



Ministry of Forests
and Range

Procedures for FFT Stocking Standards and Surveys

Effective August 15, 2007

These standards apply, in addition to the [General Standards for Ministry Funded Programs \(FS 1001\)](#) for activities funded under the Forest for Tomorrow (FFT) Program.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 There are three important components to the FFT operations that involve
- Selecting the right stocking standards that are applicable to the area
 - Ensuring the surveys use the applicable standards and parameters during the survey process
 - Making a decision based on the stocking standards
 - Making a FFT Funding program decision to treat a stand
 - Declaring the land status as satisfactorily restocked or free growing).

2.0 SELECTING THE RIGHT STOCKING STANDARDS

- 2.1 When doing silviculture surveys on a cutblock the surveyor should determine the correct stocking standards that are applicable to the area in the following hierarchy:
- Higher level plan (LRMP or LU) contains specific stocking standards for a specific zone or area
 - There are already applicable and appropriate standards that are in a backlog silviculture prescription **that is not more than 3 years old**
 - Stocking standards that have been previously been approved for use by the District Manager for specific backlog areas or based on local districts standards derived from a Silviculture Strategy or other forest management plan (i.e. TFL or TSA management plan)
 - Default provincial stocking standards that are applicable to the region and ecosystem
https://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/silviculture/stocking_stds.htm

3.0 ENSURING THE SURVEYS USE THE APPLICABLE STANDARDS AND PARAMETERS

3.1 When carrying out the survey, the surveyors would use the stocking standards to derive the list of acceptable and preferred species, stocking standards and minimum inter-tree distances that are applicable for the ecosystem. Stocking, Free Growing and plantability data would be collected consistent with those parameters.

4.0 MAKING A DECISION BASED ON THE STOCKING STANDARDS

4.1 Once the survey is completed, the data is summarized by strata and a first decision is made.

- (a) Is the area stocked consistent with the standards or not
- (b) If it is the area is classed as stocked or free growing and the data is entered into the corporate databases and appropriate regeneration or free growing declarations made.

5.0 MAKING A FFT FUNDING PROGRAM DECISION TO TREAT A STAND

5.1 If the area is NSR or not free growing compared to the appropriate stocking standards, a decision is made whether or not to treat the area. This is done using the ROI calculations outlined at <http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/returnoninvestment.htm>

- (a) If the ROI calculations indicate a positive return on investment
 - i. Planting and or brushing should be done guided by the plantability or free growing survey data collected. Plantable spots should have been assessed properly with offset distances from preferred and acceptable trees.
 - ii. Area should be classed as NSR or Not Free growing and associated Forest cover appropriately described and submitted

6.0 DECLARING THE STATUS AS SATISFACTORILY RESTOCKED OF FREE GROWING

6.1 If the ROI calculations indicate a poor return on investment and the multiple accounts process don't justify treatment of the area then

- (a) No treatments are prescribed
- (b) The area should be classed as satisfactorily restocked or free growing. From a FFT program management perspective these areas will be deemed not a priority for treatment and no further reforestation treatments are deemed necessary.
- (c) The area should be classed as SR or Free growing and associated Forest cover appropriately described and submitted
- (d) A rationale would be put in RESULTS (declaration comment field) to give a very brief explanation why the block is declared as stocked or free growing despite having low numbers of trees relative to the applicable stocking standards.
- (e) The inventory will be updated to reflect the lower stocking and this will be reflected in the next TSR.
- (f) (If desired, these blocks can be further monitored in future years by looking at the applicable stocking standards and surveyed forest cover that has been submitted to RESULTS for the block)

6.2 When doing silviculture surveys for FFT operations the procedures found in the FFT Backlog Impeded and NSR Stands Data Review for the Southern Interior Forest Region should be followed

[http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/standards/FFT%20Impeded%20Stands%20Data%20-%20SIFR%20\(v2.2\).pdf](http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/fft/standards/FFT%20Impeded%20Stands%20Data%20-%20SIFR%20(v2.2).pdf) .

7.0 DECLARING THE LAND STATUS AS AFTER TREATMENT

- 7.1 After an area has undergone treatment funded by the FFT program the then
- (a) The area is stocked and should be classified as satisfactorily restocked or free growing;
 - (b) appropriate surveys should be scheduled; and
 - (c) surveys scheduled will follow the procedures and process described in these guidelines.