

Elephant Hill Wildfire Recovery Joint Leadership Council Principles for Silviculture and Reforestation in Elephant Hill

The 2017 Wildfire season has been the most damaging and challenging wildfire season in the Province's history. The Elephant Hill wildfire complex has had severe impacts to the landscape. The recovery of the land and its ecosystems will be guided by the strategic and collaboratively developed recovery plans.

To support silviculture and reforestation, the *Joint Technical Committee*, under the guidance of the *Elephant Hill Wildfire Recovery Joint Leadership Council*, has developed principles for silviculture and reforestation within the Elephant Hill wildfire:

1. *Safety is an overarching principle that may influence treatment decisions*
2. *Reforestation strategies and standards shall consider facilitation of natural succession pathways in consideration of climate change: species, genetic diversity, densities and areas to not reforest (grasslands, natural reforestation)*
3. *Facilitate natural succession pathways with ecologically appropriate species*
4. *Deciduous will be maintained within Elephant Hill*
 - a) *Consider deciduous as beneficial (non-deleterious) within Elephant Hill perimeter*
5. *Post fire salvage harvested stands have to be on the trajectory to pre salvage species composition*
6. *Reforestation in fire damaged plantations – riparian planting consists of riparian tree species*
7. *Reforestation strategies that consider variable densities and/or structures across the landscape*
8. *If trees harvested for safety reasons debris will be left on site and may be piled and stubbing should occur*
9. *Browse species and culturally important plants should be protected in silviculture activities*
10. *Stand tending activities will consider variable densities that create landscape diversity for multiple values*
11. *Wait until salvage complete before doing evaluation of areas of non-salvage forests for recovery except where it can be incorporated into existing work or research*
12. *Prevent ecological damage*
 - b) *No unauthorized off road vehicle use (all vehicles restricted to the roads and fire guards)*
13. *These Silviculture principles apply to all reforestation including on rehabilitated roads. Principles and guidance for road/linear disturbance rehabilitation will be provided by the Elephant Hill Wildfire Joint Leadership Council in the near future.*

These principles are dynamic and may be improved upon as land based recovery activities progress. The Elephant Hill Wildfire Recovery Joint Leadership Council will work to reach consensus and may modify these principles as needed.

These principles have been endorsed by the Elephant Hill Wildfire Recovery Joint Leadership Council members on July 13, 2018.