

What's New in Silviculture Surveys – 2018

1. Provincial trends regarding Free Growing declarations
2. Silviculture Survey Manual Changes 2018 – Highlights (Excluding minor typo and grammatical edits)

1. Free Growing Monitoring Trends from the Coast, North, and South Areas:

The 2016 and 2017 review of forest cover data submissions that support free growing declarations pointed out some areas for improvement. Each area of the province (Coast, North, and South) had a number of precision issues with respect to FG survey data. In many cases, the survey data elements such as:

- Free Growing Status
- Forest Health
- Inventory Composition
- Total Tree Counts
- Heights and Ages of Inventory and Silviculture trees

...did not meet the Chief Forester's Precision Standards, found in the *RESULTS Information Submission Specifications-licensee submissions*. This just serves as a reminder to consider the allowable error limits when collecting your data. If you have any questions about this, contact your contract administrator for clarification of precision standards.

2. Silviculture Surveys Manual Changes 2018:

a. Definitions and hyper link changes:

- MOFLNRORD Region and District map has been updated for use in the definitions; the new link is found at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/farming-natural-resources-and-industry/forestry/district-contacts/natural_resource_regions_and_districts_map2017.png

b. Chapter Content Updates

- **Appendix 13.3: South (Southern Interior) Area FG Guidance** **page 292-293**
 - Updated decision key for the Williams Lake TSA, Quesnel TSA, and 100 Mile TSA, and specific to the IDFDk4 and SPSxc subzones. Additional wording to enable surveyors and forest professionals the latitude to accept broadleaf competition as 'non-deleterious' at the plot level across all site series.
 - The forest professional is still responsible to assess biological suppression levels and treat deciduous competition if stratifiable areas exist.
 - NOTE-the FS660 is being updated to reflect these specific decision key changes-please use the surveys manual until the next version of the FS660 is released.
- **Section 9.2.3 Deviation from Potential Survey (DFP) – Interior** **page 136-143**
 - Additional guidance for surveying partial cut Interior stands that range from 9-20 m² retained basal area. This section includes the interior DFP table and survey methodology to enable the use of DFP when specifically approved in an FSP, or enabled through district default stocking standards (Rocky Mountain District).
 - DFP is not a stocking standard, but rather a survey methodology that accounts for retained basal area (dispersed mature layer one stems) and its effect on understorey stocking requirements.

