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To: ALL DISTRICT MANAGERS

From: Ralph Archibald, Director  
Forest Practices Branch

**Re: Approval/rejection of multi-block stocking standards  
in Forest Stewardship Plans**

The Forest Planning and Practices regulation (FPPR) allows licensees to propose in their Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) a new type of stocking standard that is commonly termed a "multi-block" standard. While conventional stocking standards in an FSP are approved or rejected by the District Manager (DM), the authority to approve or reject multi-block stocking standards at free-growing is given to the Chief Forester (FPPR s 16 (3)(d)). This power may not be delegated.



The Chief Forester has requested that Forest Practices Branch coordinate the review process. As district staff review FSPs, they are requested to look for this new type of standard and forward FSPs containing multi-block standards to Forest Practices Branch.

Traditional stocking standards specify a minimum free-growing tree density that must be achieved on an individual standards unit (or portion thereof). In contrast, multi-block standards specify a condition (not necessarily a well-spaced or free-growing tree density) that must be met over multiple standards units (SUs). Multi-block standards take many different forms. They may be proposed as the only standard that must be met or they may be proposed as a standard in addition to an SU-level standard. For example, the FSP may commit that a specified percent (e.g., 80 percent) of the area that meets SU-level standards will have free-growing tree density exceeding some level (e.g., 900 trees per hectare). In another common multi-block formulation, the FSP commits that the predicted volume production from a group of cutblocks will exceed some specified percent (e.g., 95 percent) of their potential production.

All District Managers: Approval/rejection of multi-block  
stocking standards in Forest Stewardship Plans

Stocking standards at regeneration delay, whether single- or multi- block, are for approval or rejection by the DM. Only multi-block stocking standards at free-growing are for decision by the Chief Forester.

For further information on this topic, or to receive help determining whether a stocking standard at free-growing that is proposed in an FSP is a multi-block standard, contact Patrick Martin, Forest Practices Branch, (250) 356-0305 or via email at Pat.Martin@gov.bc.ca.



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