

File: 19500-01

December 11, 1998

Major Licensees/SBFEP
Lakes Forest District

Dear Licensee:

This letter serves as written notice following revisions to the Operation Planning Regulations (OPR) legislation provisions effecting green-up. This notice provides general direction for variances to green-up found in local conditions, that are likely to occur.

Direction on green-up is required to clarify variances for Forest Development Plans and to provide guidance to the authorization for harvesting of a cut block adjacent to previously harvested cut blocks where these variances apply. Deviations from the general direction of this notice will be considered on a case by case basis only.

District Manager direction is here-by made for the following sections of the OPR legislation provisions effecting green-up.



OPR s68(3)(b)(i)	Top height for stands that are not adequately stocked	Notice is hereby given that for stands not adequately stocked top height is to be managed to 4m. Consideration for reduction of top height below 4m will be based on stocking relative to the threshold for adequately stocked. Licensees may apply for variance in writing, and rationale must be provided. Each situation will be assessed on a case by case basis.
OPR s68(3)(b)(ii)	Stocking requirements for stands that are not adequately stocked	It is recommended that the stocking requirements for all cut blocks will be based on the minimum stocking standards (MSS), and with those species as outlined in the Establishment to Free Growing

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Guidebook, and or species consistent with TSR assumptions.

On a case by case situation, MSS may be based on the total rather than the well spaced stems. The licensee must apply for variance in writing, with rationale. Each situation will be assessed on a case by case basis.

OPR s68(4)(a)	Minimum number of trees required to reach 3m	It is recommended that the Establishment to Free Growing Guidebook MSS be used in all cases, especially in areas with slopes over 30% or scenic areas. In areas where slopes are less than or equal to 30% MSS may be based on total stems as long as a 3 rd of MSS stems are greater then 3m in height and are of a leading acceptable species. Rationale must be provided, and will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
OPR s68(4)(b)(i)	Alternate to leading species where leading species does not reflect dominant stand height	The licensee must apply for variance in writing. Rationale must be provided, and will be reviewed on a case by case basis.
OPR s68(4)(b)(iii)	Alternate to leading species where leading species may be subject to removal or modification.	This sub-section provides a check against situations where a deciduous species satisfies green-up, but the licensee may have a planned brushing treatment which could result in a stand structure that no longer meets green-up requirements soon after logging of the adjacent block. It is recommended that prior to harvesting the adjacent block, the licensee provide the District Manager with a written statement that a brushing treatment is to occur on the green-up block after harvest of the

		adjacent block , and as a result of the brushing treatment green-up requirements will not be met.
OPR s68(5)	DM/DEO may specify a top height lower than 3m.	This is subject to joint approval, the green-up height requirement can be lowered subject to the test that the reduced height will ‘adequately manage and conserve’. The licensee may apply for a green-up height lower than 3m. This must be in writing and rationale should be provided. Each situation will be assessed on a case by case basis.
OPR s68(6)	The District Manager may specify a top height greater than 3m if required to address hydrological, wildlife or visual concerns	Notice is hereby given, that for all Scenic areas in the Lakes Forest District, the attached VEG height will apply. See table attached.
OPR s68(7)	The DM may increase or decrease the 75% block coverage requirements for green-up.	The 75% default applies to the total cut block area and provides a net down allowance for permanent access structures and areas in their natural state not capable of supporting a crop tree, areas of non-commercial cover unless deemed suitable for the purpose of green -up by the District Manager, as well as areas that do not meet either the species, stocking or height requirements for green-up. Licensee should apply for variance in writing and rationale should be provided. Each situation will be assessed on a case by case basis.
THPR s9(2)(c)(I)	The DM may authorize a partial cut with less than 40% basal area retention as exempt from green-up requirements.	The licensee should apply for variance in writing, and rationale should be provided. Each situation will be assessed on a case by case bases.

THPR s9(2)(f)

The DM can provide an exemption to green-up requirements based on resultant opening being consistent with characteristics of natural openings

In the case of a catastrophic disturbance a licensee may request an exemption to green-up, rationale should be provided. Each situation will be assessed on a case by case basis.

This notice will become a requirement for meeting green-up requirements, four months from the date of this letter. Please ensure that all parties responsible for meeting green-up requirements are aware of this notice.

If you have any questions or concerns, please call Alex Bergen or Mark Vieweg at (250)-692-2200.

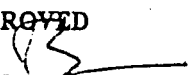
Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. A. Murray", is written over a large, loopy blue circular scribble.

R. A. Murray
District Manager
Lakes Forest District

Lakes Forest District

OPERATING PROCEDURES

SUBJECT Green-Up Survey Requirements	
CHAPTER Operations	SECTION Recreation
REFERENCE	APPROVED 

PURPOSE:

Ensure that existing cut blocks meet prescribed Green-up and Visual Effective Green-up (VEG) requirements prior to adjacent harvesting.

REQUIREMENTS

At the FDP stage a written statement of assurance must be made by the Licensee. For each cut block the statement must identify that the cut block has achieved Green-up or VEG depending whether the block is in a visual sensitive area or not. Notification of green-up or VEG should be made in years 3-5 of the FDP, this is to allow sufficient time for the Ministry of Forests to review, inspect and approve these cut blocks.

Non Visual Sensitive Areas

At the FDP (preferred) or at the SP stage a written statement of assurance must be made by the licensee. Blocks within these areas must meet the Lakes Forest District specified average green-up height of 3 meters. The written statement of assurance must state that the block has achieved green-up, and indicates an estimated average tree height and range of tree heights for that block(s) (ocular estimate or recent survey information is acceptable). Must state which information is used. Statement must be signed off by a company representative. The Ministry of Forests will inspect the proposed operations to ensure green-up has been met on adjacent cutblock(s).

Proposed adjacent operations may be approved in principle on the FDP or SP subject to an in field/on site inspection.

This basic green-up requirement is guided by the FPC Green-up Guidebook.

Visual Sensitive/Scenic Areas

At the FDP stage only, a written statement of assurance must be made by the Licensee. Cut blocks within these areas must meet Visual Effective Green-up, the definition of VEG, and the appropriate tree height requirements.

The statement of assurance must state, that the cut block meets the definition of VEG as seen from the viewpoint(s) from which the visual landscape inventory and/or Visual Impact Assessment (FPC Visual Impact Assessment Guidebook) was conducted and indicates the average tree height and the ranges of tree heights for that block(s), (ocular estimate or recent survey information is acceptable). Must state which information is used.

The selection of viewpoint(s) should provide the best view of the visual landscape unit and the existing cut blocks in question. The viewpoint(s) from which VEG was assessed needs to be documented on an appropriate scaled map (1:20,000 or 1:50,000). A panoramic photograph from the viewpoint(s) would facilitate approval. Statement must be signed off by a company representative.

REFERENCE Greenup.doc	DATE REVISED April 1996	ORIGINATOR Alex Bergen	PAGE 1/2	INDEX 2.3.2
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The Ministry of Forests will inspect the proposed operations to assure VEG is met on adjacent cut blocks. Proposed adjacent operations may be approved in principle on the FDP subject to an in field/on site inspection.

Definitions

Visual Effective Green-up: VEG is a stage at which regeneration on a cut block is perceived by the public as being a newly established forest. It is achieved when the forest cover (regen) generally is of sufficient height to block the view of harvesting activities, such as stumps, logging debris, skid trails, roads, bare ground, etc. The tree height required to achieved VEG will vary based on biophysical variables and site conditions that are present in a given area.

Recent Survey: A silviculture survey which has been carried out within a 12 month period of the block being declared as meeting Green-up or VEG.

Visual Quality Objectives: VQO's are a means by which the Ministry of Forests identifies the level of visual alteration that would be acceptable on a viewscape. Five classes of VQO's are recognized. Visual Quality Objectives are established in higher level plans or by the District Manager. To ensure that scenic areas are managed according to VQO's the District Manager may reduce or increase green-up requirements. Requirements for green-up in a scenic or visual sensitive area are commonly referred to as visually effective green-up in a scenic or visual sensitive area are commonly referred to as visually effective green-up (VEG). Further details on VQO's can be found in the Ministry of Forest Recreation Manual, Chapter 11; Forest Landscape Handbook, 1981, and Visual Landscape Management Guidebook.

References:

A First Look at Visual Effective Green-up in British Columbia; A Public Perception Study, Province of British Columbia, Ministry of Forests, Recreation Branch, Technical Report, 1994; 1.

Green-up Guidebook, Forest Practices Code of British Columbia, December 1995.

Operational Planning Regulations, Forest Practices Code of British Columbia.

Visual Impact Assessment Guidebook, April 1995, Forest Practices Code of British Columbia.

Visual Landscape Management Guidebook, Draft. Currently being written. Draft document is currently entitled, "Forest Practices to Achieve VQO's Handbook, draft March 5, 1996.