



Ministry of Forests,
Lands & Natural
Resource
Operations

NSR Review Procedures Effective January 2, 2013

This standard applies for activities funded under the Land Based Investment Strategy.

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1.0 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to provide guidance in the review of backlog NSR areas created prior to October 1, 1987, review the land status and either
- Reclassify the polygons that meet the conditions set out in this document; or
 - Recommend reforestation treatments that are scheduled and will be completed prior to January 2015.

2.0 OBTAIN THE LATEST SPREADSHEET FOR NSR & SPATIAL SHAPE FILES

- 2.1 Obtain the latest spreadsheet for NSR by contacting the Resource Practices Branch.

3.0 AREAS LESS THAN 5 HA

- 3.1 Review the pre-October 1, 1987 NSR silviculture polygons that have a net area less than 5 hectares spatially. Where spatial data does not exist alternate resources need to be used.
- If the NSR area is adjacent to larger NSR areas, include them in the list for review.

- (b) If the silviculture polygons are isolated areas and deemed inoperable, inaccessible or not economically viable to treat, submit a forest cover update with spatial for the entire opening with an inventory label and update the NSR polygon(s) stocking status to IMM. Ensure that the forest cover inventory label is updated using the correct reference year.

4.0 OFFICE REVIEW FOR REMAINING NSR AREAS

- 4.1 For the remaining NSR forest cover polygons (after review as per Section 3.0), conduct office file review to determine if more recent and more accurate forest cover information exists on file that is not reflected in RESULTS. For example survey information may be in paper-based opening files that contains more recent and more accurate information about the opening's NSR status but has not been entered into RESULTS.
- 4.2 Where more recent and more accurate information exists in hard copy format only:
 - (a) Submit into RESULTS new forest cover information with **spatial** to reflect the more recent and accurate information.

5.0 PREPARATION FOR FIELD REVIEW

- 5.1 Openings must be reclassified based upon the following standards/guidelines:
 - (a) If current paper or RESULTS records indicate that the stand exceeds the stocking requirements outlined in Section 8.0, then the polygon should be reclassified from NSR to IMM.
 - (b) A full forest cover submission for the entire opening is required for all openings that , as a result of 5.1 (a) are reclassified.
- 5.2 Obtain maps – may be digital, digitized paper map or an ortho photo.
- 5.3 Determine standards or guidelines to be applied (examples described below).
- 5.4 Obtain the [ROI Field Card - version 4.1](#) for relevant species and site index to determine maximum silviculture expenditures.
- 5.5 Ensure potential access limitations, if any, are documented for reference.

6.0 MANDATORY ON-SITE REVIEW

- 6.1 Each Survey Crew must include at least one Accredited Silviculture Surveyor on the ground and every Opening being surveyed has been looked at by an Accredited Silviculture Surveyor.

6.2 Openings that are not netted out in Sections 2-5 described above, require an on-site review.

(a) The survey methodology to use is found in Article 4, MPB Rehab Reconnaissance (Recce) Ground Survey Standards in the [Mountain Pine Beetle\(MPB\) Rehab Survey Standard 2012 FINAL April 13, 2012](#).

i. Do not collect the MPB data referenced in this Article.

6.3 On site reviews should be conducted by the most cost effective means possible.

(a) In some instances the use of helicopters may expedite assessments but often substantially increase costs and should, where practical, be avoided.

6.4 For openings that remain classified as NSR, a logical, biologically-sound, cost-effective recommendation, based on field review assessment and anticipated stand development must be provided. The recommendation must specify the reforestation treatments required for the area, and the year and month during which the treatment should take place. (see 8.4 for scheduling treatments, estimated costs and dates in RESULTS).

7.0 RESULTS DATA ENTRY

7.1 Update RESULTS as per 4th edition of the [RESULTS INFORMATION SUBMISSION SPECIFICATIONS - Government Funded Silviculture Activities](#).

7.2 The Net Area to be Reforested (NAR) must be updated with the best available information to reflect the NSR areas for treatment.

7.3 All updates must be entered into RESULTS by no later than February 28th.

7.4 For openings that are determined to be treatable NSR, schedule the full sequence of silviculture treatments and funding requirements to produce a stocked FG stand that can be achieved by 2015.

8.0 RECLASSIFICATION CRITERIA OF BACKLOG AREAS- PRE OCTOBER 1-1987

8.1 Change the stocking status from NSR to IMM if:

(a) The area is inoperable or untreatable due to inaccessibility or uneconomical conditions; or

(b) The average tree age less than 12 years and stocking levels greater than or equal to minimum stocking standards (MSS) as per the reference guide for forest development plan stocking standards; or

(c) The average tree age greater than 12 years and stocking levels greater than or equal to 60% of current MSS as per the reference guide for forest development plan stocking standards

8.2 If there is no brushing needed, provide updated forest cover to reclassify the opening's forest cover polygons from NSR to IMM and declare the opening FG.

8.3 Update RESULTS as per 4th edition of the [RESULTS INFORMATION SUBMISSION SPECIFICATIONS - Government Funded Silviculture Activities](#).