

Appendix 1. Biological Criteria for Ranking Stands for Spacing

The following guidelines are intended to help prescribers in evaluating and selecting appropriate sites and spacing treatments for stand management prescriptions. Ranking is from most desirable (1) to least desirable (3) with some sites or conditions ranked as not recommended for treatment (NR).

These guidelines are not intended for use on areas that have a legislated requirement for maximum density spacing. Standards and guidelines for maximum density spacing are included in the section “Spacing required by silviculture prescription” of this guidebook.

Species	Priority
Coast	
Douglas-fir and hemlock	1
Others*	2
Interior Dry Areas	
Lodgepole pine & Douglas-fir	1
White or Engelmann spruce,	2
Others*	3
Interior Wet Areas	
Larch, cedar, Douglas-fir	1
Lodgepole pine	2
White or Engelmann spruce, hemlock	2
Others*	3
* There is limited growth and yield data on other species.	

Site quality	Priority
Coast	
Good or medium	1
Poor	2
Interior	
Good	1
Medium	2
Poor	3
Low	NR

Stand density	Priority
Coastal	
<i>Douglas-fir</i>	
>2000 sph	1
751–2000	2
<750	NR
<i>Hemlock</i>	
>3000 sph	1
1500–3000	2
900–1500	3
<900	NR

Stand density	Priority
Interior	
Lodgepole pine	
5000–20 000 sph	1
>20 000	2*
3000–5000	2
2000–3000	3
<2000	NR
* Early spacing of very dense lodgepole pine can alleviate height repression.	
Hemlock, white or Engelmann spruce, interior Douglas-fir	
>5000 sph	1
2000–5000	2
<2000	NR*
* Spacing of low density stands may be practical when combined with pruning and/or fertilization.	

Height of stands	Priority
Coast	
3–6 m	1
6–10 m	2
>10 or <3 m	3
Interior	
3–6 m	1
1–3 m	2*
7–9m	2
>9m	3
* Spacing of pre '87 interior lodgepole pine and Douglas-fir stands with densities >10 000 sph should be done as early as possible. Highest priority should be given to spacing these stands when they are between 1 and 3 metres in height.	

Percent live crown	Priority
>50% live crown	1
30–50% live crown	2
<30% live crown	NR*
* An exception can be dense lodgepole pine stands where spacing is necessary to avoid height repression, providing the spacing is done early.	

Forest health factors

No general rules are applicable.
 Consult: the silviculture prescription and the *Silviculture Surveys Guidebook* or *Forest Health Surveys Guidebook*
Stand Management Prescription Guidebook
Forest Health guidebooks