

Enhanced Basic Silviculture

Compared with Increased Carbon Density under the Forest Carbon Initiative

Questions and Answers

Question	Answer
1. What is the difference between Enhanced Basic Silviculture and increased planting density for forest carbon purposes?	<p><i>Enhanced Basic Silviculture</i> (EBS) is a strategy to implement higher establishment stocking densities that are determined through approved integrated stewardship strategies and similar plans. EBS applies to licensee obligation areas currently only in the interior on areas covered by the Interior Appraisal Manual.</p> <p><i>Increased Planting Density for Forest Carbon</i> (IPD FC) may apply both in the interior and on the coast in situations that will be clarified pending further policy development. Policies for higher density planting for forest carbon management are under development.</p>
Enhanced Basic Silviculture	
2. How is the target stocking level for Enhanced Basic Silviculture determined?	The basis for determining an EBS target stocking standards is an approved Integrated Stewardship Strategy (ISS) or similar plan or process. Where adjoining regions have common BEC zones with different enhanced stocking levels in their ISS, the same minimum planting density should be applied.
3. What's the minimum planting density at the time of establishment that can qualify for enhanced basic silviculture?	The minimum planting density that can qualify for the Enhanced Basic Silviculture Tenure Obligation Adjustment (TOA) is 200 stems per hectare below the target specified in the approved integrated stewardship strategy or similar approved plan unless realignment between districts is necessary (see question 13). No minimum planting density can go below 1600 stems per hectare (sph). This minimum will be reflected in a licensee's approved FSP.
4. What is required for an Enhanced Basic Silviculture Standard in a FSP?	<p>An EBS standard must state a minimum planting density. Although an EBS standard may state the target planting density, only the minimum is a requirement.</p> <p>The EBS stocking standards, must define, in addition to the minimum planting density noted above, the situations and circumstances where they will be applied, and reference the strategy or</p>

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Questions and Answers

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	management plan which contains the EBS regime. Standards will be subject to legislative tests for approval by the District Manager.
5. What Biogeoclimatic (BEC) site series should be considered for an enhanced basic silviculture standard?	EBS standards should only be developed for productive sites. It is unlikely that planting higher densities on very dry, very wet, nutrient poor sites would be worth the investment.
6. How do integrated stewardship strategies relate to minimum, maximum and target stocking standards used now?	<p>Section 26 (3)(a)(ii) of FRPA requires that the minister must approve the proposed stocking standards and regeneration dates where they are "...consistent with the timber supply analysis and forest management assumptions that apply to the area." The timber supply analysis is based on current practice: in most cases stocking standards in the <i>Reference Guide for Forest Development Plan Stocking Standards</i>. These standards typically have a target density at Free Growing of 1200 stems per hectare (sph), with a minimum of 700 sph, well-spaced trees. To achieve this standard, licensees currently plant at a range of densities- usually around 1350 sph, but practices vary.</p> <p>The Type 4/ Integrated Silviculture Strategies modelled the impacts of planting at a targeted higher density- ranging from 1700 sph to 2000 sph. Where there was a benefit (usually on the better sites) the strategies would recommend the option to plant at the higher densities. For their proposed Enhanced Basic Silviculture a licensee would have to reference the strategy, and the minimum planting density.</p>
7. What if there is no integrated stewardship strategy	<p>If there are no Type 4 or Integrated Stewardship Strategies that have EBS densities there are other options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An approved TFL Management Plan that includes increased densities in the TSA assumptions; or, • District Manager endorsed strategies in Management Units without Type 4 or ISSs in place; or,

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forest Health Strategies that include increased densities.
8. How are minimum inter-tree distances managed in enhanced basic silviculture standards?	<p>EBS standards do not need to state inter-tree planting distances. Licensees are free to determine site specific inter-tree planting distances to meet planting density goals.</p> <p>Minimum inter-tree distances for determining well-spaced trees at the time of regen declaration and free growing are required in the standard and will remain at 'normal' values- typically 2.0m.</p>
9. If a licensee misses the minimum planting density, what is government's recourse?	<p>Following planting, the licensee may declare that regeneration stocking standards have been met (recommended). Planting activities and forest cover must be reported (RESULTS). Once in RESULTS, district staff can confirm that planting densities reported reflect the cost estimate claimed, and that the higher establishment densities reflected in the standard have been met by the regeneration date. If planting densities are inconsistent with the appraisal submission, the outcomes may result in administrative or enforcement sanctions as described in the respective enactments.</p>
10. How are enhanced stocking standards entered into, and tracked in RESULTS?	<p>While future changes to RESULTS are planned, for the interim, the workaround for opening definition and stocking standards reporting is to use the comments field to identify the area as one in which an Enhanced Basic Silviculture standard applies.</p>
11. Is there a graduated payment (TOA) for less than the minimum planting density?	<p>No, there is no graduated payment for enhanced densities that do not meet the threshold. Establishment densities must meet or exceed the minimum planting density in order to qualify for the TOA. The adjustment is all or nothing.</p>
12. There is an issue regarding different stocking standards used by different Timber Supply Areas for the same Biogeoclimatic (BEC) variant. How do we deal with that?	<p>In the near future, there should be one standard stocking standard per BEC zone. Silviculture committees are encouraged to work together to align these for consistency. District managers are encouraged to consider establishing an expiry date</p>

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Questions and Answers

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	for stocking standards where realignment may be necessary.
13. How does Enhanced Basic Silviculture help or hinder in areas where wildfire treatments are required?	<p>To ensure that stand management activities are applied consistent with objectives on the land base (e.g. wildfire risk reduction), when considering enhanced basic silviculture, the prescribing forester should consult with local wildfire specialists prior to implementing EBS in areas of high to extreme fire threat as represented by the WUI Risk Class Maps.</p> <p>Stand density management under EBS can lead to earlier crown closure and the reduction of flammable ladder fuels in the understory in some stands. However, fuel management treatments may be required to remove dead stems and on-the-ground materials resulting from density-induced mortality (especially in areas with high risk of climate changed related drought).</p>
14. Does B.C. Timber Sales (BCTS) fall under the appraisal manual?	Yes, BCTS must follow policies and procedures outlined in the Interior Appraisal Manual (IAM) related to the calculation of the stumpage rate at which a timber sale is auctioned. This rate is called the "MPS70" upset. However a number of other procedures/policies in the IAM don't apply to BCTS. For more information, contact Ross Pavan.
15. Is BCTS eligible for the TOA applicable to Enhanced Basic Silviculture? If so, how does cost recovery work for BCTS?	No, BCTS is ineligible for the TOA. BCTS silviculture activities are funded by the BCTS special account and the timber sales manager (TSM) carries the liability through to free growing. In some specific circumstances the TSM may be relieved of silviculture obligations on a block by Forests for Tomorrow (FFT). Please refer to the Memorandum of Understanding between BCTS and FFT for more information. (Contacts: John Hopper, Kerri Brownie).
16. How would Enhanced Basic Silviculture on the coast work in the future?	Opportunities for the coast are being explored.

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July 24, 2018

17. Who do I contact for more questions on Enhanced Basic Silviculture (licensee obligation areas in the interior)?	Silviculture questions: Craig Wickland 250 751-7094. Pricing questions: Jason Nunn 778 974-2400.
Increased Planting Density for Forest Carbon	
18. Is Increased Planting Density an eligible activity under the Forest Carbon Initiative (FCI)?	Yes, provided natural regeneration is insufficient and other values such as wildfire risk or wildlife habitat are not negatively impacted. Density increases must be above a historical baseline or reference level in order to qualify for carbon funding. FCI can only fund the incremental costs. FCI funding is time limited currently ending 31 March 2022.
19. Can FCI funds be used for increased planting density on licensee obligation lands?	FCI targets areas where there is no legal reforestation obligation.
20. Can EBS and FCI be combined?	EBS cannot be layered with FCI incremental planting funding.
21. Could FCI funding apply for areas outside the Interior Appraisal Manual?	Areas outside of the Interior Appraisal Manual may be eligible for FCI funding subject to program requirements.
22. Who do I contact for more questions on FCI Increased Planting Density	Leith Mackenzie and Melanie Plett.