



Ministry
of Forests



FIA VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS (Manual Methods)

Effective April 1, 2002

These standards apply, in addition to the General FIA Standards (FS 1001), to all manual vegetation management activities funded under the Forest Investment Account (FIA).

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ARTICLE 1: DEFINITIONS

1.1 In this document, the following words shall have the following meanings.

“Approved Vegetation Management Quality Inspection System” means the Ministry of Forests’ current Vegetation Management Quality Inspection system in effect immediately prior to the commencement of Work **or** another similar system approved in writing by the District Manager prior to the commencement of Work.

“Vegetation management” means the cutting or girdling of tree species or other vegetation from the vicinity of crop tree.

“Crop Tree” is any tree of a preferred species that meets any criteria specified for a crop tree.

“Crop Tree Damage” means any cut or scrape to the cambium of the main stem of a crop tree.

“Slash Removal Zone” means an area within which all slash created as a result of the Work is removed.

“Specified” means, as the context so requires, specified in an Approved Plan or Work Plan, in a FIA Standard, or by a District Manager.

“Treatment Unit” means a Work Area, or any similar area which is individually identified as requiring a particular silviculture treatment.

“Wildlife Tree” means a tree that an Approved Plan, Work Plan, or a certified wildlife tree assessor specifies as a wildlife tree.

ARTICLE 2: VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS

General Requirements

2.1 Despite any requirement that is Specified on a per hectare basis, all vegetation management requirements must be met throughout the entire Work Area.

Work Plans

- 2.2 Where any of the following is not specified in an Approved Plan for Spacing it must be Specified by Treatment Unit in a Work Plan:
- (a) the preferred tree species;
 - (b) the criteria of a Crop Tree
 - (c) the target species to be treated;
 - (d) the minimum distance from a preferred tree that the target species must be cut or girdled;
 - (e) a minimum cutting height below which the target species are not required to be cut;
 - (f) the locations, if any, and widths of Slash Removal and No-treatment Zones.

Species to be Treated

- 2.3 Every stem of a Specified target species within a Specified distance of a Crop Tree must be cut or girdled in accordance with the standards in this document.
- 2.4 Crop Trees must be left uncut and undamaged.

Trees or other Vegetation Not Required to be Cut

- 2.5 The following trees and other vegetation are not required to be cut:
- (a) a tree or vegetation less than a Specified minimum cutting height; or
 - (b) non target trees or vegetation.
- 2.6 If a tree or other vegetation that is not required to be cut is cut, it must be cut to the specifications contained herein.

Trees to be Cut or Girdled

- 2.7 All trees and vegetation in a Work Area that are Specified to be cut, must be cut.
- 2.8 A tree that is required to be cut must be girdled if it cannot be cut without damaging a Crop Tree.

Cutting Specifications

- 3.1 If a Specified Treatment Type is cutting, all trees and vegetation Specified to be cut, must be cut so that:
- (a) the cut portion is not attached to the base of the stem;
 - (b) the stump angle of a cut stem does not exceed 30 degrees from horizontal;
 - (c) the stump height does not exceed 30 centimetres from the point of germination; and
- there are no live limbs on the stump.

Girdling Specifications

- 2.9 Unless otherwise Specified, a girdle must consist of a single, continuous girdle band around the entire tree that is a minimum of 1.5 cm in vertical width and that completely severs the bark and cambium over its entire width.
- 2.10 Despite any other requirement herein, a tree must not be girdled if it is within two (2) tree lengths of a trail or road.

Treatment of Slash

- 2.11 Slash or debris must be removed and redistributed within the Spaced Stand if, as a result of the Work, it occupies:
- (a) a Slash Removal Zone;
 - (b) a road, road-bank, stream, ditch, or fireguard;
 - (c) a cattle or game trail; or

- (d) adjacent standing timber.

ARTICLE 3: INSPECTION & NOTIFICATION

Vegetation management Quality Inspection

- 3.1 All Work must be inspected by a person (the "Inspector") who is:
 - (a) the Registered Professional Forester (RPF), or operates under the direction of the RPF, who will sign and professionally seal reports for the Work,
 - (b) experienced and competent in conducting inspections of vegetation management operations,
 - (c) familiar with the Approved Plans and Work Plans for the Work Areas, and
 - (d) not engaged in the direct conduct of the vegetation management operations.
- 3.2 An Inspector must inspect the Work in accordance with an Approved Vegetation Management Quality Inspection System in a timely manner to ensure all Work is performed to the FIA Standards.

Determination of Satisfactory Treatment

- 3.3 An area may be declared satisfactorily treated when:
 - (a) 85% or more of all trees required to be treated are satisfactorily treated;
 - (b) Crop Tree damage does not exceed 3% on any contiguous area greater than one tenth (1/10) hectare, and
 - (c) unless otherwise Specified, there are no contiguous areas greater than one tenth (1/10) hectare that do not meet the performance quality requirements.

Requirement to Notify the District Manager

- 3.4 Further to the notification requirements contained in the FIA General Standards (FS 1001), a Recipient must immediately notify the District Manager and the Administrator whenever an inspection reveals on any contiguous area greater than one-tenth (1/10) hectare (or other minimum area that may be Specified):
 - (a) performance quality to be less than the minimum acceptable standard of eighty-five percent (85%), and the nature and extent of the errors are such that performance quality cannot be raised to at least 85%; or
 - (b) Crop Tree damage exceeds 3%