

General FIA Standards

Land Base Investment Program

Effective April 1, 2003

These standards are applicable to the following activities carried out under the Land Base Investment Program of the Forest Investment Account (FIA): Silviculture - Fertilization, Juvenile Spacing, Pruning, Surveys, Site Preparation, Sowing, Planting, Vegetation Management, Silviculture Strategy Development; Forest Health - Defoliator Spraying, Pest Monitoring, Pest Detection, Pest Control; Rehabilitation - Environmental Maintenance Projects (Roads Activity Area), Permanent Road Deactivation, Landslide and Gully Rehabilitation (Terrestrial Activity Area).

Additional standards specific to individual activities may be contained in separate FIA Activity Standards Documents.

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ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

Definitions

1.01 In this document, the following words have the following meanings:

“Administrator” means the administrator referred to in a Recipient Agreement;

“Best Practices” means those practices that will, at reasonable cost, best achieve the intended results while at the same time not cause or result in Damage;

“Damage” means

- (a) damage to property,
- (b) slumping or sliding of land, landslides, adverse gully processes, snow avalanches, destabilized alluvial fans, or any similar event,
- (c) soil disturbance in excess of allowed limits,
- (d) a reduction in ability to meet the visual quality objectives of a known scenic area,
- (e) any action inconsistent with the general wildlife measures applicable to a known wildlife habitat area or with the objectives specified

for an area designated as ungulate winter range, or

- (f) damage to or change in the environment of a wildlife tree or resource feature that, in the opinion of the District Manager, unacceptably impairs the functionality, use or enjoyment of the feature or tree;

“District Manager” means the District Manager of the forest district of the Ministry of Forests within which a Work Area is located, and includes a person delegated or appointed by the District Manager to act on his or her behalf;

“FIA Activity Standards Document” means a document issued by the Ministry of Forests containing requirements or specifications for the carrying out of a specific type of activity funded under the Land Base Investment Program of the Forest Investment Account (FIA);

“FIA Standards” means the requirements or specifications contained in this document and in the FIA Activity Standards Documents;

“Forest Practices Legislation” means the *Forest Practices Code of British Columbia Act*, the *Forest and Range Practices Act*, and regulations and standards made under either act;

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“Recipient” means a party designated by the Ministry of Forests to receive funding pursuant to a Recipient Agreement;

“Recipient Agreement” means the contract between an Administrator and a Recipient for performance of the Work;

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

“Technical Contact” means the person named as the technical contact for a particular FIA activity on the Ministry of Forests FIA website;

“Treatment Plan” means an overall plan setting out measurable objectives desired to be achieved on specified Work Areas, together with one or more silviculture or forest health treatments necessary to achieve the objectives, and as further described in the FIA Standards;

“Treatment Unit” means a Work Area, or any similar area which is individually identified as requiring one or more silviculture or forest health treatments.

“Work” means the work described and funded under a Recipient Agreement;

“Work Area” means individual locations, forest stands, treatment units, standards units, or other particular areas or locations where Work is to be undertaken or any area of Crown Land occupied for purposes of the Work;

“Work Plan” means a detailed operational plan for the carrying out of an individual silviculture or forest health treatment, and as further described in the FIA Standards;

Interpretation

- 1.02 The terms *known*, *resource agencies*, *resource feature*, *riparian management area*, *riparian management zone*, *riparian reserve zone*, *scenic area*, *ungulate winter range*, *visual quality objective*, *wildlife habitat area*, and *wildlife tree* have the meanings given them in Forest Practices Legislation.
- 1.03 A word defined in the General FIA Standards has the same meaning in a FIA Activity Standards Document.
- 1.04 Where a word or abbreviation which has a well known technical or trade meaning is used in a FIA Activity Standards Document, it has that recognized meaning.
- 1.05 The headings in this document and in a FIA Activity Standards Document have been inserted for reference only and unless otherwise stated do not define, limit, alter or enlarge the meaning of any provision.
- 1.06 Any reference to a FIA Standard, manual, guidebook or form means a FIA Standard, manual, guidebook or form published by or for the Province and includes every amendment to or substitute for them published from time to time.

ARTICLE 2 STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO EVERY ACTIVITY

- 2.01 The standards in this Article apply to every FIA activity listed at the top of this document.

General

- 2.02 All Work must be performed to the FIA Standards applicable to the type of Work and in compliance with the laws of Canada and British Columbia applicable to the Work and the Work Area.
- 2.03 Work must at all times be conducted with the standard of care, skill and diligence normally exercised and observed by persons engaged in the performance of activities similar to the Work.
- 2.04 Work may only be performed during biological and weather conditions appropriate to:
 - (a) ensuring high efficacy of the Work, and
 - (b) attainment of the FIA Standards.
- 2.05 A Work Area must be unencumbered Crown land and not the subject of a research installation or other authorized activity with which a FIA activity may conflict.

First Nations Requirements

- 2.06 Where a proposed activity may have an impact on the forest land base and is outside of a review process required under Forest Practices Legislation or the *Pesticide Control Act* the Recipient must carry out a process of information-sharing with potentially affected First Nations.
- 2.07 The results of this process must be presented to the District Manager prior to Work being initiated. The District Manager will consider the information provided and may require further consultation, mitigative measures, other activities, or may disallow the Work based on issues brought forward in relation to aboriginal interests.

Protection of Property and the Environment

- 2.08 In carrying out the Work the Recipient must not cause, or create conditions that are likely to cause, Damage or risk to human life or safety.
- 2.09 If the Recipient causes harm contrary to paragraph 2.08 or if the Recipient reasonably believes that carrying out the Work will result in a breach of paragraph 2.08 the Recipient must:
 - (a) immediately stop the Work in the area affected;
 - (b) prevent any further Damage;
 - (c) immediately notify the District Manager and the Administrator; and
 - (d) take any remedial measures that the District Manager or the Administrator requires.
- 2.10 Work that has been stopped under section 2.09 may be resumed when:

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- (a) it can be resumed without breaching section 2.08; and
 - (b) any remedial measures required under section 2.09 have been carried out to the satisfaction of the District Manager or the Administrator.
- 2.11 Work Areas must be kept free from any accumulation of waste products or debris resulting from the Work.
- 2.12 In addition to the notification requirements in section 2.09, a Recipient must immediately notify the District Manager and the Administrator whenever any contravention of the Forest Practices Legislation occurs or is observed.

Practices

- 2.13 Trees in a Riparian Reserve Zone must not be felled or modified unless the felling or modification has been Specified in a Treatment Plan or Work Plan.
- 2.14 Slash or debris capable of damaging fish habitat or reducing water quality must not be placed in or around aquatic environments, or in a location where natural forces may subsequently transport the slash or debris into an aquatic environment[LA2].

Record Keeping

- 2.15 The Recipient must retain on its own files for a period of not less than three years all data, reports, photographs and maps required to be produced by a FIA Standard.

ARTICLE 3 STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO SILVICULTURE AND FOREST HEALTH

- 3.01 The standards in this Article apply to every silviculture and forest health activity listed at the top of this document.

Treatment and Work Plans

- 3.02 Except as provided for in section 3.12, a Work Area must have a Treatment Plan and a Work Plan in effect before Work commences on that area.
- 3.03 A Treatment Plan and a Work Plan
- (a) must be consistent with
 - i) the FIA Standards,
 - ii) the use of Best Practices,
 - iii) general wildlife measures applicable to a wildlife habitat area[LA3], and
 - iv) the objectives, priorities and activities expressed in higher level plans, forest stewardship plans, or silviculture or forest health strategies,
 - (b) are not in effect until signed by a Registered Professional Forester;
 - (c) except as may be required under a pest management plan or unless requested by the District Manager, are not required to be submitted to a District Manager; and

- (d) are public documents and must be made available to a person on request.

- 3.04 A Treatment Plan or Work Plan that is not consistent with the FIA Standards is not in effect unless the inconsistent part of the plan is approved in writing by the District Manager or Technical Contact as appropriate.
- 3.05 If at any time a Treatment or Work Plan appears unsuitable or not in compliance with Forest Practices Legislation, particularly as a result of forest health factors, any portion of the Work affected by the unsuitable or non-compliant aspect of the Work must immediately be suspended and the Administrator informed.
- 3.06 All Work must meet or exceed the requirements of the applicable Treatment and Work Plans for each Work Area.

Treatment Plans

- 3.07 An approved backlog silviculture prescription or stand management prescription may constitute a Treatment Plan for the purposes of these standards, provided an RPF confirms the prescription is still valid.
- 3.08 In addition to the requirements of section 3.03, a Treatment Plan must:
- (a) include a map showing the Work Areas and Treatment Units that are subject to the Treatment Plan;
 - (b) set out measurable objectives that are desired to be achieved on the Treatment Units;
 - (c) set out a schedule of silviculture or forest health treatments appropriate to achieving the objectives, and
 - (d) where not effectively already referred through another planning or approval process, be referred to any government resource agency or person that, in reasonable foresight, may be materially affected by the proposed plan, and to any agency or person as directed by the District Manager.
- 3.09 Except for surveys, where a Treatment Plan schedules a series of treatments to be carried out, Work may only commence on the first treatment in the series where there is reasonable expectation that sufficient funding will exist in the future to carry the Treatment Plan to completion.
- 3.10 A Treatment Plan not carried to completion must have a file note as to the reasons why treatments were terminated.

Work Plans

- 3.11 In addition to the requirements of section 3.03, a Work Plan must:
- (a) be consistent with the Treatment Plan for a Work Area;
 - (b) be appropriate and specific to the silviculture activity to be carried out on a Work area; and

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- (c) have, at a minimum, the contents for a Work Plan Specified in a FIA Activity Standards Document.

- 3.12 A Work Plan is not required where all the Specified requirements for a Work Plan are met within the Treatment Plan, and in such cases every reference in the FIA Standards to a Work Plan shall mean the Treatment Plan.

Activity Reporting

- 3.13 Silviculture and forest health projects must have FIA activity accomplishment reports and maps prepared and submitted as specified in reporting guidelines posted on the Ministry of Forests' FIA website.

ARTICLE 4 STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES

- 4.01 The standards in this Article apply to every rehabilitation activity listed at the top of this document.

Project Planning for Rehabilitation Work

- 4.02 The requirements for project planning (e.g., prioritizing candidate projects for expenditure, conducting access management planning, and if necessary, carrying out a public review process) for environmental maintenance projects (Roads Activity Area), and permanent road deactivation, landslide and gully rehabilitation (Terrestrial Activity Area) are provided in the FIA Activity Standards Documents.

ARTICLE 5 MISCELLANEOUS

Monitoring by the Province

- 5.01 The District Manager may monitor at any time, any Work performed.
- 5.02 Any monitoring conducted by the District Manager is for the sole benefit of the Province, and does not release the Recipient or the Administrator from the responsibility of providing quality control measures to assure that the Work complies with the FIA Standards.

Method of Measurement

- 5.03 Unless otherwise specified, all linear and area measurements are measured on the horizontal plane.

Ownership of Work or Improvements

- 5.04 Despite any Work or improvements on Crown land that may be performed or made by the Recipient, the sole ownership of all Work Areas and any improvements remains with the Province.

Non-Waiver

- 5.05 A waiver of a FIA Standard or a waiver of a Recipient's breach of a FIA Standard is effective only if it is in writing and signed by the District Manager.