

FIA VEGETATION MANAGEMENT STANDARDS (Manual Methods)

Effective April 1, 2005

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, girdling or other Specified treatment of vegetation in the vicinity of a Crop Tree for the purpose of improving the survival and growth of the Crop Tree.

“Crop Tree” means a tree of a Specified species that meets any additional 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.

“No-treatment Zone” means an area within which no Vegetation Management must take place.

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

“Wildlife Tree” means a tree that a Treatment 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 a Treatment Plan it must be Specified by Treatment Unit in a Work Plan:

(a) the Crop Tree species;

- (b) the additional criteria of a Crop Tree, if any;
- (c) the target species of vegetation to be treated;
- (d) the method of treatment and the minimum distance from the stem of a Crop Tree that the target species must be treated;
- (e) the height, if any, below which the target species are not required to be treated;
- (f) the locations, if any, and widths of Slash Removal and No-treatment Zones; and
- (g) if Vegetation Management is to be carried out around an aquatic environment, the measures necessary to protect the aquatic environment.

Treatment

- 2.3 Every stem of a Specified target species within a Specified distance of a Crop Tree must be treated in accordance with the Forest Investment Account (FIA) Standards.
- 2.4 If a tree or other vegetation that is not required to be treated is treated, it must be treated in accordance with the FIA Standards.
- 2.5 Crop Trees and Wildlife Trees must be left uncut and free of Crop Tree Damage.

Cutting Specifications

- 2.6 If a Specified Treatment Type is cutting:
 - (a) the cut portion must not be attached to the base of the stem;
 - (b) the stump angle of a cut stem must not exceed 30 degrees from horizontal;
 - (c) the stump height must not exceed 30 centimetres from ground level; and
 - (d) no live limbs must remain on the stump.
- 2.7 A tree that is required to be cut must be girdled if it cannot be cut without damaging a Crop Tree.

Girdling Specifications

- 2.8 Unless otherwise Specified, a girdle must consist of a single, continuous girdle band around the entire tree. The girdle must have a minimum of 1.5 cm in vertical width and must completely sever the bark and cambium over its entire width.
- 2.9 Despite any other requirement herein, a tree must not be girdled if it is within one tree length of a trail or road.

Treatment of Slash

- 2.10 Slash or debris must be removed and redistributed within the treated Work Area if, as a result of the Work, it occupies:
 - (a) a Slash Removal Zone;
 - (b) a road, road-bank, stream, year-round standing body of water, ditch, or fireguard;
 - (c) a cattle or game trail; or
 - (d) adjacent standing timber.
- 2.11 Slash must not be left leaning against a Crop Tree.

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 Treatment 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 Crop Trees 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 by the District Manager, 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 [General FIA Standards \(FS 1001\)](#), a Recipient must immediately notify the District Manager and the Administrator whenever an inspection reveals:
- (a) on any contiguous area greater than one-tenth (1/10) hectare (or other minimum area that may be specified by the District Manager)
 - i) 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%;
 - ii) Crop Tree damage exceeds 3%; or
 - (b) a Wildlife Tree has been cut.