

Submitting Forest Cover to RESULTS for Openings with Treed Retention – Interim Procedures Training Feb 2010

Responses to Questions from the Live Meeting Sessions

Question Key

#	Question
1	How will “TIM” reserve objective use qualify for FSP/FRPA Requirements?
2	Will "TIM" reserve objective still satisfies FRPA biodiversity retention requirements?
3	What does “no significant difference” between species on the silviculture labels and silviculture labels mean?
4	Will RESULT eventually have data entry rules on this stuff [forest cover edits](eg. D with no objectives)?
5	What happens to WTR after FG has been declared? Will they show on RESULTS/LRDW?
6	I have come across several situations where a licensee has partially logged a block and then left sections standing due mostly for economic reasons. They plan going back when its economically feasible. For the forest covers submission, would this be a case where the TIM objective comes in?
7	The Ministry of Forests is requiring that a separate inventory label be submitted to Results for residual trees (usually older layer one trees) that are remain on an otherwise clear-cut opening. It appears that GENUS can handle this request but when you try to submit the label to Results it returns an error that reads “Even aged layers and uneven aged layers cannot be submitted for the same polygon.” If you edit the XML file produced by Genus so that both layer are code as even aged inventory layers(I) Results returns the error “The layer code must be unique for the polygon submitted.”
8	I would like to know the correct way to code immature reserves areas that are included in the site plan area. These areas range from as small as 0.25 ha to 10’s of hectares. The areas were reserved only because the trees were too small to harvest. They are not contributing to any other long-term objective. They may be as young as 10 years old or as old as 80 years old. These areas have not been harvested in any way and are not associated with a Standard Unit in the site plan or prescription. They are generally surrounded by a harvested area but may lie between the harvested area and a reserve area (WTP). They may or may not be harvested in the future.
9	What is the difference between Reserve objective codes of “WTR”-Wildlife Tree Retention Goals and “BIO”- Biodiversity?
10	The purpose of the tree distribution pattern is to provide some idea as to the spatial distribution of residual trees to help better define the influence of the residual trees on growth and yield for the purposes of timber supply and forest management assumptions. The influence of residual basal area on regeneration will differ depending on the distribution of that residual basal area (e.g., uniform, clumped etc).
11	The manual says use a tree cover pattern of 1 or 3, matching the dispersed nature of the retention being described. I understand that this makes sense for Layer 1 in a recently denuded block, but it seems out of sync with Layer 4 following regeneration success, when we have a nice, well stocked plantation on the site, that is much better described by a tree cover pattern of 8 or 9...

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Question #1:

In regards to long term retention, I understand the group vs. dispersed retention, but am not familiar with “TIM”...? Will this qualify for FSP/FRPA requirements. In our operating areas, the majority of our reserves are WTR, permanent, though we have been logging some of our reserves because they no longer have the structural characteristics of WTP.

The main question is do you now TIM” will qualify for FSP/FRPA requirements?

Response #1:

The reserve objective of “TIM” is to be applied where residuals are considered as short term retention (i.e., there is an intention that these residuals will be harvested within the rotational planning cycle) and part of an applicable silvicultural system. These residuals are therefore available for future harvest and should be considered as part of the current timber supply. The “TIM” objective implies that the reserve is not permanent and is established primarily for timber management objectives.

Examples as to where the “TIM” objective be applied included the dispersed reserve associated with the application of a single tree selection silvicultural system, a dispersed reserve associated with a commercial thinning treatment, or a group reserve associated with group selection silvicultural system.

The “TIM” objective would not be appropriate where the objective of the residual trees is to meet some wildlife or biodiversity (e.g., WTR) values.

Continued Discussion:

Thanks for the follow up. The reason for the question is that we do have blocks where the intended purpose of the WTP's was for long-term retention, but some that were established no longer have the structural characteristics to support a WTP (IBM, blowdown) and have subsequently been harvested.

Response #1:

I believe to harvest a WTR area you require an exemption under FPPR 91. Granting of an exemption to FPPR 67 normally requires that agreement holder specify an alternative area, number or trees or habitat to the portion of the WTR area for which timber is to be harvested

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Question #2:

I am wondering if using the "TIM" reserve objective still satisfies FRPA biodiversity retention requirements?

Response #2:

I do not believe the reserve objective "TIM" will satisfy FRPA biodiversity retention requirements especially those requirements that relate to FPPR 9.1 objective set by government for wildlife and biodiversity – stand level.

Our intent would be to first and foremost keep the respective WTP for long-term retention objectives, but would make the administrative end-product easier if it had to be harvested at some point in the future (not have to amend out of the block).

The FPPR 67 practice requirement, or an alternative result or strategy for FPPR 9.1 area tracked using the WTR objective. Actual WTR areas are registered in the LRDW and create a legal encumbrance for subsequent tenure applications. The legal encumbrance for the WTR area will remain unless an exemption under FPPR 91 is granted. The "TIM" objective on the other hand is not used to track wildlife and biodiversity objectives but is used to track stands that will contribute to future timber supply.

I have also included a link to FRPA general bulletin # 8 – Wildlife Tree Retention Area (WTRA: Guidance for District and Licensee staff and FRPA General bulletin # 15 – Managing and Tracking Wildlife Tree Retention Areas under FRPA

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timten/FRPA_implementation/Bulletins/FRPA%20No%208%20Bulletin%20WTR%20interim%20guidance%20aPR%2026%202006.pdf

http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timten/FRPA_implementation/Documentation/112878%20FRPA%20Bulletin.pdf

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Question #3:

What does “no significant difference” between species on the silviculture labels and silviculture labels mean? Is that within 10% for example or does it have to be identical?

Response #3:

I do not believe the two labels (inventory and silviculture) have to be identical to be recorded as a single label. The most common situation where one would combine the two labels is immediately after planting in situations where there is no natural ingress or if a polygon is composed only of a single species. Since an inventory label is normally an ocular estimate of species composition to the nearest 10 %, a difference of less than 10 % in species composition between the inventory and silviculture component would likely be acceptable. When only submitting a single label to cover both silviculture and inventory components it is important to ensure that all species identified in the label are included as part of the stocking standard (e.g., preferred or acceptable).

Question #4:

Will RESULT eventually have data entry rules on this stuff [forest cover]. Currently it does not. It allows you to submit certain reserve information with missing information (eg. D with no objectives)?

Response #4:

RESULTS has some basic forest cover edit rules but since the forest cover deals with wide range of various survey outcomes (eg. post harvest, regeneration, free growing, partial-cut post-harvest survey) for either even-aged and uneven-aged stand composition, to implement these rules will be far too costly and too complex. As such, we use rely on professional reliance and adherence to survey procedures to collect and submitting of the right information.

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Question #5

What happens to WTR after FG has been declared? Will they show on RESULTS/LRDW?

Response #5:

The wildlife tree retention (WTR) objective code is used to indicate that a forested area is reserved from harvest for at least one rotation for the purposes of wildlife trees, unless exempted under FPPR 91. This WTR objective code is also used as a tool to track whether licensees are meeting the practices requirement for wildlife tree retention identified under FPPR 66 or an alternative Result or Strategy approved as part of an FSP. This code is also associated with other practices requirements such as FPPR 67 – Restriction on harvesting. Actual WTR areas are registered in the LRDW and indicate a legal encumbrance for subsequent tenure applications. The legal encumbrance associated with the WTR area will remain in the LRDW unless an exemption is granted under FPPR 91, to FPPR 67. IF an exemption is granted to FPPR 67, to allow harvest within a WTR area, and equivalent area, number of trees or habitat must be reserved from harvest. The portion of a WTR area harvested under an exemption would be removed from the LRDW as an encumbrance. The replacement WTR area will be added to LRDW as an encumbrance.

Question #6:

I have come across several situations where a licensee has partially logged a block and then left sections standing due mostly for economic reasons. They plan going back when its economically feasible. For the forest covers submission, would this be a case where the TIM objective comes in?

Response #6:

Merchantable trees left standing that are in excess of the prescribed level of retention for economic reasons are reported in RESULTS as a dispersed reserve with a reserve objective of “TIM”. The residuals are tracked in RESULTS as they will contribute to future timber supply, but also because they may, depending on the basal area and distribution retained, impact growth and yield of the regeneration. If the Merchantable trees are left in non harvested groups > 0.25 ha in size they are reported as group reserves with the reserve objective of “TIM”.

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Question #7:

The Ministry of Forests is requiring that a separate inventory label be submitted to Results for residual trees (usually older layer one trees) that are remain on an otherwise clear-cut opening. It appears that GENUS can handle this request but when you try to submit the label to Results it returns an error that reads “Even aged layers and uneven aged layers cannot be submitted for the same polygon.” If you edit the XML file produced by Genus so that both layer are code as even aged inventory layers(I) Results returns the error “The layer code must be unique for the polygon submitted.”

Can someone tell me how to do what we are required to do?

Response #7:

I do not know the answer to this question. You should be able to record two layers in the Inventory label: Layer 1 for the residuals, and layer 4 for the regeneration. You would likely have to use the multi-layer feature to do this. For the inventory layer 1 you would indicate a reserve code of dispersed with an appropriate reserve objective. The silviculture label however would likely only include layer 4 unless your approved stocking standard allows for some of the residual trees to contribute towards meeting the stocking obligation. Perhaps Caroline Macleod is able to answer why this procedure does not work for you. Alternatively the question should be sent through apphelp

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Question #8:

I would like to know the correct way to code immature reserves areas that are included in the site plan area. These areas range from as small as 0.25 ha to 10's of hectares. The areas were reserved only because the trees were too small to harvest. They are not contributing to any other long-term objective. They may be as young as 10 years old or as old as 80 years old. These areas have not been harvested in any way and are not associated with a Standard Unit in the site plan or prescription. They are generally surrounded by a harvested area but may lie between the harvested area and a reserve area (WTP). They may or may not be harvested in the future.

Any guidance you may have concerning this matter will be appreciated.

Response #8:

I do not believe you wish to code these areas of immature timber as reserves, since reserves are usually associated with areas of land that are not available for harvesting. Since these areas of immature will be available for harvesting at some point in the future and are not constrained in any way, other than perhaps cutblock adjacency dependent upon the size of the opening a reserve classification is likely not appropriate. My suggestion is that we simply report these areas as polygon with a description of immature and not associated with a standard unit. Alternatively you could classify these areas as group reserves and assign a timber objective and make a note in the comments section regarding the immature status etc.

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Question #9:

What is the difference between Reserve objective codes of “WTR”-Wildlife Tree Retention Goals and “BIO”- Biodiversity?

Response #9:

The wildlife tree retention (WTR) objective code is used to indicate that a forested area is reserved from harvest for at least one rotation for the purposes of wildlife trees, unless exempted under FPPR 91. This WTR objective code is also used as a tool to track whether licensees are meeting the practices requirement for wildlife tree retention identified under FPPR 66 or an alternative Result or Strategy approved as part of an FSP. This code is also associated with other practices requirements such as FRPP 67 – Restriction on harvesting. Actual WTR areas are registered in the LRDW and indicate a legal encumbrance for subsequent tenure applications. FRPA general bulletin number 8 http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hth/timten/FRPA_implementation/Bulletins/FRPA%20No%208%20Bulletin%20WTR%20interim%20guidance%20aPR%2026%202006.pdf provides some details and interim guidance for district staff on this.

The biodiversity objective code on the other hand is used to identify that a forested area is set aside for general biodiversity reasons. This code is not associated with any practices requirements or FSP results or strategy. It is not used to determine whether a licensee has met an obligation. This code does not have the same legal context as the WTR objective code. Areas of forest reserved under the biodiversity objective code are not necessarily restricted from future harvest as are areas of forest set aside under the WTR objective code.

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Question #10:

The purpose of the tree distribution pattern is to provide some idea as to the spatial distribution of residual trees to help better define the influence of the residual trees on growth and yield for the purposes of timber supply and forest management assumptions. The influence of residual basal area on regeneration will differ depending on the distribution of that residual basal area (e.g., uniform, clumped etc).

Response #10:

RESULTS forest cover data is used to generate statistics that estimate the available timber supply under current forest management assumptions. Over the last decade or so our current management practices have been changing and we are now applying a greater variety of silvicultural systems across the landscape with various levels of retention. It therefore is increasingly important to accurately and consistently report the resulting forest cover data into RESULTS. Using the tree distribution pattern codes was seen as a tool to represent the spatial distribution of these residual trees in a relatively consistent fashion. Although I realize that there is some level of subjectivity involved the categories are fairly broad and should be able to be determined using a combination of photos, maps and standard silviculture surveys. You have suggested other ways to potentially describe the residual overstory which may or may not be easier to use. Accurately identifying crown closure for example is also difficult using a standard silviculture survey.

The Procedures for submitting forest cover data to RESULTS is guidance only. These procedures are intended to support the RESULTS Information Submission Specifications: Licensee submission document http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/his/results/RISS_Is_3a_ed_Oct1.pdf which specifies the form and manner of reporting enabled by FPPR s 86 (6) and describe the minister's information requirements for forest cover inventory as defined by FPPR s 1.

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Question #11:

Re: Sections 4.1.2 and 4.1.3, Pages 10 and 11, Procedures for Submitting Forest Cover Data to RESULTS Edition 1.

The manual says use a tree cover pattern of 1 or 3, matching the dispersed nature of the retention being described. I understand that this makes sense for Layer 1 in a recently denuded block, but it seems out of sync with Layer 4 following regeneration success, when we have a nice, well stocked plantation on the site, that is much better described by a tree cover pattern of 8 or 9.

Saying cover pattern of 1 for layer 1 and cover pattern of 8 for layer 4 would convey a good picture of what is growing on the site, but (far as I can tell) we only get one cover pattern entry per polygon.

I note that Page 4 specifically notes that tree cover pattern applies to spatial arrangement of residual patches of overstory in a polygon. This just seems wrong to me when we have a continuous canopy of forest trees growing on the site.

Should we be switching to describing the distribution of Layer 4 when it is established? If yes, it would be good if the manual explained this.

Response #11:

The tree cover pattern is only intended to be applied to residual layer 1 trees. The intent of the tree cover pattern to help better define the influence of the residual trees on growth and yield for the purposes timber supply and forest management assumptions. The influence of residual basal area on regeneration will differ depending on the distribution of that residual basal area (e.g., uniform, clumped etc).

I do not believe we need to define a tree cover pattern for the regeneration layer (layer 4). Tree distribution for regeneration is often defined by the stocking standard (e.g. MITD, target and minimum stocking standard etc), and the silviculture survey technique (e.g., use of M value in even aged stands). The combination of the inventory and silvicultural labels for regeneration (layer 4) is usually sufficient to adequately define the distribution of regeneration for TSR purposes. Also a volume adjustment factor is also during the TSR process to help account for differing distributions of regeneration (e.g., gaps in stocking).