

FIA VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS (Manual Methods)

Effective April 1, 2005

These standards apply, in addition to the [General FIA Standards \(FS 1001\)](#), to all manual vegetation management activities funded under the Forest Investment Account (FIA).

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ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

1.1 In this document, the following words shall have the following meanings.

“**Approved Vegetation Management Quality Inspection System**” means the Ministry of Forests’ current Vegetation Management Quality Inspection system in effect immediately prior to the commencement of Work **or** another similar system approved in writing by the District Manager prior to the commencement of Work.

“**Vegetation Management**” means the cutting, girdling or other Specified treatment of vegetation in the vicinity of a Crop Tree for the purpose of improving the survival and growth of the Crop Tree.

“**Crop Tree**” means a tree of a Specified species that meets any additional criteria Specified for a crop tree.

“**Crop Tree Damage**” means any cut or scrape to the cambium of the main stem of a Crop Tree.

“**No-treatment Zone**” means an area within which no Vegetation Management must take place.

“**Slash Removal Zone**” means an area within which all slash created as a result of the Work is removed.

“**Wildlife Tree**” means a tree that a Treatment Plan, Work Plan, or a certified wildlife tree assessor specifies as a wildlife tree.

ARTICLE 2: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

General Requirements

2.1 Despite any requirement that is Specified on a per hectare basis, all Vegetation Management requirements must be met throughout the entire Work Area.

Work Plans

2.2 Where any of the following is not specified in a Treatment Plan it must be Specified by Treatment Unit in a Work Plan:

(a) the Crop Tree species;

- (b) the additional criteria of a Crop Tree, if any;
- (c) the target species of vegetation to be treated;
- (d) the method of treatment and the minimum distance from the stem of a Crop Tree that the target species must be treated;
- (e) the height, if any, below which the target species are not required to be treated;
- (f) the locations, if any, and widths of Slash Removal and No-treatment Zones; and
- (g) if Vegetation Management is to be carried out around an aquatic environment, the measures necessary to protect the aquatic environment.

Treatment

- 2.3 Every stem of a Specified target species within a Specified distance of a Crop Tree must be treated in accordance with the Forest Investment Account (FIA) Standards.
- 2.4 If a tree or other vegetation that is not required to be treated is treated, it must be treated in accordance with the FIA Standards.
- 2.5 Crop Trees and Wildlife Trees must be left uncut and free of Crop Tree Damage.

Cutting Specifications

- 2.6 If a Specified Treatment Type is cutting:
 - (a) the cut portion must not be attached to the base of the stem;
 - (b) the stump angle of a cut stem must not exceed 30 degrees from horizontal;
 - (c) the stump height must not exceed 30 centimetres from ground level; and
 - (d) no live limbs must remain on the stump.
- 2.7 A tree that is required to be cut must be girdled if it cannot be cut without damaging a Crop Tree.

Girdling Specifications

- 2.8 Unless otherwise Specified, a girdle must consist of a single, continuous girdle band around the entire tree. The girdle must have a minimum of 1.5 cm in vertical width and must completely sever the bark and cambium over its entire width.
- 2.9 Despite any other requirement herein, a tree must not be girdled if it is within one tree length of a trail or road.

Treatment of Slash

- 2.10 Slash or debris must be removed and redistributed within the treated Work Area if, as a result of the Work, it occupies:
 - (a) a Slash Removal Zone;
 - (b) a road, road-bank, stream, year-round standing body of water, ditch, or fireguard;
 - (c) a cattle or game trail; or
 - (d) adjacent standing timber.
- 2.11 Slash must not be left leaning against a Crop Tree.

ARTICLE 3: INSPECTION & NOTIFICATION

Vegetation Management Quality Inspection

- 3.1 All Work must be inspected by a person (the "Inspector") who is:
 - (a) the Registered Professional Forester (RPF), or operates under the direction of the RPF, who will sign and professionally seal reports for the Work;

- (b) experienced and competent in conducting inspections of Vegetation Management operations;
 - (c) familiar with the Treatment Plans and Work Plans for the Work Areas; and
 - (d) not engaged in the direct conduct of the Vegetation Management operations.
- 3.2 An Inspector must inspect the Work in accordance with an Approved Vegetation Management Quality Inspection System in a timely manner to ensure all Work is performed to the FIA Standards.

Determination of Satisfactory Treatment

- 3.3 An area may be declared satisfactorily treated when:
- (a) 85% or more of all Crop Trees are satisfactorily treated;
 - (b) Crop Tree damage does not exceed 3% on any contiguous area greater than one tenth (1/10) hectare; and
 - (c) unless otherwise specified by the District Manager, there are no contiguous areas greater than one tenth (1/10) hectare that do not meet the performance quality requirements.

Requirement to Notify the District Manager

- 3.4 Further to the notification requirements contained in the [General FIA Standards \(FS 1001\)](#), a Recipient must immediately notify the District Manager and the Administrator whenever an inspection reveals:
- (a) on any contiguous area greater than one-tenth (1/10) hectare (or other minimum area that may be specified by the District Manager)
 - i) performance quality to be less than the minimum acceptable standard of eighty-five percent (85%), and the nature and extent of the errors are such that performance quality cannot be raised to at least 85%;
 - ii) Crop Tree damage exceeds 3%; or
 - (b) a Wildlife Tree has been cut.