



General Bulletin

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Scenic Areas

This bulletin has been prepared for district managers to assist them in interpreting their powers regarding scenic area management under the code. These recommendations are for district managers to consider and should **not** be interpreted as Ministry policy or legal interpretation.

This bulletin is concerned exclusively with scenic areas that do not have established VQOs. See [General Bulletin #6](#) regarding the management of scenic areas with VQOs.

Definition

"Scenic areas" are defined in Sec. 1 of the *Operational Planning Regulation* (OPR). They are any visually sensitive area or scenic landscape identified through a visual landscape inventory or planning process carried out or approved by the district manager. Visual landscape inventories are described in Chapters 6 and 11 of the Ministry of Forests *Recreation Manual*.

Known

To formally qualify as "known" scenic areas information must be contained in a higher level plan or be made available to licensees at least four months before the date of the forest development plan (FDP) submission (OPR Sec. 1(3)). Where a scenic area is not identified in a higher level plan and the district manager wants a scenic area to be known he/she should, in writing, identify the location of scenic area to licensees. To ensure licensees are aware of scenic areas contained in a higher level plan the district manager should also notify licensees of these scenic areas.

It should be noted that licensees are responsible for completing visual landscape inventories on TFLs [Forest Act Sec. 28 1 (d)(ii)]. Where a regional manager has accepted these inventories as meeting MOF standards, the district manager should advise the licensee that the areas identified in the inventory constitute known scenic areas.

Substantial Compliance

During the substantial compliance period the district manager can decide which scenic areas need to be identified and considered. Where the district manager decides they need

to be considered, there is further latitude as to the weight he/she wishes to place on scenic resources during forest development plan approval.

Full Compliance

When full compliance occurs scenic areas will have to be considered.

Persons preparing a forest development plan must identify and describe the known locations of scenic areas, and must specify measures that will be carried out to protect the scenic resources (refer to Sec. 15(2) of the OPR and Sec. 10(c)(ii) of the Act).

In the absence of established VQOs, scenic areas simply represent another resource value. Scenic areas have the same standing as other "known" resource features under the OPR. As with the substantial compliance period noted above, there continues to be latitude as to the weight the district manager wishes to place on scenic resources, during forest development plan approval, in deciding what is adequate management and conservation for the purpose of Sec. 41 (l)(b) of the Act.

The district manager must approve the FDP, if satisfied that the forest resources of the areas including visual values will be adequately managed and conserved.

Contacts

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