

DRAFT - What's New in Silviculture Surveys - 2022

A more detailed What's New document will be published this March when the revised plot cards and survey manual are posted online. However, given the extent of the changes, we wanted to provide advanced notice to help with survey contract preparation and pricing.

The survey and reporting changes listed below are **recommended**, but still considered optional for the 2022 field season. They will become mandatory on **April 1st, 2023**, when the RESULTS Information Submission Specifications ([RISS](#)) documents are updated.

SNAP and SAP, two common data collection applications, will accommodate all the new changes for this field season, beginning **April 1st, 2022**.

If placing an order for paper plot cards, you will need to specify your preferred version (2020 or 2022). The updated 2022 cards should be ready for ordering late February/early March.

Please engage with your data software provider to determine if updates are necessary due to the new survey standards and data requirements.

Example Labels

Inventory-

Old: Ac40Fdi30Sx20Bl10-13/12-1.7/1.6-18/M-19-9850(22)

New: Ac44Fdi32Sx19Bl5-13/12-2.0/1.8-18/M-19-9500(22)

Key Changes:

- Species composition is recorded to the nearest 1%
- Species composition is based on tree counts for plot-based sampling methods
- Tree counts exclude germinants
- Heights include in-season partial growth
- Heights/ages are based on the tallest, healthy tree in the plot

Silviculture-

Old: FG-Fdi56Sx22Bl13Cw9-12-2.4-21/E-920(20)

New: FG-Fdi56Sx22Bl13Cw9-13-3.6-920(20)

Key changes:

- Site index is optional
- Average height and age are based on the leading species (ex. Fdi)
- Height includes in-season partial growth

Survey Changes

Data Element	Old	New
Inventory species composition	Mathematically average and manually adjust ocular estimates to determine species composition.	Complete tree counts by species at all plots. Determine inventory species composition based on tree counts by species for plot-based sampling methods.
Inventory species composition	Roughly average species composition to the nearest 10% . Ex. Hw50Fdc40Cw10	Record inventory species composition to the nearest 1% . Ex. Hw55Fdc37Cw8 Note: Capped at 10 species.
Inventory tree counts	Record the total number of live commercial coniferous and broadleaf trees within the plot. All trees, regardless of their height, are to be tallied, including germinants .	Record the total number of live coniferous and broadleaf trees within the plot. All trees are to be tallied, except germinants . Germinant= 1-year old tree under 10cm Optional: Can track 1-year old trees under 10cm in the “germinant” plot card field.
Inventory tree counts	No guidance.	Tree counts by species can be estimated if >50 trees (excluding germinants, all species combined) are in the 3.99m radius plot.
Total conifers	Record the total number of live coniferous trees within the plot, including both acceptable and unacceptable quality trees.	Can be calculated with tree tallies by species.
Total trees	Record the total number of live coniferous and broadleaf trees within the plot, including both acceptable and unacceptable quality trees.	Can be calculated with tree tallies by species.
Inventory height	Measure height to the last completed year’s growth during the active growing season.	Measure height to the top of the tree, including any partial growth .
Inventory height/ age	Select a dominant or co-dominant tree of the leading species or secondary species.	Select the tallest, healthy tree in the 3.99m radius plot for the leading and secondary species. Exclude seed trees or retention.

		Healthy = Must meet current forest health damage criteria and advanced regeneration acceptability criteria
Silviculture heights/ages	<p>Plot: Select an average well-spaced or free growing tree from within the plot. Measure and record the total height to the last completed year's growth.</p> <p>Reporting: Submit average of well spaced or free growing sample heights/ages. This value is meant to be representative of all preferred and acceptable WSTs or FGTs. It is not specific to a species.</p>	<p>Plot: Select an average well-spaced or free growing tree from within the plot for the leading silviculture species. Measure and record the total height, including partial growth. Measure and record the age.</p> <p>Reporting: Submit average of well-spaced or free growing sample heights/ages of the leading silviculture species.</p>
Silviculture site index	Record the site index of the leading species in the silviculture label .	Stop recording silviculture site index.
Forest health	Regen Delay: BMP to report forest health damage.	<p>Regen Delay: Mandatory to report forest health damage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All plots, all trees. • Report most severe forest health agent applicable to each tree. • Free Growing Damage Criteria will not apply. • Tally all incidences of forest health factors.

Reporting

	Old	New
Objectives	Objective codes are optional .	<p>Objective codes are mandatory for drought or frost caused replants.</p> <p>If applicable, use NG (frost) or ND (drought) for the objective code.</p>

Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities

The Forest Science, Planning and Practices Branch will be creating videos covering:

- Silviculture Survey Training
- Forest Health ID and Damage Criteria
- Free Growing Working Group (FGWG)
- Interior Broadleaf Working Group (IBWG)

There will be a detailed “What’s New 2022” video explaining the above changes and why they are necessary.

The videos will be advertised on the Silviculture Surveys website and through various email distribution lists.

If you’d like to sign up for the surveys email distribution list or provide feedback on the above changes, please email: taisa.brown@gov.bc.ca