

Building Economic Pathways to Stand Level Investment

- Licensees have expressed concern that the current regulatory and timber pricing policy does not enable them to invest in enhanced silviculture practices that would optimize future timber supply.
- Barriers to investing in enhanced silviculture practices may compromise long term forest health, climate change adaptation, future timber supply, and wildfire management objectives.
- Without clear regulatory requirements and cost allowances it is unlikely that more expensive silviculture practices will be implemented.
- To address this challenge, FLNRO is creating a mechanism for implementing enhanced silviculture practices by encouraging the development of stocking standards, or variations to existing stocking standards that are consistent with management unit level plans.
- These enhanced stocking standards would be included in a licensee's Forest Stewardship Plan and be subject to the legislative tests for approval by the District Manager.
- Once approved, the licensee and prescribing professionals can then apply these standards in the appropriate situations and circumstances.
- Adjustments to timber pricing policy can address the additional cost implications of changing silviculture practices.
- With a revision to current timber pricing policy, enhanced silviculture practises will be recognised as an addition to the basic silviculture cost estimate.
- Investment in enhanced silviculture will lead to medium and long term increases in timber volume and value and will provide positive economic, ecological and social benefits.
- This project is a collaborative FLNR initiative and is part of the Provincial Forest Sector Competitiveness Strategy under the theme of reliable and sustainable timber supply.
- Enhanced silviculture practices will not apply everywhere but in defined situations where a sufficient timber supply return will be achieved (as defined by integrated treatment strategies/Type 4 silviculture strategies).
- Initial project implementation will concentrate on cost recognition for increased stocking densities and species diversification in the Interior region.
- The project team will remain engaged with industry relating to any silviculture and pricing amendments.
- This initiative supports professional reliance as local professionals will have more freedom to innovate.
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