021-2031 FMP.

## **2.4 FIRE PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS**

Forest workers, operators and or contractors of the Dryden Forest Management Company Ltd. are required to provide for forest fire prevention measures as described in Section 4.8 Fire Prevention and Preparedness of the Dryden Forest 2021-2031 FMP.



1  
2 The operations of the Dryden Forest will adhere to “The Dryden Forest Fire Prevention and  
3 Preparedness Plan” included with this AWS in Appendix B.

4  
5 DFMC’s “The Dryden Forest Fire Prevention and Preparedness Plan” will be distributed to  
6 all Shareholders, Overlapping Licensees and contractors working on the Dryden Forest  
7 during the fire season who will be required to follow all prevention and preparedness  
8 procedures. This document lists fire suppression equipment ready during the fire season for  
9 each operation. All forest fire prevention and preparedness measures will apply to all  
10 Shareholders, Overlapping Licensees, and contractors on the SFL.

11  
12 A spring meeting with representatives from the MNRF Fire Management Headquarters and  
13 DFMC is organized to prepare for the upcoming fire season, identify training needs, and  
14 convey awareness of fire prevention plans and initiatives.  
15

## 2.5 MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT

### 2.5.1 Compliance Monitoring

The compliance strategy for the Dryden Forest is located in section 4.7 Monitoring and Assessment of the Dryden Forest 2021-2031 FMP.

#### Inspection and Sampling Intensity

DFMC compliance inspectors must inspect a representative sample within each Compliance Reporting Area (CRA) to confirm and report on the compliance status with the FMP, AWS, and associated legislation. This will include such things as utilization, standards, harvest boundaries, areas of concern, forest aggregate pits and water crossing requirements. Occasional joint inspections may be done with the MNRF.

#### Reporting and Operational Issue Management

As described in the FMP section 4.7.1.6, any operational issues are to be reported immediately by forest workers to their supervisors. If an operational issue can easily be corrected, it must be done immediately. On-going or non-correctable operational issues are to be verbally reported to DFMC, who will in turn notify MNRF.

A compliance inspection report will be completed by a certified inspector who has conducted the inspection and submitted to MNRF through FOIP. An inspection report is a record of the inspection that was conducted at a point in time on a defined area and creates a history. The report is not considered to have been submitted through FOIP until it has been completed by the inspector, entered in FOIP, and approved within FOIP.

#### Notification of the Status of an Operation

Notification and inspection reporting timelines and requirements are described in Section 4.7.1.6 – Notification of Status of the Dryden Forest 2021-2031 FMP.

DFMC will provide a written notice (email) to MNRF when a change in the status of an operation on the Dryden Forest occurs. The notice will state the 'Compliance Reporting Area' and the type of notification; 'Start Up', 'Suspended Operation' or 'Release to MNRF for compliance audit'.

#### Inspect and Report on Operations

The inspection process will be initiated by DFMC as soon as forest operations commence. Compliance inspection report procedures on the Dryden Forest will follow direction from the Forest Compliance Handbook procedure FOR 07 03 05. The procedure provides a flow chart outlining the process that will be used when confronted with issue management.

Prevention, Avoidance and Mitigation

Prevention, avoidance, and mitigation measures will be implemented as documented in Section 4.7.1.7 of the Dryden Forest 2021-2031 FMP.

Roles and responsibilities associated with the compliance plan are identified in section 4.7.1.5 of the Dryden Forest 2021-2031 FMP.

The Annual Reports will describe the details of specific compliance performance issues and any action items carried out.

Also, when mitigative measures (i.e., AOC prescriptions) are being identified in the field (i.e., flagged boundary), Shareholder/Overlapping Licensees who are involved are to ensure the value location in the field is known to ensure appropriate protection is provided.

Shareholders/Overlapping Licensees who have not harvested on the Dryden Forest for three years will be subject to conditions identified in section 4.7.1.4 of the Dryden Forest 2021-2031 FMP.

**2.5.2 Compliance Reporting Area(s)**

Compliance Reporting Areas are determined by risk analysis, as documented in Section 4.7.1.8 of the Dryden Forest 2021-2031 FMP.

For the purpose of this Forest Compliance Strategy, a Compliance Reporting Area is defined as: “areas of land described for the purpose of forest compliance reporting and for which a forest operations compliance inspection report will be submitted.”(Source: FOR 07 02 04)