



Enhanced Basic Silviculture

Key Messages

OBJECTIVES

- In the face of climate change and increasing tree mortality due to forest health conditions, the BC government, as landowner of vast tracts of BC's forest land, is investing in the long term productivity of those lands.
- The Crown aims to enhance the productivity of BC's forests by increasing the number of trees growing per hectare.
- Changes to the Appraisal Manual were made on October 1st 2017 to enable this investment on productive sites in the Interior.
- Enhanced silviculture practices will help maintain future timber supply, improve long term forest health, and create more resilient forests in the face of climate change.
- The intention of these changes is to maximize benefits to timber supply, improve forest health, and aid in climate change adaptation.

IMPLEMENTATION

- The Ministry is creating a mechanism for implementing enhanced silviculture practices by encouraging the development of new stocking standards, or variations to existing stocking standards that are consistent with management unit level plans.
- Initial implementation is focussed on increased stocking densities in the interior where appropriate.
- Regeneration delay is the key milestone for enhanced basic silviculture activities.
- Enhanced silviculture practices will apply in defined situations where a sufficient timber supply return will be achieved (e.g. as defined by integrated treatment strategies/Type 4 silviculture strategies).
- To implement enhanced silviculture, stocking standards in Forest Stewardship Plans need to be aligned with district-approved stocking standards derived from integrated silviculture strategies, Type 4 strategies, or similar approved plans.
- These enhanced stocking standards would be included in a licensee's Forest Stewardship Plan and be subject to the legislative tests for approval by the District Manager.
- Once approved, the licensee and prescribing professional foresters can then apply these standards in the appropriate situations and circumstances.
- These enhanced silviculture practices are being facilitated by adjustments to timber pricing policy to reflect additional government investment in BC forest land.
- Timber pricing policy in the Interior Appraisal Manual includes enhanced silviculture practises as an option within the basic silviculture cost estimate.



Ministry of
Forests, Lands, Natural
Resource Operations
and Rural Development

- Investment in enhanced silviculture will lead to medium and long term increases in timber volume and value and will provide positive economic, ecological and social benefits.
- For more information, contact Lorne Bedford (stewardship questions - 778-974-5670), Al Bennett (pricing policy 778-974-2407), or Jason Nunn (technical questions (778 974-2400)).