Ministry of Forests

FFT Backlog Impeded and NSR Stands Data Review

Effective December 15, 2005

These standards apply, in addition to the General FIA Standards (FS 1001), to all impeded and NSR stands data review activities funded under the Forest for Tomorrow (FFT) Program.

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1.0 PREAMBLE

Many openings will be at a point where it is too costly to do any further treatments / management. On non-obligation openings, the designations NSR, SR and FG are for management purposes, providing a flag on what actions to take. Areas that will have no further actions should be flagged as FG. Other openings should have the appropriate designation and be scheduled for treatment.

2.0 DISTRICT CONTACT AND APPROVAL

2.1 The district manager or designate must approve this standard or any amendment before the applicant can proceed with impeded or NSR stand data reviews.

(a) Where a TSA / TFL crosses district boundaries, the district manager or designate of the district in which the opening is located is the approving authority.

(b) The district manager may designate a regional representative as the approving authority.

2.2 Arrangements must be made with the district ten working days in advance to arrange

(a) Office space to review the files or develop protocols for taking the files off site; and

(b) the use of any Ministry office equipment.

3.0 INVESTIGATION

3.1 Data Source

(a) Where the applicant does not have authorization to access and update RESULTS data, the applicant will be required to take the steps as outlined on the RESULTS web page http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/accessx.htm

(b) The applicant will review backlog impeded and NSR data posted on the FFT website (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/nsr/impededstands.htm) and obtain

i) any relevant opening information held electronically by RESULTS

ii) any relevant information found in hardcopy opening files

iii) any district established protocol/guidelines for updating openings if available; and

iv) the stocking standards for applicable Districts/TFLs

v) Transfer limits for seed lots

vi) in consultation with the district, block specific standards to be assigned to units

(1) Review Policy 2.22 – Backlog Management in the Ministry Policy Manual and 1.0 Preamble as a starting point to develop these standards.

3.2 Report Detailing

(a) The applicant will list the openings into four categories:

i) Openings that are *'results* FG' (based on comparing the inventory and/or silviculture forest cover data with the stocking standards (held in RESULTS) applicable to that forest cover polygon, or provincially approved default standards (held in RESULTS).

ii) Openings that are*' file* FG" (based on well spaced stems per ha, age, and height as compared to stocking standards for that site)

iii) Openings that are likely not FG because of brush or max density (based on all available info)

iv) Openings that are likely not FG (based on all available info)

(b) The applicant will list the detailed cost for updating information into RESULTS (see 4.0 RESULTS data entry).

(c) The applicant will determine if the seed lots used on the opening comply with the transfer limits.

i) Openings that are planted with seed lots that do not comply with the transfer limits will be documented in RESULTS as not meeting these limits and scheduled for a field check.

3.3 Decision guidelines

(d) Openings can be acknowledged free growing after completing an extensive review of the available information if:

i) There is recent field data within the opening file or within an attachment to results that shows that well spaced minimum stocking standards for the applicable district have been met.

(1) Recent means a reasonable period of time since the data was collected.

ii) The survey information existing on file shows that the block specific standards that were assigned to units in accordance to the criteria developed in consultation with the district have been met.

(e) If there is any doubt that a stand is still free growing based on the time elapsed since the field information was collected then this must be documented and a field inspection scheduled.

i) Documentation must be place in RESULTS and on the opening file.

3.4 FG acknowledgement/declaration

(Foresters Act states that the practice of professional forestry means engaging in and reporting on the inventory, classification, …, silviculture and rehabilitation of forests, forest lands, forest resources and forest ecosystems; therefore, FG declarations / acknowledgements will need to be made by a RPF)

(f) If a hard copy of a FG declaration is found on the opening file signed by a registered professional forester (RPF) as defined in the *Foresters Act* (S.B.C. 2003 Ch.19), a non-RPF may make the acknowledgement in RESULTS.

(g) IF a hard copy of a FG declaration is not found on file then a RPF must acknowledge the opening FG in RESULTS or place a signed hard copy of the acknowledgement on the opening file allowing a non-FPF to make the acknowledgement in RESULTS.

i) If FG is acknowledged, an adequate rationale must be given by an RPF to justify a FG acknowledgement and attached to RESULTS as a PDF or word document.

(1) The rationale will be considered a "professional document" that the RPF has prepared or was prepared under his/her supervision.

(a) Given the professional nature of the document, the signing RPF may wish to conduct a field inspection.

(2) A hard copy of this rationale must also be placed on the opening file.

4.0 RESULTS DATA ENTRY

4.1 For openings that are categorized as *'results* FG' (see 3.0 Investigation), the applicant will make the required milestone declaration / acknowledgement in RESULTS

(a) Declarations / acknowledgements can be done directly through RESULTS or using extensible markup language (XML)

i) All FG declarations / acknowledgements must follow protocol as stated in 3.4 FG acknowledgement/declaration

ii) The date of the survey should be the applicable reference date for the Declaration / acknowledgement

4.2 For openings that are categorized as 'file FG' (see 3.0 Investigation), the applicant will:

(a) load the data found in the file onto RESULTS directly through RESULTS or using extensible markup language (XML).

i) No spatial data updates are required, however maps that are related to the data found in the opening file and entered into RESULTS must be placed into RESULTS as an attachment.

(b) make the required milestone declaration / acknowledgement in RESULTS

i) All FG declarations / acknowledgements must follow protocol as stated in 3.4 FG acknowledgement/declaration

(c) Place on the opening file documentation of changes and recommendations made to the opening.

4.3 For openings that are categorized as likely not FG because of brush or max density (based on all available info) from 2.0 Investigation the applicant will

(a) Prepare a Microsoft word or pdf document containing pre-field review recommendations for further actions to be taken and attach this on the opening in RESULTS

i) These recommendations may include a field inspection (see 5.0 Field Review)

(b) Schedule next treatment in RESULTS

4.4 Openings that are likely not FG (based on all available info) from 2.0 Investigation, the applicant will:

(a) Prepare a Microsoft word or pdf document containing pre-field review recommendations for further actions to be taken and attach this on the opening in RESULTS

i) These recommendations may include a field inspection (see 5.0 Field Review)

(b) Schedule next treatment in RESULTS

5.0 FIELD REVIEW

5.1 Before field work is carried out the applicant must

(a) be given approval by the third party administrator to carry out this section of the standard (to assure funding availability)

5.2 For openings that are recommended for field review, based on information collected in 3.0 Investigation and recorded in 4.0 RESULTS data entry, the applicant will:

(a) Visually inspect the openings to verify that the information contained with the opening and/or RESULTS is correct.

i) Use of helicopter must be approved in advance of the flight by the third party administrator

(b) Complete ground based assessments where required

(c) Create a report per opening detailing:

i) What is held by RESULTS

ii) Outcomes of hardcopy file review

iii) Details of field review

iv) Recommendations for next steps

(d) Update RESULTS as necessary and place information on opening file

6.0 COST

6.1 Fees will be based on an hourly rate