

2012 Nadina District FREP Summary: Visual Quality

Visual Quality assessments help determine how well licensees are managing and conserving view in designated scenic areas and if established Visual Quality Objectives are being achieved.

British Columbia's economy is dependent on both forestry and tourism. The landscapes of British Columbia are a source of everyday enjoyment for residents, as well as the foundation of our tourism industry. The visual quality of many landscape features is significant to local residents as well as to tourism and recreation activities in the area.

Visual Resource Management is about identifying those landscapes that are visually sensitive and managing forestry operations to meet visual quality objectives and mitigate impacts. Development can occur within visual resource areas while maintaining the visual quality of significant landscape features. This is achieved through comprehensive planning for scenic views and minimization of visual impacts through appropriate design of harvest openings.

This report summarizes key findings and provides recommendations to improve on-the-ground resource management practices and decision making.

Key Findings:

- **33 blocks** were sampled between 2007 and 2012
- VQO results for all categories (R,PR, M): **Met-67%, Borderline -9%, Not Met-24%**
- **70%** of samples had “poor” tree retention (“Poor” means <15%)
- For the 10 blocks sampled in **2012**, the application of visual design principles was: “**No or Poor Design**” - 2, “**Neutral Design**” - 5, “**Good Design**” - 3, and Tree Retention: **Poor - 5, Moderate - 1, Good - 2, Not visible/not applicable - 2**

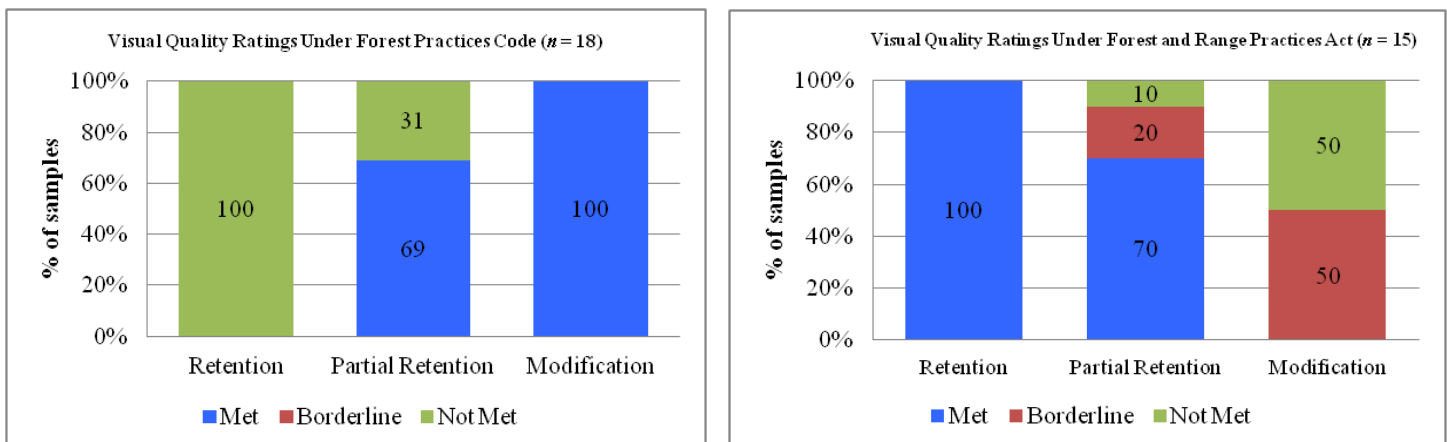


Recommendations for Continued Improvement of Visual Quality Management:

- Retain higher levels of designed in-block tree retention to create more natural-appearing landscapes and to help meet VQOs.
- Implement visual design concepts and principles (ie.cutblock shaping) to ensure harvest areas better blend with the natural landscape
- Follow well-established best management practices concerning visual quality design principles and management
- Recognize the importance of managing for visuals and ensure forestry staff are adequately trained to employ good visual design techniques



Figure 1. Visual quality monitoring results showing the extent to which Visual Quality Objectives have been met under *FPC* and *FRPA*



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