

Community Forest Inventory / Forest Investment Account Funding Guidelines (March, 2007)

Background:

The community forest concept was initiated in 1998 with the formation of several pilot projects. As of December, 2005, 11 Community Forest Agreements have been issued. These range in size from 400 to 60,000 hectares. Invitations have been extended to a further 29 communities. The average AAC of these potential agreements is 20,000 m³ per year.

Community Forests are eligible for Forest Investment Account (FIA) funding to conduct Vegetation Resource Inventory (VRI) on the Crown Land area of their tenure.

Purpose:

The purpose of this document is to guide licensees when they are requesting FIA funding to pay for VRI activities on community forests.

Guidelines for Funding:

1. Community Forests are eligible for FIA funding to conduct strategic level VRI Phase I Photo Interpretation similar to the inventory intensity on TSAs and TFLs. The work to be completed with this funding includes all phases of the inventory up to and including submission for inclusion in the LRDW.
2. The cost of inventory projects (subject to competitive bid) is expected to be \$4000 for a community forest up to 1000 hectares in size. The target funding for areas in excess of the initial 1000 hectares is \$1.75 per hectare. Funding limits for Community Forests less than 1000 hectares will be considered case by case.

Example:

A Community Forest is 10,000 hectares in size.

The first 1000 hectares is allowed	\$ 4,000
<u>The subsequent 9000 hectares is allowed \$1.75/ hectare</u>	<u>\$15,750</u>
Total Cost	+/- \$20,000

Criteria to Receive FIA Funding:

Community Forest inventory projects will be eligible for FIA funding when the following criteria are met.

1. The inventory meets the VRI Phase I standards.
2. The vegetation attributes are supported by new calibration data. The type and amount of fieldwork is to be agreed upon prior to the inventory project proceeding.
3. The completed inventory will be stored in the LRDW.

4. The purpose of the inventory is to have the AAC re-calculated, or the inventory is to be included in a new or revised Community Forest Management Plan.

Preparing an Inventory Proposal

A licensee proposing to complete an inventory should discuss the project with the district manager. A short simple proposal should be prepared stating the following:

Question:	Default Answers
What is the purpose of the inventory?	To recalculate the AAC (?) For inclusion in the Management Plan (?)
What type of inventory is being proposed?	Vegetation Resource Inventory Phase I, Photo Interpretation
What standard will be used?	VRI standards.
What area will be covered?	The whole Community Forest.
What fieldwork is planned? How much fieldwork?	One and three point Inventory ground calls.
When will the inventory be completed?	
Who will conduct the inventory?	Select a company from the Certified VRI Contractors list.
How will the information be compiled and stored?	On the Land and Resource Data Warehouse (LRDW)
How will the Inventory be paid for?	Forest Investment Account

Issues Influencing VRI on Community Forests:

1. Strategic vs. Operational Accuracy
Polygon volume estimates from VRI Phase I may be +/- 50% of the actual polygon volumes. An inventory adjustment after Phase II Sampling corrects the total volume for the management unit, but individual polygon volumes may still be +/- 50% of the actual polygon volumes. This accuracy for individual polygons and management unit totals is considered acceptable for strategic inventories of large management units like TSAs and TFLs. Woodlot and Community Forest licensees and forest managers operating in a local area often require or desire detailed information on their area of interest to manage day to day operations. The VRI is designed to be a strategic inventory and does not meet local needs for polygon by polygon planning. There is a need to educate forest managers of appropriate and inappropriate applications of the VRI and advocate other tools like "Cruising" to meet local needs.
2. Community Forest within or exclusive of TSA and TFL lands.
Community Forests are an area based tenure and as such, will be removed from the area of a TSA for Timber Supply Analysis. Following that logic, they should

also be removed from the TSA for VRI Phase II sampling. However, because Community Forests will not have their own Phase II, this means they will never have a Phase II. One of the underlying principles of VRI is that the entire province will be inventoried. This brings us back to the question, “Should Community Forests be included in the sample plan for an adjacent TSA?”

There is speculation that some Community Forests will be created on the coast out of “Take Back Lands” from TFLs. If this is the case, there is an even stronger argument to exclude them from TFL Phase II sampling. This leads to the need for individual sample plans for each Community Forests, yet common wisdom suggests that full VRI Phase II is too expensive for such small land parcels.