ANNUAL WORK SCHEDULE
for the
NIPISSING FOREST

MNR North Bay District and Northeast Region
prepared by
Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.
for the one-year period from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027

Original Submission: December 22, 2025
Resubmission: February 26, 2026

NFRM
Nipissing Forest
Resource Management

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MNR North Bay District and Northeast Region
Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc.
for the one-year period from April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2027

I hereby confirm that this AWS has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Management Planning Manual and the FIM and is consistent with the approved forest management plan.

Prepared by:	Shelley Straughan	December 22, 2025
	S. Straughan, R.P.F., Plan Author	Date

Submitted by:	Shelley Straughan	December 22, 2025
	S. Straughan, R.P.F., Plan Author	Date

I hereby certify that the access, harvest, renewal, and maintenance operations which are scheduled in this annual work schedule have been developed in accordance with the requirements of the Forest Management Planning Manual.

	Shelley Straughan	December 22, 2025
[R.P.F. Seal]	S. Straughan, R.P.F., Plan Author	Date

NRIP Submission Identifier: FM-754-2026-AWS-2777

Original, signed copies of the certification page are on file at the NFRM Inc. and MNR District offices.

2 Nipissing Forest Annual Work Schedule

2.1 List of Attachments

Attachment		**Digital File Name**
Attachment 1	A) 2026-2027 AWS Harvest Operations OBM maps, at a scale of 1:15,840 B) 2026-2027 AWS Harvest Summary Map at a scale of 1: 500,000 C) 2026-2027 Annual Work Schedule Index Map – Harvest – 1:150,000	MU754_2026_AWS_MAP_OpsOBM##_00.PDF MU754_2026_AWS_MAP_Sum_01.PDF MU754_2026_AWS_MAP_Index_01.PDF
Attachment 2	A) 2026-2027 AWS Silviculture Operations OBM maps, at a scale of 1:50,000 B) 2026-2027 AWS Silviculture Summary Map at a scale of 1: 500,000 C) 2026-2027 Annual Work Schedule Index Map – Silviculture – 1:150,000	MU754_2026_AWS_MAP_Silv##_00.PDF MU754_2026_AWS_MAP_Sum_02.PDF MU754_2026_AWS_MAP_Index_02.PDF
Attachment 3	Fire Prevention and Preparedness Plan	MU754_2026_AWS_TXT_Text.PDF
Attachment 4	Aerial Herbicide Plan - submitted later and separately on NRIP as well as prior to public notification.	MU754_2026_AWSHP_---.ZIP
Attachment 5	Compliance Plan for the Nipissing Forest	MU754_2026_AWS_TXT_Text.PDF
Attachment 6	Prescribed Burn Plan - submitted later and separately on NRIP as well as prior to public notification.	MU754_2026_AWSPB_---_TXT.PDF

2.2 Introduction

This Annual Work Schedule (AWS) has been prepared by Nipissing Forest Resource Management Inc. (NFRM), the Sustainable Forest Licence holder (SFL #542053) for the Nipissing Forest. The AWS covers planned harvesting, access, renewal, and maintenance operations on the Nipissing Forest for the period commencing April 1st, 2026 and ending March 31st, 2027. This schedule represents the eighth year of planned forest management activities for the approved 2019–2029 Forest Management Plan (FMP). Conditions on regular operations identified in the forest management plan will be followed in the implementation of this AWS. More detailed planning information can be referenced in the approved 2019–2029 FMP for the Nipissing Forest. This AWS has been prepared in accordance with the Forest Management Planning Manual (MNRF, 2024) and the Forest Information Manual (FIM) AWS Technical Specifications (MNR, 2025).

Notable changes and revisions to the 2025 FIM AWS Technical Specifications include (MNR, 2025):

- Wording changes to align with 2024 FMPM revisions
- Addition of the scheduled road access control point activities layer and the values update layer
- Addition of the silvicultural ground rule attribute to the scheduled harvest layer
- Alignment of the road corridors, existing roads, operational road boundaries and access control points with the FMP Technical Specification
- Removal of the option for e00 file format for spatial data
- Addition of a zip file for the exchange of all spatial data
- Relocation of FMP tabular information derived solely from spatial data under the text exchange requirements
- Adjustments for the title, certification, and approval pages
- General formatting, clarification, and typographical corrections
- Clarifications and corrections to validation logic statements

NFRM is responsible for the complete and accurate production and submission of all components of the AWS and any AWS changes. AWS changes may include revisions, establishment assessment surveys, appended documents such as prescribed burn plans or aerial herbicide/insecticide project plans, and updates to values information. Submission of these components will be completed through NRIP and will be published for public viewing when approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). The ministry is responsible for providing water crossing review results, where applicable under the Fisheries Act review, for inclusion in the Annual Schedule of Water Crossings to be Constructed or Removed

information products. The ministry will verify that all information products submitted by the licensee meet the standards defined in the FIM AWS Technical Specifications and are complete.

The North Bay District of the MNR is the lead District for the Nipissing Forest. An illustration of the management unit and its location within the Northeast Region is provided in Figure 1.

Figure 1. Location and extent of the Nipissing Forest

2.3 Additional Information and Project Plans

Higher risk water crossing information, prescribed burn plans and aerial pesticide project plans will be available with the AWS for the year when they are scheduled. Project plans are individually submitted to the Natural Resources Information Portal (NRIP) and are published for public viewing once approved. These documents require a certified approval page that is provided as per the FIM AWS Technical Specifications (MNR, 2025). Higher risk water crossings scheduled for construction, including existing water crossings scheduled for replacement, and decommissioning that require MNR review will be submitted as described in the FMPM (MNRF, 2024). Prescribed burn plans and aerial pesticide project descriptions and plans are prepared as described in the FMPM (MNRF, 2024). Aerial insecticide projects can only occur after the requirements for an insect pest management program have been completed, as described in the FMPM (MNRF, 2024).

2.4 Harvest

The areas scheduled for harvest during the year are identified on the accompanying annual operations maps. The submitted harvest layer (mu754_26shr) provides spatial data that summarizes the scheduled harvest area for the AWS year.

The average annual available harvest area (AHA) for the 10-year period of the FMP is 84,960 ha, and this value guides the amount of area scheduled for harvest in the AWS. As stated in the FMPM (MNRF, 2024), "up to three years of the average annual planned harvest area may be identified and portrayed in the AWS in accordance with the FIM to provide flexibility for unforeseen circumstances" (p. D-7). The scheduled harvest area in the 2026–2027 AWS includes 22,141 ha of regular harvest, 195 ha of bridging harvest, and 5 ha of salvage harvest, representing approximately 26% of the total planned harvest area in the Nipissing 2019–2029 FMP. Of this area, approximately 10,642 ha will be harvested using the clearcut silvicultural system, 1,793 ha using the selection system, and 9,906 ha using the shelterwood system. This level of planned harvest provides operational flexibility to respond to fluctuating markets (species/products), changing weather conditions, and potential new business opportunities. It is important to note that the FMP available harvest area excludes reserves that will not be harvested.

During the AWS operation year, 42 hectares have been identified for non-commercial fuelwood availability, consistent with last year's offering. These areas include Block 19-272 (Henry Twp.), Block 19-273 (Merrick Twp.), Block 19-274 (Stewart Twp.), Block 19-275 (Mulock Twp.), Block

19-276 (Himsworth Twp.), Block 19-277 (Pringle Twp.), and Block 19-278 (Merrick Twp.). Standing trees may be harvested from these designated areas for personal use only and not for commercial purposes, and only with an authorization issued by the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR). Authorizations can be obtained through the Natural Resources Information Portal, specifying the township of the fuelwood area of interest.

Provincial guidelines also allow households to collect up to 10 cubic metres of downed wood (fallen trees or tree parts) per year without a fee or permit, equivalent to approximately four full stacked cords or twelve face cords. Members of the public wishing to collect firewood under these guidelines are encouraged to access completed harvest areas from the FMP where logging residues may be available. Wood must not be taken from active harvest operations.

Additional details, maps, and authorizations for cutting standing trees or collecting more than 10 cubic metres can be obtained online through the Natural Resources Information Portal or by contacting the North Bay MNR office:

Email: MNR.NorthBay@ontario.ca
Phone: (705) 475-5501
Fax: (705) 475-5500

General information on using Crown land wood for personal use is also available at: https://www.ontario.ca/page/using-wood-crown-land-personal-use.

2.4.1 Utilization Strategy for Low Market Areas

Ongoing low market conditions for conifer pulp require NFRM to implement the Modified Utilization Strategy for Unmarketable Conifer Pulp as outlined in the Northeast Region Creating Forest Operations Opportunities in Low Market Conditions Strategy (2020) and Supplementary Documentation 6.1.23 of the Nipissing 2019–2029 FMP. Block-specific direction will be provided in Forest Operations Prescriptions (FOPs). Log specifications will be documented by species and contractor on a block-by-block basis, with updates provided regularly to the MNR. Implementation of the strategy will be confirmed annually through the AWS, as required by market conditions.

Table 1 identifies blocks with a high likelihood of LMCS implementation.

Should domestic markets, or other circumstances relevant to the local Utilization Strategy change during the term, this Strategy, or blocks

authorization under it, may be cancelled or amended through written notification from the District Manager.

2.4.1.1 General Direction (All Forest Units & Regeneration Methods)

- Defer harvest in stands with significant balsam fir (Bf >20%) where possible.
- In cut-to-length operations, process trees in the bush; softwood pulp (Sp/Bf/Pj/Pr/Pw/Ce/He/La) remains in the cutover.
- Tops, slash, and pulpwood left on site will decompose naturally or be broken up during mechanical site preparation.
- Conifer pulp generated at roadside may be redistributed into the cutover, piled and burned, or left at roadside (fuelwood opportunities encouraged).
- Roadside processing will ensure balsam fir tops and limbs are not redistributed into the cutover.
- Where pine is topped in the bush for sawlogs, pulp-sized tops may remain on site.

2.4.1.2 Forest-Unit-Specific Direction

<u>MW, PO, SF — Natural Regeneration</u>

- Retain scattered conifers exceeding residual requirements but remove unmarketable balsam fir where feasible.
- Bypass permitted for patches >0.1 ha with >50% conifer pulpwood; merchantable stems remain as residual or moose thermal cover.

<u>BW, PJ, PJSB, PWST, MCL — Natural Regeneration</u>

- Scattered conifers exceeding residual requirements will be cut or knocked down during harvest or tending.
- Bypass permitted for patches >0.1 ha with >50% conifer pulpwood; merchantable stems remain standing.

<u>BW, MW, PO, PJ, PJSB, PR, PWST, SF, MCL — Artificial Regeneration</u>

- Large Bf (≥25 cm DBH) felled or knocked down during harvest.
- Small Bf (<25 cm DBH) removed during harvest, site preparation, or tending.
- Conifer pulpwood may be retained within wildlife tree retention limits.
- FOPs will specify when mechanical site preparation is required for Bf removal.
- Multiple stems will be scattered or kept in small bunches to reduce obstructions.
- Bypass permitted for patches >0.1 ha with >50% conifer pulpwood.
- Alternative site-prep equipment may be required depending on residual material.

HDUS, HDUS-BY-ST, HDSEL, BY, LWMX, HE — Natural Regeneration

- Large Bf (≥25 cm DBH) felled or knocked down; small Bf (<25 cm DBH) removed during harvest, site prep, or tending.
- Where no site prep is planned, all non-wildlife-contributing Bf must be removed during harvest.
- Conifer pulpwood may be retained within wildlife tree retention limits.
- Multiple stems will be scattered or kept in small bunches.
- Bypass permitted for patches >0.1 ha with >50% conifer pulpwood.

PWUS — Natural / Supplemental Planting

- Large Bf (≥25 cm DBH) felled or knocked down; small Bf (<25 cm DBH) removed during harvest, site prep, or tending.
- FOPs will specify when mechanical site preparation is required.
- Multiple stems will be scattered or kept in small bunches.

PR — Commercial Thinning

- Trees processed in the bush; associated softwood pulp remains in the cutover.
- Conifer pulpwood not interfering with red pine crop trees may be left standing.
- Pulpwood generated from sawlog processing during tree-length operations may be left at roadside.

Table 1. Harvest Blocks with High Probability of LMCS Implementation

Scheduled Harvest Blocks with Conifer-Leading Forest Units and High LMCS Potential, by Area (ha)							
Block	**PJ**	**PJSB**	**PR**	**PWST**	**PWUS**	**SF**	**Grand Total**
19-005				24	32		56
19-006			10	4	216		230
19-009	6	31		69	16	85	207
19-012	74	92		129	108	227	631
19-013				20	381	25	426
19-015		17	33	0			50
19-017				9	13		22
19-018			16	19	24	6	65
19-023			5	27	22		54
19-026				2		258	259
19-027			26	10			36
19-035			21				21
19-043					2	32	34
19-044				21	20		40
19-050		20	2			72	95
19-053				46		277	323
19-062					41	2	44
19-066				16	171		187
19-073				71		321	392
19-074				136		367	503
19-083						106	106
19-084						142	142
19-085						228	228
19-091						19	19
19-092						12	12
19-111			16	27	10		53
19-115			24				24
19-119					165		165
19-122				7	3	7	17
19-124		10		16	38	18	82
19-125	10	20	1	8	106	12	157
19-126			17		36	119	171
19-127			16	30	94		140
19-128					107		107
19-129						44	44
19-132				47		31	78
19-135				30		63	93
19-136						62	62
19-144						14	14
19-152						21	21
19-153						15	15
19-155			19			30	49
19-159					1	29	30
19-172			52			4	56
19-174			101				101
19-177		2	89	19	9	16	135
19-178				25	18		43
19-179			21		9		30
19-184					12	2	14
19-191				5	102		107
19-199					12		12
19-202			25				25
19-205			96		2	0	98
19-210				36	147		183
19-211			12	32	35	4	82
19-215			47	7	34	13	100
19-220			18	7		7	32
19-221					73		73
19-225					11	7	18
19-226					24	11	35
19-228			26		3		29
19-236			4		59		64
19-238				1	154		155
19-240				1	48		49
19-242					83		83
19-243				8	197	5	210
19-244				28			28
19-245					160		160
19-249				6	128	3	137
19-250				54	145	7	206
19-255			18				18
19-256			56				56
19-257			56	43	18		116
19-259			19	70	228		317
19-261			2	135	108	39	283
19-263	48						48
19-287				27	33	27	87
Grand Total	**138**	**193**	**890**	**1,269**	**3,455**	**2,812**	**8,757**

2.4.2 Forest Operations Prescriptions Information

Forest operations prescriptions and silvicultural activities for a given area of operations are maintained by the sustainable forest licensee (SFL) as part of their information records. The information will be maintained for each area of operation.

Forest Operations Prescription Control Documents (FOPCD), Pre-Harvest Assessment Compilation Sheets (PHACS), tree marking audits, and maps identifying planned residual areas are available upon request from NFRM staff. The FOPCD is the document prepared by NFRM Inc. which describes the location, general description, long range objectives, paint application objectives, ecosite information, forest operation prescription details, operational details (exception monitoring program), residual targets and map of residual patches, the silvicultural ground rule, silvicultural treatment package information for the stand(s), and other FMP site specific strategies.

2.4.3 Wood Storage Yards

Wood storage yards (WSY) are periodically needed to manage wood that is harvested and cannot be directly hauled to its final destination. The WSY is defined in FIM (MNR, 2025) as a site that is geographically separated from the harvest location that may be used for slashing, sorting, storage and other wood measurement activities of forest resources prior to the movement to final processing destination(s). The following seven wood storage yard sites have been identified for use on the Nipissing Forest:

- WSY#01 - Gooderham Road south of Marten Lake (Gladman Twp.)
- WSY#02 - Operational Road ERN 09-160 off Klock's Road (Cameron Twp.)
- WSY#03 - Area south of Crystalline Lake Road off Klock's Road (Cameron Twp.)
- WSY#04 - Operational Road ERN 09-047 off McConnell Lakes Road (Clarkson Twp.)
- WSY#05 - Area adjacent to Olrig Road (Mattawan Twp.)
- WSY#06 - Junction of Pipeline Road and Weyerhauser Road (Jocko Twp.)
- WSY#07 - French Road west of Glen Lake Road turn off (French Twp.)

2.5 Renewal and Maintenance

Attachment 2 contains the silviculture annual work schedule maps at a scale of 1:50,000, a Silviculture Operations index map at a scale of 1:150,000, and a Silviculture Operations summary map at a scale of 1:500,000. Areas for renewal and maintenance are submitted as per the FIM AWS Technical Specifications (MNR, 2025).

Detailed information on regeneration treatments can be found in the Forest Management Plan (FMP) and its supporting documentation. These treatments are an important step in ensuring harvested areas successfully regenerate into healthy, mature forests that will continue to support wildlife, recreation, and future timber supply.

2.5.1 Regeneration

The scheduled regeneration treatments layer (mu754_26srg) is one of four spatial data layers that show where forest renewal and maintenance operations are planned each year. This layer specifically identifies areas scheduled for regeneration treatments, along with the method to be used. For 2026–2027, tree planting will take place in the northeast – Garrow, McAuslan, Clarkson and Jocko Townships, as well as in Bastedo Township in the northwest. In total, approximately 219 hectares have been scheduled for tree planting.

2.5.2 Site Preparation

The scheduled site preparation treatments layer (mu754_26ssp) identifies areas where site preparation activities are planned to support forest regeneration. These activities include the use of machinery to disturb the forest floor and expose topsoil or mineral soil—creating suitable conditions for artificial regeneration—as well as the application of herbicides to reduce undesirable vegetation competition.

For the 2026–2027 AWS, a total of 89 hectares of site preparation has been scheduled. This includes approximately 32 hectares of mechanical site preparation (e.g., disc trencher/chains), 38 hectares of ground-applied herbicide treatments using skidder-mounted air-blast spraying, and 16 hectares of aerial herbicide application. In addition, a Low Complexity Prescribed Burn—the "Crystalline LCPB"—is planned for approximately 3 hectares in Papineau-Cameron Township. A separate submission for this prescribed burn plan will be made through NRIP.

For prescribed burns, the Ministry will issue a public notice at least 30 days in advance to inform First Nation and Métis communities, as well as the general public, that the prescribed burn plan is available for inspection. The burn proponent is responsible for ensuring that each prescribed burn area is posted at least 14 days before operations begin. Signs will be placed along main access roads to the burn area and will be provided in English and, where applicable, in French, Oji-Cree, and other Indigenous languages upon request. These signs will indicate the scheduled burn date and provide contact information for further inquiries.

2.5.3 Tending

The scheduled tending treatments layer (mu754_26stt) for this AWS encompasses 3,083 hectares. Areas requiring aerial herbicide application will be confirmed and adjusted by Nipissing field staff as the project plan is finalized and submitted to the MNR Regional Director and the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP) for pesticide permit approval.

Aerial herbicide treatments are applied to young stands not beyond the sapling stage, releasing favoured trees from competition by eliminating undesirable vegetation. For 2026–2027, approximately 2,233 hectares have been identified as eligible for this treatment, with final inclusion determined through the project plan. Historically, 1,000 to 1,500 hectares are budgeted annually for aerial herbicide application.

Manual tending is scheduled on 369 hectares, using hand tools such as brush saws to reduce competition and promote growth of desired trees. Additionally, 81 hectares have been identified for improvement cutting, and 21 hectares for pre-commercial thinning. Improvement cutting is conducted in uneven-aged stands to accelerate diameter growth, improve species composition, and enhance the overall form of remaining trees through selective removal. Pre-commercial thinning is carried out in immature even-aged stands to reduce competition, accelerate diameter growth, and—through appropriate selection—improve the average form of the trees that remain.

2.5.4 Protection Treatment (Insect Pest Management Program)

There is no scheduled protection treatment on the Nipissing Forest.

The occurrence and extent of insect infestations are determined annually. When a major insect pest infestation exists the MNR Regional Director will determine if an Insect Pest Management Program (IPMP) will be developed. The IPMP will determine the types and locations of insect pest management activities that are required.

If an IPMP is to be implemented the following management options will be considered as part of an IPMP and appended to the AWS, if required:

(a) no treatment;
(b) accelerated harvest;
(c) redirected harvest;
(d) salvage harvest;
(e) prescribed burns;
(f) the use of insecticides;
(g) other controls (e.g., bait traps); and
(h) appropriate combinations of options (a) to (g)

2.6 Roads

Each year, forest roads are planned and maintained to ensure safe access for forestry operations and the public. For 2026–2027, construction may occur on 9 primary roads and 10 branch roads as listed in Table *2*, with additional operational roads built to reach harvest areas. The amount of construction will depend on weather, timing, equipment, and funding. Most of the work will focus on general maintenance such as grading, gravel patching, snow plowing, and brushing, with emergency repairs as needed. In total, about 570 km of primary roads, 163 km of branch roads, and 710 km of operational roads have been identified for maintenance if harvesting takes place. Operational road, ERN 19-124, off Garrow Road in Lockhart Twp. has been scheduled for decommissioning. It falls within one of the five identified Moose Emphasis Area (MEA) on the Nipissing Forest.

Table 2. Roads Scheduled for Construction

Nipissing 2026-2027 AWS - Scheduled Road Construction Length (km)		
Primary Road Classification	Bass Lake Road	19.1
	Big Jocko River Road	9.3
	Crookstick Creek Road	7.4
	Cucumber Lake Road	8
	Frances Creek Road	13.5
	Kearney Lake Road	6.4
	Sag Lake Road	6.8
	Spider Lake Road	4.1
	Twin Ponds Road	17.4
Branch Road Classification	Bear Lake Road	5.9
	Heronry Road	6.6
	MacBeth Township Road	8.9
	Miners Lake Road	3.6
	Moose Pond Road	3.3
	Reed's Road	4.7
	Sobie Lake Road	6.8
	South Cedar Road	1
	South River Road	6
	Thistle Road	3.5

As part of the AWS submission, the scheduled road corridors layer (mu754_26src) and the scheduled existing road activities layer (mu754_26sra) have been provided to portray where construction, access controls, maintenance, or identify were transfers of responsibility may occur. Detailed information on road planning and activities can be found within the following components of the Nipissing 2019-2029 FMP; Table FMP-18,

Section 4.5 of the FMP Text, and Section 6.1.9 of the Supplemental Documentation.

2.7 Water Crossing Construction

The scheduled water crossing activities layer (mu754_26swc) contains the locations of water crossings that will be constructed or replaced during the year. Of the 52 water crossings, 13 have been identified for construction, 9 have been identified for removal and 32 have been identified for replacement. Note that 2 crossings will be constructed and removed in the same year.

Higher risk water crossings planned to be constructed or replaced in the following year may be submitted to provide the ministry with an ice-free season to conduct a review with respect to the Fisheries Act. The scheduled water crossing activities layer will also contain the locations of water crossings to be removed during the year to enable a review by the ministry, if applicable, with respect to the Fisheries Act. The water crossings for the current year and future years have been included in the scheduled water crossing activities layer and are shown on the 1:15,840 Areas Selected for Operation maps.

Water crossings on all primary and branch roads are monitored on a regular basis. On roads where maintenance is scheduled, minor repairs of crossing structure such as cleaning of culverts, bridge surface repairs, erosion control, etc. may be undertaken.

Where ministry review is required for the location and conditions of construction, replacement or removal of water crossings identified in the annual schedule the review will follow the direction provided in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry/Fisheries and Oceans Canada Protocol for the Review and Approval of Forestry Water Crossings, in accordance with the FMPM Part D. The ministry's review results will be provided to the licensee to be included in the scheduled water crossing activities layer. The applicable forms will be completed and submitted to the ministry in accordance with the FIM and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry/Fisheries and Oceans Canada Protocol for the Review and Approval of Forestry Water Crossings in the year the water crossing is scheduled for construction, replacement, or removal.

2.8 Other Crossings of Areas of Concern

The right-of-way width for any road crossing an AOC, regardless of the road location inside or outside the allocated areas, is as required in table FMP- 11 and FMP Section 6.1.11 or as per the Conditions of the AWS.

2.9 Forestry Aggregate Pits

The existing forestry aggregate pits layer (mu754_26agp) contains the locations of all 155 existing "open" forestry aggregate pits (FAPs) on the management unit. Aggregate resources can be removed from forestry aggregate pits by the forest industry without the requirement for an aggregate permit under the Aggregate Resources Act. The pit locations and identification number are identified on the 1:15,840 operation maps.

Rehabilitated aggregate pits will be identified in annual reports when these activities occur on the management unit. The activities in any pit will be reported in the appropriate annual report, once operations have taken place in the area.

General conditions on the creation, operation, and closure of aggregate resource pits are detailed in Section 5 of Supplementary Documentation 6.1.11 of the Nipissing 2019-2029 FMP.

2.10 Fire Prevention and Preparedness

As part of the regulations under the FMPM (MNRF, 2024), a single fire prevention and preparedness plan is prepared in the AWS to cover all licensees and all associated forest industrial activities. Conditions are placed on forest operations through the AWS to provide for fire prevention and preparedness. This replaces the need for individual licensees to prepare their own plan and eliminates the need for separate work permits to cover industrial activities. Forest fire prevention and preparedness measures to be implemented during the term of this AWS can be found in Attachment 3.

2.11 Monitoring and Assessment

2.11.1 Regeneration Success

Table FMP 20, entitled Planned Assessment of Establishment, outlines the total area scheduled for survey over the ten-year FMP. Monitoring surveys are carried out in accordance with Supplementary Documentation 6.1.8 of the 2019–2029 FMP, which governs forest renewal monitoring. For 2026–2027, the establishment assessment layer (mu754_26sea) identifies approximately 7,496 hectares of harvested and salvaged areas that will be surveyed to confirm successful regeneration. Establishment, as defined in the regeneration standards, refers to the early signs of new growth that provide confidence the forest will return to a healthy, mature condition. These areas are grouped by expected productivity, known as Target Yield (TARGETYD), including 509 hectares in BASIC, 3,293 hectares in EXTEN, 362 hectares in INTEN, and 3,332 hectares in PRSNT. For the most part, the stands scheduled for assessment were depleted between 2011 and 2019

(with some outliers) and now require evaluation to ensure they are on track to meet regeneration standards. This process helps confirm that forest renewal objectives are being achieved, supporting long term sustainability for wildlife, recreation, and future timber supply.

2.11.2 Roads

Monitoring is done to track the general condition of the road, to assess water crossing structures, to verify proper signage is in place and ensure access controls are in place and are effective. NFRM has developed a systematic approach where all bridges will be assessed annually, and all culverts will be assessed at least once every three (3) years (or more frequently if there is a major weather event). Refer to Section 6.1.9 of the FMP Supplemental Documentation for details about the type of monitoring that is required for each road (or network of roads). On the Nipissing Forest, there's approximately 570 kilometres of primary road and 163 kilometres of branch road identified for monitoring.

2.11.3 Annual Compliance Plan

Scheduling of forest operation inspections and compliance priorities will be conducted as per the Annual Compliance Plan for the Nipissing Forest located in Attachment 5. A detailed 10 Year Compliance Plan and strategy can be found in Supplementary Documentation 6.1.19 of the 2019-2029 FMP.

2.11.4 Monitoring of Exceptions

As per 2019-2029 FMP Supplementary Documentation 6.1.6 Monitoring Exceptions, there are no Area of Concern prescriptions or Silvicultural Ground Rules that are exceptions to the Guidelines, therefore, there is no monitoring program for exceptions.

2.12 Annual Work Schedule Summary of Information

Summary maps showing the location of all harvesting, silvicultural activities, road construction and maintenance has been prepared by NFRM. A copy of these maps is available at NFRM's office, website or on the Natural Resources Information Portal (NRIP).

2.13 Information Products

Further detail regarding harvest and silviculture operations can be referenced in the 2019–2029 FMP Supplemental Documentation Section 6.1.11, identified as Prescriptions for Harvest, Renewal and Tending, and Conditions on Regular Operations.

Spatial data layers are not considered mandatory components, as their requirement depends on the types of operations scheduled for the year. The following spatial data layers have been submitted as part of the Nipissing 2026–2027 AWS:

- mu754_26shr – Scheduled Harvest
- mu754_26srg – Scheduled Regeneration Treatments
- mu754_26ssp – Scheduled Site Preparation Treatments
- mu754_26stt – Scheduled Tending Treatments
- mu754_26sac – Areas of Concern in Scheduled Operations
- mu754_26src – Scheduled Road Corridors
- mu754_26sea – Scheduled Establishment Assessment
- mu754_26sra – Scheduled Existing Road Activities
- mu754_26sor – Scheduled Operational Road Boundaries
- mu754_26agp – Existing Forestry Aggregate Pits
- mu754_26swc – Scheduled Water Crossing Activities
- mu754_26swy – Scheduled Wood Storage Yards

Two additional FIM layers referenced in the 2025 FIM AWS Technical Specifications—the Scheduled Road Access Control Point Activities layer and the Values Update layers—were not included in the list above for the following reasons:

<u>Scheduled Road Access Control Point Activities Layer (mu754_26scp)</u>

This layer is only required when new or modified access control point activities are scheduled. For the 2026–2027 AWS, no new access control points are planned and no existing controls are scheduled to change. As a result, this layer is not applicable for this AWS and was not submitted.

<u>Values Update Layers (mu754_26vpt, mu754_vln, mu754_26vpo)</u>

As confirmed during the September 25, 2025 meeting between the SFL and MNR, the existing values-update process will continue through the implementation of the 2025–2026 AWS to allow the SFL time to establish internal workflows for the new FIM requirements. During this period, the District Biologist continues to receive values-update notifications by email,

and the SFL will provide a summary of all values updates in NRIP by March 31, 2026, consistent with past practice.

Beginning April 1, 2026, the new process will be fully implemented, and individual values updates will be submitted in NRIP with the corresponding spatial data layer throughout the year. Because this transition occurs after the development of the 2026–2027 AWS, the Values Update layers were not required for this submission.