



Ministry of Forests  
and Range

## Policy for FFT Stocking Standards and Surveys

Effective August 15, 2007

These standards apply, in addition to the [General Standards for Ministry Funded Programs \(FS 1001\)](#) for activities funded under the Forest for Tomorrow (FFT) Program.

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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 FFT operations are comprised of five components:

- Assigning stocking standards that are applicable to the area;
- Ensuring survey parameters are based on applicable stocking standards;
- Making a decision based on the assigned stocking standards;
- Making a FFT Funding program decision to treat a stand; and,
- Declaring the land status as satisfactorily restocked or free growing.

## 2.0 STOCKING STANDARDS

2.1 The surveyor assigns the stocking standards (target stocking level, minimum stocking level, and minimum-inter-tree distance) that are applicable to the area according to the following hierarchy:

- Higher Level Plan (e.g., LRMP or LU; [http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/southern/kamloops/plan/resource\\_mgmt\\_zones.pdf](http://ilmbwww.gov.bc.ca/lup/lrmp/southern/kamloops/plan/resource_mgmt_zones.pdf)) contains specific stocking standards for a given zone or area (e.g., Critical Deer Habitat management objectives for specific zones in the Kamloops LRMP);
- Existence of applicable and appropriate stocking standards in a backlog silviculture prescription **that is not more than 3 years old**;
- Existence of stocking standards previously approved for use by the District Manager for given backlog areas, or local district standards derived from a Silviculture Strategy or other Forest Management Plan (e.g., TFL or TSA Management Plan); or,
- Default provincial stocking standards that are applicable to the region and ecosystem  
([http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/Stocking%20Standards%20for%20FDPs/Reference\\_Guide.pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hfp/external!/publish/Stocking%20Standards%20for%20FDPs/Reference_Guide.pdf))

### 3.0 SURVEY PARAMETERS

3.1 Surveyors use the stocking standards (assigned per Section 2.0 above) to establish the target and minimum stocking and minimum inter-tree distance survey parameters that are applicable for the given ecosystem. Stocking, free growing and plantability data are summarized according to those parameters.

- (a) All conifers must be counted. When choosing between two conifers for counting of well-spaced, preference should be for those listed as preferred and acceptable for that ecosystem.
- (b) Assess plantable spots with offset distances from existing well-spaced trees.

### 4.0 STOCKING DECISIONS

4.1 The survey data is stratified and summarized by strata.

4.2 A preliminary decision is made based on whether a stratum is stocked with sufficient well-spaced trees: according to the given survey parameters:

- i. If “Yes” then:
  1. Classify the stratum as stocked or free growing; and,
  2. Submit the forest cover data to RESULTS along with regeneration or free growing declaration. (The declaration signifies that a forest professional has deemed the area to be stocked or free growing).
- ii. If “No” then:
  1. Classify the area as NSR;
  2. Submit the forest cover data to RESULTS; along with the regeneration declaration (NSR); and,
  3. Proceed to Section 5.0 below.

### 5.0 FFT TREATMENT DECISION

5.1 If the area is deemed NSR or not free growing according to the given survey parameters, decide whether or not to treat the area according to the ROI calculations at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/returnoninvestment.htm>.

5.2 When carrying out ROI calculations, all existing conifers must be included in both the untreated scenario and the treated scenario.

5.3 If the ROI calculations indicate:

- (a) Positive return on investment:
  - i. Classify the area as NSR or not-free-growing; and,
  - ii. Submit associated forest cover data to RESULTS; and,
  - iii. Submit planned silviculture activity data to RESULTS; then,
  - iv. Complete planting and/or brushing activities, guided by the plantability or free growing survey data and treatment recommendations; and,
  - v. Submit completed silviculture activity data to RESULTS
- (b) Negative return on investment:
  - i. Classify the area as free growing; and,
  - ii. Proceed to Step 6.0.

### 6.0 DECLARING LAND STATUS (UNTREATABLE STANDS)

6.1 If the ROI calculations indicate a negative return on investment and the multiple accounts process does not justify treatment of the area then, from a FFT program management

perspective, these areas are deemed not a priority for treatment and no further reforestation treatments are prescribed:

- (a) Submit the forest cover data to RESULTS; along with a free growing declaration. Include a rationale in RESULTS (declaration comment field) to explain why the stratum is declared free growing without future follow-up treatments despite having low numbers of trees relative to the applicable stocking standards (as in the case of an area fully occupied by species that are not considered preferred or acceptable). (The declaration signifies that a forest professional has deemed the area to be not stocked or free growing according to survey parameters, but has set the status of the area to free growing according to the ROI calculations.)

6.2 Despite the free growing status in RESULTS, the inventory is updated to reflect the lower stocking and this will be reflected in the next TSR.

6.3 These openings can be further monitored in future years by examining the applicable stocking standards and surveyed forest cover that has been submitted to RESULTS for the given openings.

## **7.0 DECLARING LAND STATUS (AFTER TREATMENT)**

7.1 After an area has undergone treatments funded by the FFT program:

- (a) Schedule and carry out appropriate surveys in accordance with these guidelines (beginning at Step 2.0); then,
- (b) Reclassify the area as satisfactorily restocked or free growing (according to survey data); and,
- (c) Submit the data to RESULTS along with regeneration or free growing declarations. (The declarations signify that a forest professional has deemed the area to be stocked or free growing).

## **8.0 REFERENCES**

8.1 Silviculture surveys for FFT operations are guided by the procedures per the FFT Backlog Impeded and NSR Stands Data Review for the Southern Interior Forest Region at [http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/standards/FFT%20Impeded%20Stands%20Data%20-%20SIFR%20\(v2.2\).pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/standards/FFT%20Impeded%20Stands%20Data%20-%20SIFR%20(v2.2).pdf) .