

2 Cruise Design

2.1 Cruise Objective

The objective of the timber cruise is to obtain an unbiased estimate of the volume and quality of timber on a cutting authority area to a specified confidence interval or sampling intensity. The area cruised may be one or multiple cutblocks that will be appraised in one cutting authority and subject to one appraisal.

The information from the cruise is applied as follows:

1. For scale-based sales, the cruise provides the basis for determining the stumpage rate while the invoice is based on the scale.
2. For cruise-based cutting authorities, both the estimate of the stumpage rate and invoicing are based on the cruise.
3. For special cases, such as salvage sales, small sales and right-of-way sales, cruising standards may be varied by the Regional Executive Director in accordance with Chapters 4 and 6 of the [Coast Appraisal Manual](#) and [Interior Appraisal Manual](#).

2.2 Cruise Plans

Cruise plans are professional documents and must be:

1. prepared by a qualified registered or associate member (RPF, RFT, ATE) of the Association of BC Forest Professionals, or
2. supervised by a registered member (RPF, RFT) of the Association of BC Forest Professionals.

It is *mandatory* for licensees and Timber Sale Managers to submit plans to the District Manager prior to the commencement of a timber cruise.

The cruise plan is submitted to MFLNRO staff to allow for the development of field quality assurance schedules and to provide a basis for comparison against the final cruise submission.

Cruise plans must contain the items specified in:

- Section [3.2.1](#), and
- Forms section - [Figure A.5 FS 693 - Provincial Cruise Plan \(Page 1 of 2\)](#)

For an example of a cruise plan map, please see the following link:

www.for.gov.bc.ca/ftp/hva/external!/publish/web/Cruising/Sample_Cruise_Plan_Map.pdf

All forest and non-forest type areas must be identified on the cruise plan prior to field sampling. A non-forest type, as identified on the cruise plan map, is not sampled for appraisal (i.e., rock bluff, swamp, constructed linear tenure, creek, riparian reserve area, slide track and gravel pit). (See Section [2.8](#))

Timber type polygons must be contiguous and unique to each cutblock. If forest or non-forest types are not identified on the cruise plan each block must be compiled as a single forest type. All portions of a timber type polygon separated by a non-forest type may be considered as one contiguous timber type polygon.

Timber type polygons that are 1.0 hectare or larger must contain at least 2 full measure plots and timber type polygons that are less than 1.0 hectare must contain at least 1 full measure plot. (See Section [2.4.2](#) for additional information)

Cruises are the responsibility of the district that contains fifty percent or more of the cruise area.

The cruise plan is a professional document and forms the basis for the statistical sample. It identifies the population to be sampled and the design that will be used to meet the minimum cruise standards. The cruise plan is the key document that provides assurances to the MFLNRO that the data supplied to the appraisal was collected in an unbiased manner.

Changes to a cruise plan should be rare and minor in nature and must be undertaken to affect unforeseen issues that affect good forest management or other minor operational issues.

The submitting forest professional recognizes that changes to a plan, such as a change in area or the removal of a plot(s) is biased and will have assessed the impact of the alterations against the principles of sampling identified in these standards. The submitting forest professional will submit a record of all relevant information that was used to develop the original cruise plan and final cruise map, including a rationale where changes have been made. This model is consistent with the direction of professional reliance.

For guidance on how to prepare a professional rationale, please refer to the document “Guidance for Professional Quality Rationales and Commitments” published by the ABCFP and available at:

www.abcfp.ca/regulating_the_profession/documents/Pro_Quality_Rationales.pdf

The District Manager will review each change on a case by case basis and determine if the change meets the intent of providing good forest management or addressing unforeseen minor operational issues.

A spreadsheet that can be used to assist in cruise design can be accessed at the following website:

www.for.gov.bc.ca/hva/manuals/cruisingcalculations.htm

2.3 Sampling Error Objectives

Unless otherwise specified, sampling error objectives are based on full measure and count plots and are based on the total stand net merchantable volume prior to any partial harvest reductions.

The following standards apply to both clearcut and partial retention harvest systems.

The minimum requirement for the establishment of a full measure plot is as follows:

- i. cutting authorities < 250 ha: a 200 meter grid or 4.0 hectares per plot (per timber type).
- ii. cutting authorities > 250 ha: a 250 meter grid or 6.25 hectares per plot (per timber type).

For coastal cruises, a ratio of three (3.0) count plots to one (1.0) full measure plot cannot be exceeded on the cruise plan even if sampling error is achieved.

For cruises where cruise grades will be used in the appraisal, the minimum tree count must be met even if the sampling error requirement has been achieved.

For coastal cruises where cruise grades will not be used in the appraisal and for all interior cruises, there is no required minimum number of trees per plot when the sampling error requirement is achieved.

The minimum tree count requirements include tree classes 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9 and not tree classes 4 and 6.

There is no need to change count plots to measure plots in the field if measure plots are dropped due to boundary influence in the field, provided the correct measure/count ratio is identified on the cruise plan and the minimum number of measure plots per type has been achieved (see Section 2.4).

The following table serves as a guide to the various cruising standards itemized below:

Situation		Section that details the applicable cruising standard	
Rights of Way		2.3.6	
Coastal Cutting Authority	Northern Great Bear Rainforest	Cruise Based Cutting Authority	2.3.5
		Cruise Based Road permit	2.3.6 (1)
		Road Rights of Way appraised with adjacent cutblock	2.3.6 (2)
	Non-Northern Great Bear Rainforest	Cruise Based	2.3.4
		Scale Based	2.3.1
Interior Cutting Authority	At least 35% of net merchantable volume of all coniferous species is red and grey attack Lodgepole Pine		2.3.3
	Less than 35% of net merchantable volume of all coniferous species is red and grey attack Lodgepole Pine	General Cruise Based	2.3.2
		Scale Based	2.3.1

For further guidance, refer to *Policy 13.7 Timber Cruising* at the following Internet site:
<https://gww.nrs.gov.bc.ca/flnr/timber-pricing/timber-measurement-policies>

2.3.1 Scale Based Cutting Authorities

- Unless otherwise stated, the scale based cutting authority sampling error objective is 15.0% at 2 SE based on the total stand net merchantable volume prior to any partial harvest reductions.
- Single Stem – the options are:
 - i. 100% cruise of the cut trees,

- ii. Achieve at least a 15.0% sampling error on the cut trees at 2 SE using variable radius plots, or
- iii. Sample using at least 2 variable radius measure plots/ha and at least 2.0 cut trees/plot.

The sampling error requirement will be waived if all of the following conditions have been met:

1. For cutting authorities of 20.0 ha or larger in size:

- a. A 100 metre by 100 metre systematic grid has been established and a maximum of 1.0 count plot to 1.0 full measure plot has not been exceeded and an average of at least 4.0 trees per plot has been met.
- b. A 70 metre by 70 metre systematic grid has been established and a maximum of 1.0 count plot to 1.0 full measure plot has not been exceeded and an average of at least 2.0 trees per plot has been met.
- c. A 50 metre by 50 metre systematic grid has been established and a maximum of 1.0 count plot to 1.0 full measure plot has not been exceeded and an average of at least 1.0 tree per plot has been met.

2. For cutting authorities less than 20.0 ha in size:

- a. A 100 metre by 100 metre, systematic grid of full measure plots has been established and an average of at least 4.0 trees per plot has been met.
- b. A 70 metre by 70 metre, systematic grid of full measure plots has been established and an average of at least 2.0 trees per plot has been met.
- c. A 50 metre by 50 metre, systematic grid of full measure plots has been established and an average of at least 1.0 tree per plot has been met.

If the minimum tree count cannot be achieved with a BAF 2 prism, then the minimum tree count requirement will be waived.

2.3.2 General Cruise Based Cutting Authorities – Interior Only

The following standards apply to all general cruise based cutting authorities **within the Interior area as described in the [Interior Appraisal Manual](#)**:

1. 8.0% at 2 SE on all plots, and
2. If count plots are used, a 2 SE of 12.0% on full measure plots must be achieved.

All other scale based standards apply, except that the sampling error cannot be waived.

2.3.3 Mountain Pine Beetle Cruise Based Cutting Authorities

The following standards apply to all MPB cruise based cutting authorities:

1. Each block within the cutting authority must contain at least 35% red and grey attack Lodgepole pine net merchantable volume of all coniferous species. The net volume is the post-reduction cruise volume compiled to the interior standard merchantability specifications.
2. Cutting authorities must:
 - achieve a 12.0% sampling error objective at 2 SE using measure and count plots, or
 - the sampling error will be waived as per the scale based standards specified in section 2.3.1 (1) or (2).
3. Cutting authorities that do not meet the MPB standards must meet the standards in section [2.3.2](#) to be a cruise based cutting authority.

2.3.4 General Cruise Based Cutting Authorities – Coast Only

The following standards apply to all general cruise based cutting authorities **within the Coast** area as described in the [Coast Appraisal Manual](#):

Cutting authorities must:

1. achieve a 10.0% sampling error objective at 2 SE using measure and count plots, and an average of at least 4.0 trees per plot, or
2. The sampling error will be waived if the following conditions have been met:
 - a. For cutting authorities of 40.0 ha or larger in size:
 - i. A systematic grid of equal intervals and spacing of not greater than 100 metres by 100 metres has been established, and
 - ii. Only full measure plots are used and an average of at least 4.0 trees per plot has been met.
 - b. For cutting authorities less than 40.0 ha in size:
 - i. A systematic grid of equal intervals and spacing of not greater than 70 metres by 70 metres has been established, and
 - ii. A maximum ratio of 1.0 count plot to 1.0 measure plot has not been exceeded and an average of at least 4.0 trees per plot has been met.
 - c. In addition, within any stand-alone polygon less than 5 ha in size (regardless of cutting authority size) the following requirements must be met:
 - i. A systematic grid of equal intervals and spacing of not greater than 70 metres by 70 metres has been established, and

- ii. A maximum ratio of 1.0 count plot to 1.0 measure plot has not been exceeded.

Cruise based cutting authorities subject to the [Coast Appraisal Manual](#) are not subject to the requirements specified in Policy 8.16 or the associated procedures. In addition, cruise based cutting authorities under this section will not require loss factor cruising as Call Grade Net Factor (CGNF) cruising will be used for appraisal purposes.

Please note that for general cruise based cutting authorities within the Coast area, percent reductions (See Section 5.9) are not permitted and the net merchantable volume will be based upon 100% removal of the net merchantable area.

2.3.5 Cutting Authorities within the Northern Great Bear Rainforest

The following standards apply to all cruise based cutting authorities within the Northern Great Bear Rainforest (GBR) as defined within the [Coast Appraisal Manual](#):

Cutting authorities must:

1. achieve a 10.0% sampling error objective at 2 SE using measure and count plots, and an average of at least 4.0 trees per plot, or
2. The sampling error will be waived if the following conditions have been met:
 - a. For cutting authorities of 40.0 ha or larger in size:
 - i. A systematic grid of equal intervals and spacing of not greater than 100 metres by 100 metres has been established, and
 - ii. Only full measure plots are used and an average of at least 4.0 trees per plot has been met.
 - b. For cutting authorities less than 40.0 ha in size:
 - i. A maximum ratio of 1.0 count plot to 1.0 measure plot has not been exceeded,
 - ii. An average of at least 4.0 trees per plot has been met, and:
 - a) A systematic grid of equal intervals and spacing of not greater than 70 metres by 70 metres has been established, or
 - b) A systematic grid of full measure plots not greater than 100 metres by 100 metres has been established with count plots offset halfway between the measure plots along either the North-South or East-West grid lines. For example, where ‘o’ represents measure plots and ‘x’ represents count plots, the following two designs are acceptable:



Cruise based cutting authorities in the Northern GBR are not subject to the Cruise Based Billing loss factor requirements specified in Policy 8.16. In addition, until CGNF is used for appraisal purposes on the Coast, cutting authorities in the Northern GBR will not require CGNF cruising.

2.3.6 Rights of Way Cruises

1. Rights of Way cruises must:
 - i. Meet the 15.0% sampling error requirement using fixed or variable radius plots, or
 - ii. Establish a full measure variable plot every 100 metres along the right of way centre line. The first plot should be located at 50 metres (half the interplot distance) from the start of the centre line.
2. Where BCTS or Coastal Cruise Based (see Sections 2.3.4 and 2.3.5) road rights of ways external to a cutblock are to be cruised and appraised with the cutblock harvest area, the following three options are available:
 - i. Extend the cruise grid of the adjacent timber type through the road right of way and establish any plots that fall within the right of way, or
 - ii. Identify the road right of way as a separate type at the cruise plan stage and establish a full measure variable plot every 100 metres along the right of way centre line. The first plot should be located at 50 metres (half the interplot distance) from the start of the centre line within that type; or
 - iii. Submit a rationale from a qualified registered professional stating the cruise data from the cutblock is representative of the road rights of way area.
3. Where timber on road rights of way within a cutblock is removed under a road permit (RP) after the block is cruised, the cruise plots that are within the area of the RP shall be included in the cruise compilation for the cutting permit and the area of the RP will be removed from the cruise compilation.
4. Rights of way areas not removed under a road permit must be included in the net merchantable area and must be sampled.

2.4 Sampling Patterns – General Conditions

Plots established within cutblocks from previous operational cruises may be used in new sampling plans if they meet the standards in this manual.

The minimum standards for appraisal cruising require the use of sampling techniques using systematic grids to locate the plots. The exception is a 100% cruise where all trees within the cutblock are measured.

All plots must originate from the net merchantable area. Plots in areas 100 percent reserved from cutting must not be used in the compilation.

Plots can be established using a predetermined management unit specific GIS grid or by using a local cutblock level grid system. Licensees must notify the district of which grid system they will be using. Once a grid system is selected by a licensee, it is to be used on all cruise plans completed by that licensee within an identifiable unit (e.g. a license management unit, operating area or drainage). In addition, the grid system must be consistent in each cutting authority. Grid system (see [Definitions](#)) refers to a GIS or local grid, and does not include grid interval.

The cruise plan must identify the grid interval for each timber type polygon.

The MFLNRO must be able to replicate plot location. The District office may request a copy of the grid and/or the method used to create the GIS grid.

2.4.1 Standards for the Location of Plots Using a Grid

The following section describes the types of grids that may be used in a cruise plan:

- a. GIS Grid: The grid locations are predetermined by the local management unit GIS grid.

If count plots are used in the cruise design, the most westerly plot on the most southerly line in the net merchantable area must be a measure plot.

- b. Local Grid: A local grid may be established using the following procedure:

- i. Project a line due south from the most western point of the net merchantable area and another line due west from the most southern point of the net merchantable area. Starting at the point of intersection of these two lines, lay the local plot grid on the map oriented in cardinal directions (N-S & E-

W) to determine the plot locations (see [Figure 2.1 Example of Local Grid Design](#)).

- ii. If count plots are used in the cruise design, the most westerly plot on the most southerly line in the net merchantable area must be a measure plot.

All possible sample points that can be established in the net merchantable area must be cruised, whether or not they were included in the original cruise plan. All plots must originate from the net merchantable area.

Plots cannot be moved within a timber type polygon, except as required in Section [2.4.2](#) to achieve the minimum number of plots in a timber type polygon.

The grid may be square or staggered, however the option selected must be used consistently in each cutblock.

The cruise grid will be considered acceptable if the count to measure distribution is systematic and unbiased, and if the grid is established consistent with the above requirements. If the cruise plan is designed to waive sampling error as per the requirements of Section [2.3.1](#) or [2.3.3\(2\)](#), the count to measure ratio requirement will be waived if the grid design is consistent with Section [2.4.1](#) and the grid spacing and trees per plot are consistent with Section [2.3.1](#).

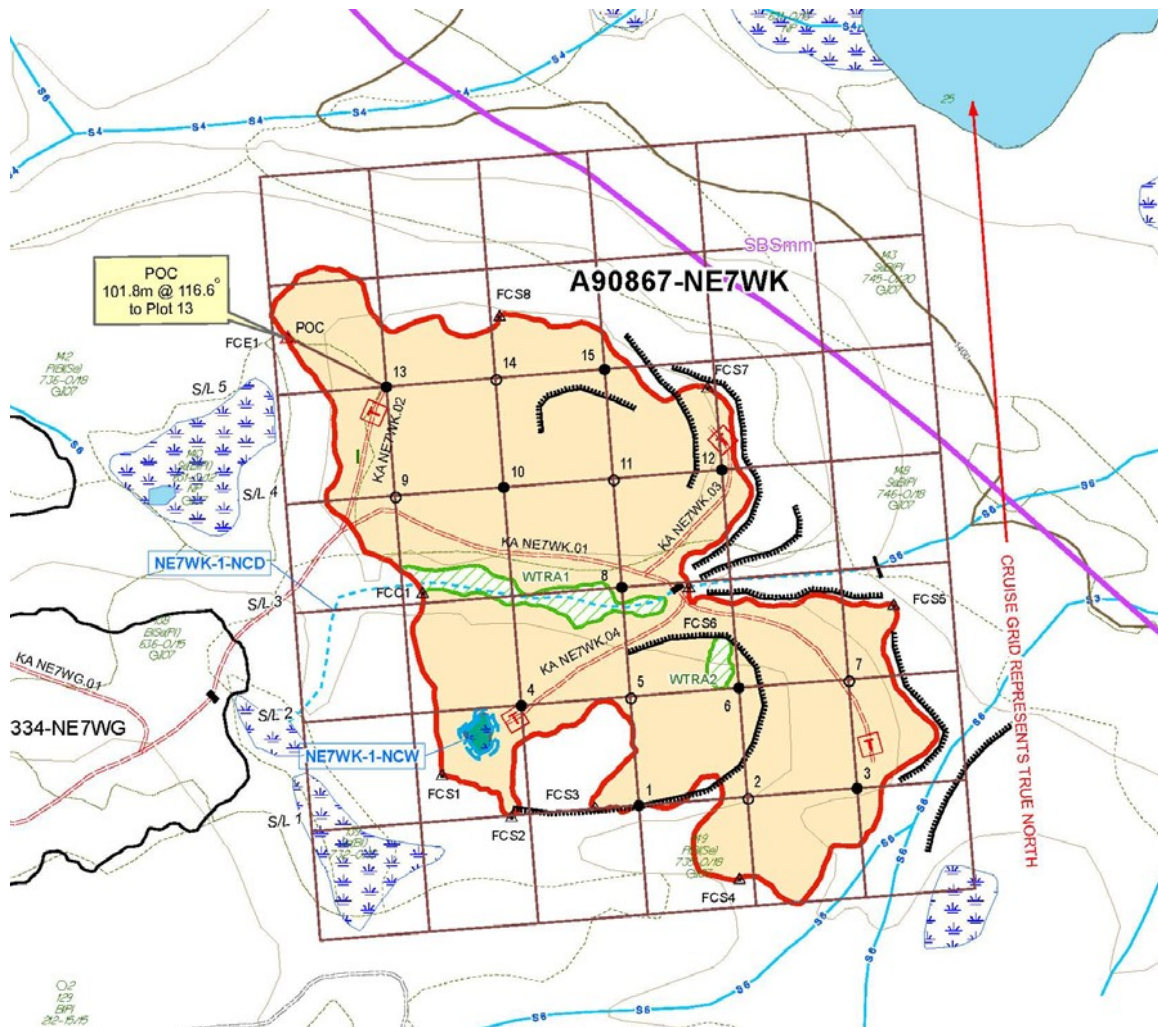


Figure 2.1 Example of Local Grid Design.

* **Please note** – This example of a local grid is oriented to true north instead of map north. For a detailed explanation of the difference in these terms, please see [True North, Magnetic North and Grid North](#) in the Appendices. Some districts may prefer for cruise maps to be submitted with grids oriented to grid north – please refer to district or regional contacts for further information.

2.4.2 Standards for the Location of Additional Plots to Meet Section 2.2 Requirements

The following sections describe the situations and procedures to establish additional plots where the grid design does not meet the minimum one or two full measure plot per timber type polygon standard specified in Section [2.2](#).

2.4.2.1 Office Cruise Plan Procedure

Within the timber type, reduce the grid interval (using the same grid system) on the cruise plan by increments of 10 metres until the largest grid spacing that will meet the minimum plot establishment standards is achieved.

2.4.2.2 Field Procedure

In the event that in the field, plots fall outside the timber type polygon, then use the procedure in the following table to establish the plot(s) inside the timber type polygon:

Sequence	Location	Sequence	Location	Sequence	Location	Sequence	Location
1	1/2 Grid North	2	1/2 Grid East	3	1/2 Grid South	4	1/2 Grid West
5	1/4 Grid North	6	1/4 Grid East	7	1/4 Grid South	8	1/4 Grid West
9	1/8 Grid North	10	1/8 Grid East	11	1/8 Grid South	12	1/8 Grid West
13	1/16 Grid North	14	1/16 Grid East	15	1/16 Grid South	16	1/16 Grid West

The procedure will be applied from the planned plot locations that fell outside the timber type polygon in the field. This procedure is used to obtain the required number of plots in the timber type polygon. If the plot cannot be established inside the timber type polygon using this procedure, attempt to establish the plot using this procedure with NE, NW, SE or SW bearings.

2.4.3 Standards for the Location of Additional Plots to Meet Sampling Error

Where plots must be added to an existing cruise to meet the sampling error requirement, they must be added in a systematic random manner. It is recommended to target the timber type (s) with the greatest variability. Determine the number of plots required

using the coefficient of variation statistic for the timber types from the compilation (See [Coefficient of Variation](#) in the Appendices).

The following procedures will be used where additional plots must be added to an existing cruise to meet the sampling error standard:

1. New Grid Design

- a. Determine a new grid design that will meet the new sample size requirements, using the same cruise grid orientation.
- b. If using a local grid, over-lay the new grid by positioning the new plot grid over top of the original plot grid at the point of intersection (See Section [2.4.1](#) (b)).
- c. If using a GIS grid, over-lay the new grid by positioning the first plot of the new grid over the most westerly plot on the most southerly line of the original grid (in the net merchantable area). Disregard the overlapping plot.

2. Existing Cruise Design

Additional plots must be systematically located on the existing cruise strips.

2.5 Other Timber Cruising Conditions

This section describes the timber cruising procedures that are required for situations where timber must be re-cruised, where it is unsafe to cruise, where patch cuts are used and where there is a combination of Timber Licence and Crown lands.

2.5.1 Standards for Re-cruising

Re-cruising is required:

1. If the cruise is of mature timber (> 120 years) and 10 years has elapsed since the fieldwork was performed.
2. If the cruise is of immature timber (< 121 years) and 5 years has elapsed since the fieldwork was performed.
3. If required in a reappraisal as outlined in the [Coast or Interior Appraisal Manuals](#).
4. As required by a check cruise (Chapter [3 Quality Assurance](#)).
5. As determined by the Regional Executive Director.

2.5.2 Unsafe to Cruise

Where it is unsafe for cruisers to sample the stand, the preferred methodology is to establish cruise plots in the same timber type (where it is safe to cruise) adjacent to the unsafe area.

The sampling intensity must be sufficient to reliably estimate the attributes of the unsafe area.

As appropriate, the damage codes will be determined by a procedure subject to mutual agreement by the licensee and the Regional Executive Director, or Timber Sales Manager and Regional Executive Director.

If an individual plot cannot be completed safely, it will be dropped and the reason documented.

2.5.3 Cruising Patch Cut Silviculture Systems

The following sampling procedure must be used for cruising patch cuts:

1. Outline the proposed block including the outside boundaries of the patches.
2. Overlay an appropriate grid over the gross block area that will ensure the sampling design requirements are achieved on the entire block area (See Section [2.3](#)).

3. Patches that are 1.0 ha in size or greater will be unique timber types and will have the required minimum number of plots (See Section [2.2](#)).
4. Patches smaller than 1.0 ha may be aggregated and considered as one timber type in the compilation. These aggregated areas may be considered “partial cut” in the Interior for appraisal cost estimate purposes. Cruise data for this timber type should be representative of the patch cut areas.
5. Areas between the patches may be compiled as a unique timber type (Example 1) or aggregated with patches smaller than 1.0 ha as one unique timber type (Example 2). Appropriate percent reductions are to be applied in the compilation.

Example 1 (Refer to [Figure 2.2 Example of Patch Cut block](#)):

Gross Block – 30.0 hectares. Cruise grid covers the whole block.

Type 1: 12 patches less than 1.0 hectare each. Total = 6.0 ha (Patches identified as letters A to L)

Type 2: area between all the patches where some incidental volume will be removed, 15.0 hectares (e.g. skid trails and selection harvest = 20% volume removal or 80 % volume reduction)

Type 3-8: 6 patches, each one is greater than 1.0 ha, totalling 9.0 ha. Each patch must be cruised. (Patches identified as numbers 1-6)

Total of 15.0 ha clearcut and 15.0 ha at 80% volume reduction

Example 2 (Refer to [Figure 2.2 Example of Patch Cut block](#)):

Gross block area – 30.0 hectares

Types 1-6: 6 patches, each one is greater than 1.0 ha, totalling 9.0 ha. Each patch must be cruised. (Patches identified as numbers 1-6)

Type 7: Area between patches and patches less than 1.0 ha (total 21.0 ha)
Amount of harvest on skid trails and incidental harvest between patches = 3.0 ha

12 patches equalling 6.0 ha (Patches identified as letters A to L)

$(6.0 + 3.0) / (30.0 - 9.0) = 9.0 / 21.0 = 42.9\%$ to be removed (57.1% volume reserved)

Total of 9.0 ha clearcut (Types 1-6) and 21.0 ha at 42.9% volume reduction (Type 7)

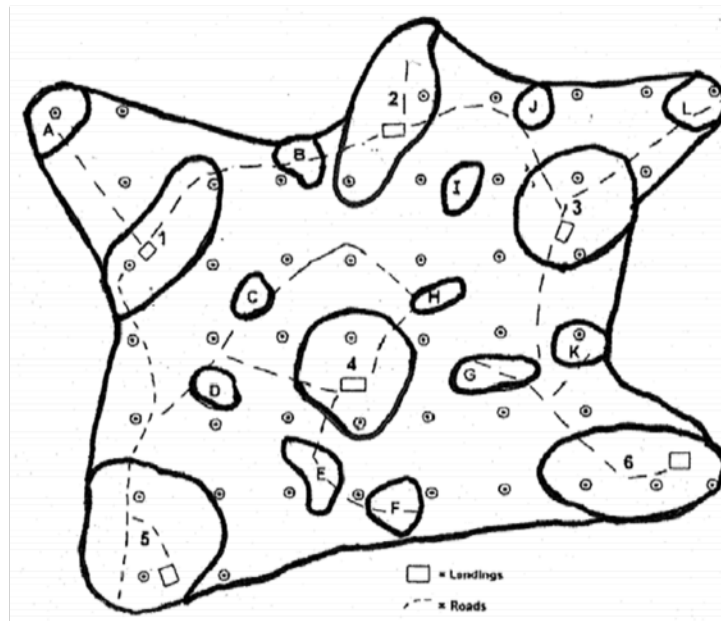


Figure 2.2 Example of Patch Cut block.

2.5.4 Schedule "A" (Timber Licence) and "B" (Crown) Lands

Schedule "A" and "B" lands in a Tree Farm Licence (TFL) can be cruised, compiled and appraised together, but a separate summary page in the compilation is required for both timbermarks.

Schedule "A" and "B" lands not in a TFL can be cruised together, but must have separate compilations because they must be appraised separately. If a cutblock contains both Schedule "A" and "B" lands, all plots in the cutblock must be used in both of the compilations.

Timber Licence and other Crown land in a Tree Farm Licence (TFL) can be cruised, compiled and appraised together, but a separate summary page in the compilation is required for both cutting authorities.

Timber Licence and other Crown land not in a TFL (i.e., in a Forest Licence) can be cruised together, but must have separate compilations because they must be appraised separately. If a cutblock contains both Timber Licence and other Crown lands, all plots in the cutblock must be used in both of the compilations.

2.6 Types of Cruises

2.6.1 One Hundred Percent Cruise

A 100% cruise requires that all trees are measured as per the appraisal specifications.

Each tree in a 100% cruise cutting authority must be numbered or marked as a cut tree.

2.6.2 Fixed Area Plot Sampling (See Section [4.3.1.13](#))

Fixed area plot sampling is a method of using sample plots with a fixed size (area) for selecting the trees to be tallied. The plots are normally circular or square. It is also known as sampling without replacement since trees are not included in more than one sample plot.

The fixed area plot size must be consistent by timber type and count plots are not permitted in fixed area plots. Border plots are permitted in fixed area plots.

For additional information on fixed area plots and calculating sample size, please see the appendix on [Additional Sampling Information](#).

2.6.3 Variable-Plot Sampling (Prism or Relascope)(See Section [4.3.1.15](#))

Variable plot sampling is a method of selecting trees to be tallied based on their size and not the frequency or density of the trees in the stand. The main advantage with using the variable plot instead of the fixed area method is that the probability of tree selection is proportional to the size (basal area at breast height) of the tree. Variable plots are more efficient to measure than fixed area plots because a plot perimeter is not required since every tree has its own plot radius and can be assessed for in/out status with an angle gauge (e.g., prism or relascope).

For additional information on variable plot sampling, calculating sample size, and calculating coefficient of variation (CV) please see the appendix on Additional Sampling Information.

2.7 Double Sampling (See Section [4.3.1.10](#))

Double sampling consists of sampling certain characteristics within a sample instead of measuring those characteristics throughout the sample. Double sampling improves the volume estimate by species.

Double sampling requires the use of two types of prism plots, the measure plot and the count plot. The measure and count plots together represent the main sample. Fixed radius plots are not used in this form of double sampling.

2.7.1 Measure Plots

The measure plots are conventional samples in which all variables for each tree are measured.

2.7.2 Count Plots

Count plots are samples where only the tree species and plot slope are tallied. All live and dead potential trees are tallied. Do not include any trees below the DBH limit or tree class 4 (dead useless) and tree class 6 (live useless) trees. DBH or DBH classes must be recorded where timber merchantability specifications may indicate a different DBH limit level from the field tally level.

Within each timber type, measure tree data is required in the measure plots for each species recorded in the count plots. Occasionally, a species is tallied in a count plot that has not been tallied in a full measure plot. This creates a situation where no measure data is available to compile the tree. This tree is called an 'orphan tree'.

The procedure for dealing with orphan trees in count plots during the fieldwork is to record the measure information for the first occurrence (first tree from facing north (0°) and turning clockwise within the count plot) of the orphan species within the first count plot where the orphan species is encountered. If the orphan species is not measured in a measure plot in the same timber type, the data from the orphan species tree will be moved to the nearest measure plot in the timber type and will be deleted from the count plot.

This procedure will be completed after the fieldwork is complete or at the compilation stage. Orphan trees moved from a count plot to a full measure plot should be recorded using tree numbers 99, 98, 97, etc. Consideration will be given to waiving the sampling error if the minimum sampling error requirement is exceeded due to the shift in the tree count.

