

Amendment #4 to the existing Selkirk District Default Stocking Standards Dated April 16, 2018.

The intent of this amendment is to address:

1. Allow for Intermediate Cut Standards.

Intermediate Cut Standards – New Standards

Discussion

Prescribers should give careful consideration for which stand types to use Intermediate Cuts and the associated standard. Intermediate cuts are often used where other values are prioritized such as visuals, water, and wildlife to name a few. As an example of where not to use an Intermediate Cut, high percentage Lodgepole pine stands may not be good choices due to high probability of blowdown and snow breakage in these stands post harvest. A good example of when to use and Intermediate Cut might be in a sensitive wildlife or riparian area/ watershed area.

This standard is proposed and recommended for use in mature stands not in younger stands where commercial thinning may be considered, a separate standard is being considered for younger stand commercial thinning operations. Intermediate Cuts are meant to leave a fully stocked/ occupied stand after harvest with no regeneration objectives. Retained species are based on default even aged stocking standards in place for Selkirk District with some provision for variation if significant non-preferred or acceptable species exist on site. Prescriptions and harvesting operations should consider which species will perform best post harvest given climate change and known forest health factors (biotic and abiotic) for each species and retain species with a higher probability of surviving and growing well. Armillaria Root disease is a significant concern, especially in the ICH, and should be considered in terms of moving forward with a partial cut and timing of subsequent harvest as well as tree species retention choices. Where species prescribed to be retained do not match even aged species standards or other allowed variation then Licencees should propose a new standard in the form of a one off for the site(s).

Stocking Standards

Intermediate Harvest SSID #1070980 – 20 m² Basal Area Minimum retention
#1071542 - 15 m² Basal Area Minimum retention

Where a stand is harvested consistent with the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation (FPPR) section 44 (4), other than harvesting for the purpose of uneven-aged management, it shall be deemed an intermediate harvest where the harvested stand complies with the conditions specified below for a minimum period of 12 months following the completion of harvesting. Woodlot Licence holders may elect to use these standards to where the stand is harvested in consistent with the Woodlot Licence Planning and Practice Regulation (WLPPR) section 34 (2d)

- a) greater than or equal to 20 m² average minimum retention basal area (BA) must be retained in trees with a diameter at breast height of ≥ 12.5 cm for Pli and ≥ 17.5 cm for all other conifer species; or ≥ 15 m² within PP and IDF BGC zones or within a Woodlot Licence; and
- b) retain a minimum of 50% of the pre-harvest conifer basal area (based on timber cruise or other field survey); and

- c) no contiguous area > 2 ha or 10% of the total SU area, whichever is less, has a retained basal area less than the minimum basal area; and
- d) trees contributing to the retained basal area must be the species identified as preferred and/ or acceptable in the DSE Default Stocking Standards under even-aged standards or of a species that comprises > 10% of the pre-harvest merchantable cruise volume for the block; and
- e) greater than 50% of the contributing retained basal area must be a preferred tree species as defined in the DSE default stocking standards, if it existed on site prior to harvest; and
- f) trees contributing to the retained basal area comply with the attributes defined in the Silviculture Surveys Procedures Manual “Free growing damage criteria for single entry dispersed retention stocking standard (SEDRSS) managed stands, Interior Deviation from Potential (DFP) and Layered Surveys”.

Intermediate cuts have no regeneration objectives.

Deciduous Broadleaf trees, (Aspen, Cottonwood and Birch (At, Ac and Ep) do not count towards the calculation of the initial Basal Area or the retained basal area unless they are retained and managed consistent with a result and strategy contained within the approved FSP.

Minimum post-harvest retention assessment and declaration is set at 1 year after the last day of harvest activity and Maximum assessment and declaration is set at 3 years from initial harvest start. Approved Variation: Late declaration can be extended for up to 2 additional years if harvest activity is protracted beyond 1 year or more. If additional time is needed, then Licencee should consider additional standard units based on harvest timeframes or submitting a new Stocking Standard on their FSP or WLP.

Where harvesting is deemed to be an intermediate cut based on the condition a minimum of 12 months following the completion of harvesting, the standards unit is exempt from the requirements to produce a free growing stand, consistent with FPPR section 44(3)(h) and WLPPR 34(3).

If during the 12 months period following the completion of harvesting the conditions specified below are not maintained, the Licensee shall hold a free growing obligation on the harvested area and the appropriate stocking standards in the Selkirk District Default standards or alternate approved even aged standards within the Licencee’s Forest Stewardship Plan shall be applied.

Variations to Preferred or Acceptable Species

The preferred and/or acceptable species in the stocking standards in the Selkirk District Default Standards may be varied to the extent specified below in the following situation and circumstances. Where greater than **10%** of the total merchantable volume on the area of a SU, based on a timber cruise, is of a conifer species not identified in the approved stocking standards, that species may be designated an acceptable species where it is ecologically suitable.

Discussion:

Prescribers should carefully consider the use of intermediate cuts and where they would be appropriate. Some issues to consider include:

1. Forest health factors such as Armillaria and other root diseases, bark beetles, spruce budworm to name a few.
2. Species – Lodgepole pine for example may not be the best choice to retain in an intermediate cut in most situations unless possibly beetle proofing with a high retention rate. Where Pli makes up a component of a stand then it may be preferable to remove most or all of the Pli in the initial cut as they are prone to wind damage and snow breakage.

3. The intent of an intermediate cut is to retain a fully stocked stand for potentially a variety of reasons including but not limited to: integrated resource management values other than timber, or for timber with the rationale of setting up a stand for a future cut of either continuing Intermediate cuts, converting to single tree selection, shelterwood or clearcut silviculture systems.
4. Some species of trees present, especially if in low numbers, in the stand may be subject to extreme climate events such as drought and should not be retained and used for future stocking / timber values. An example might be a higher elevation species such as spruce and sub-alpine fir in a transition site between ICH and ESSF zones and there is risk of drought.

Examples of retained basal area for clarification:

Pre-harvest conifer basal area = 45 m², BGC = ICHmw2, Required minimum BA with this standard = 22.5 m² of conifers

Pre-harvest conifer basal area = 34 m², BGC = ICHmw2, Required minimum BA with this standard = 20.0 m² of conifers

Pre-harvest conifer basal area = 32 m², BGC = IDFmw2, Required minimum BA with this standard = 16.0 m² of conifers

Pre-harvest conifer basal area = 24 m², BGC = IDFmw2, Required minimum BA with this standard = 15.0 m² of conifers

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