

What's New in Silviculture Surveys – 2015?

Silviculture Survey Manual Changes 2015 – Highlights (Excluding minor typo and clarification edits):

Chapter Content Updates

Chapter 1

1.2 Stand Structures

- This title has been added to add clarity around the organization of the manual relative to the stand structures described and to better align with the added Appendix 14 on reporting Retention Openings into RESULTS.

Chapter 3

3.4.2 Guidance Procedures for the Assessment of Vegetation Competition in Conifer Managed Stands – 2015

- This section of the manual has been rewritten and reorganized to embrace current practice and to include the old general brush competition assessment fundamental content of the old Appendix 9.
- Specific details of the old Appendix 9 criteria have been linked in this section to the new Appendix 13 (fully described below) – which has now streamlined FG Guidance criteria separated by geographic region.

3.5.1 Methods to Determine Site Index

- A new link to the latest version of Site Tools 4.0 has been added.

Chapter 8

8.1.4 Inventory Label – Polygon and 8.1.5 Silviculture Label – SU

- Some language has been added around the links between the terminology and use of Stratum / Polygon / SU and their direct links to the Inventory and Silviculture Label determination resulting from surveys.

Chapter 9

- A general comment has been added into the introductory text referencing the guidance contained in the new Appendix 14 (fully described below) linking the complex stand structures and survey methodologies and how they are best reported into RESULTS.

9.2.2 Layered Survey

- Guidance has been added regarding even-aged Layered Surveys being the best recommended method for lower Basal Area retention openings - like < 10 m² /ha. BA in the Interior.
- The MITD has been amended to the dripline between Layer1 and other lower Layer stems. This is deemed to be more consistent with the DFP approach in place for the interior and coast.

Appendix 6 Forest Cover Legend

- The new MapView VRI generated Label and its interpretations are included here, along with the old Forest Cover Legend charts.

Appendix 10: FS660 Silviculture Reference Card (Nov. 2014)

- A new 2014 FS 660 has been updated, produced and included in this Appendix. This will formally include the updated FG decision Keys (but not the Cariboo Appendix 13 new ones) that were previously only published in amended sections in the 2014 Manual. Minor edits and typos were corrected to balance out the rest of the new card. These cards can be ordered from Victoria off the surveys website and/or PDFs can be downloaded for free for your Tablet from the same ordering site.

Appendix 10b: Free Growing Damage Criteria for Even-aged (Age Class 1) Coniferous Trees (rev.6, July 2014)

- This update came too late to be included in the new FS 660; however the primary changes are **red** in the text in this Appendix. Changes to UNACCEPTABLE Damage Criteria are as follows:
 - A crop tree is still enclosed in a seedling browse protector (i.e. seedling protectors have to be removed in order to be assessed as FG); and
 - A crop tree has a DSC branch infection < 20 cm. from stem (used to be < 60 cm.).

Appendix 13: Local Geographic Free Growing Competition Assessment Criteria

- This new Appendix 13 will replace the old Appendix 9 – with FG criteria clearly separated for 3 regions (Coastal, Northern Interior and Southern Interior)
- All will contain the same criteria as per the 2014 Manual (including decision keys for each region), except for select subzones within the Williams Lake, Quesnel and 100 Mile House TSAs (specifically the SBPSmk, SBPSdc, SBSdw1, SBSdw2, IDFdk3, and IDFdk1), which have their own alternative 2015 FG criteria and assessment methods (a second option for licensees if desired).

Appendix 14: Guidance Matrix for Reporting Retention Openings into RESULTS

- This new Appendix 14 has been added to this manual and is planned to be jointly published in the Reporting Treed Retention into RESULTS Guidebook (on the RESULTS website). This Matrix is really nothing new, but rather a linking matrix document to aid licensees in identifying Retention openings (> 5 m²), classifying stand structure, assessing performance using the appropriate survey methodology and then ultimately reporting these openings into RESULTS following the Treed Retention Guidance document.

New Field Guide to Forest Damage in BC – 3rd revised edition is available by ordering a hard copy from Crown Publications, Queens Printer – 1-800-663-6151 or www.crownpub.bc.ca (not to be confused with the crown and anchor pub).