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File: 18760-20/

April 15, 2003

Forest Licensees
BCTS
Nadina Forest District

Re: (Silviculture) 2.0 vs. 1.5 m. Minimum Inter-tree Distance

Dear Licensee:

This letter serves as clarification for the Nadina Forest District's position with respect to 2.0 meters Minimum Inter-tree Distance (MITD) vs. 1.5 m. as well as serving as guidance for the upcoming season's silviculture surveys.

It is recognized that the change in MITD from 2.0 meters to 1.5 meters has been a topic of discussion within the Nadina Silviculture Committee for some time. As yet, consensus remains unresolved as to whether 1.5 meter spacing should be a standard measurement for mesic sites within the biogeoclimatic zones in the Nadina Forest District. A difference of opinion exists amongst people within that committee. However, it is important that I provide this direction for consistency reasons amongst tenure holders.

In a letter to licensees dated October 30, 2001, the District provided for 1.5 meter MITD by adopting this standard as an acceptable practice for Lakes TSA (also within the Nadina DM Default Stocking Standards). The thought behind this adjustment was to allow for a reduction in MITD on the hygric and xeric sites as well as certain site preparation treatments where it makes sense to do so and thereby not require amendments on a site specific basis for prescriptions.

In terms of exploring the appropriateness and support for the district's position regarding MITD, I have asked my staff to discuss the issue with silviculture staff at the Regional and Branch levels and have derived the following key points:

- ξ there is an increased risk to the Crown in yield reduction (from 5% to 13%) if the MITD is reduced from 2.0 to 1.5 meters;



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Licensee

ξ in terms of being consistent provincially, the MITD should be established at 2.0 meters for sub-mesic to sub-hygic sites; it remains acceptable for a reduced MITD in hygic or xeric sites. Please refer to the attached table for site-specific information.

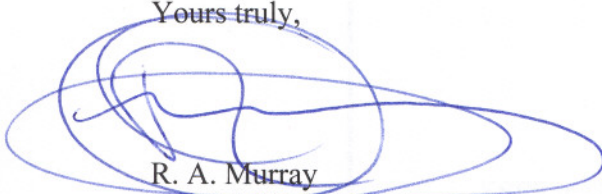
In light of the above, I provide the following direction:

- ξ Silviculture Prescriptions that have been approved prior to the October 30, 2001 direction letter, and have a 2.0 meter MITD (or have no MITD specified) should continue to be surveyed at the MITD of 2.0 meters. The FG declarations should be made on the basis of a 2.0 meter MITD.
- ξ For those Silviculture Prescriptions that were approved after October 30, 2001, and up to the date of this letter, the 1.5 meter MITD is acceptable, where that has been provided for in your approved Forest Development Plan.

Please use the guidance provided above in formulating your future silviculture surveys and as the basis for adjusting the MITD in the FGSS of new Site Plans after the date of this letter.

Please call Marg Shamlock or Carolyn Stevens with any questions or concerns.

Yours truly,



R. A. Murray
District Manager
Nadina Forest District

Attachments: Documents/Applications