

Lesson 6

From Prescription to Implementation

Some of the basics

60 minutes

Objectives:

1. To introduce thinning definitions.
2. To go over a completed prescription.
3. To ensure that participants are aware of the level of detail expected in a CT prescription.
4. To provide an overview of the parts that link the prescription to the ground.

Equipment Needs:

- ▲ flip chart
- ▲ overhead projector

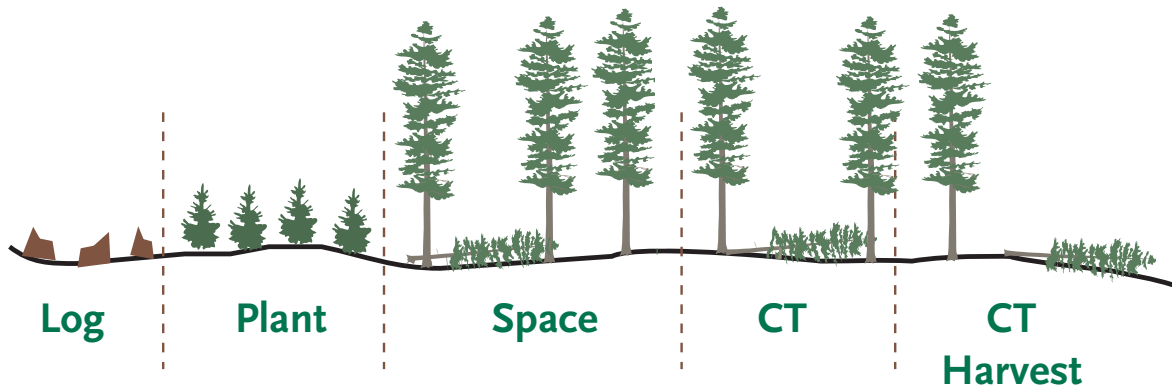
Method:

- ▲ lecturette
- ▲ exercise
- ▲ handout of completed example

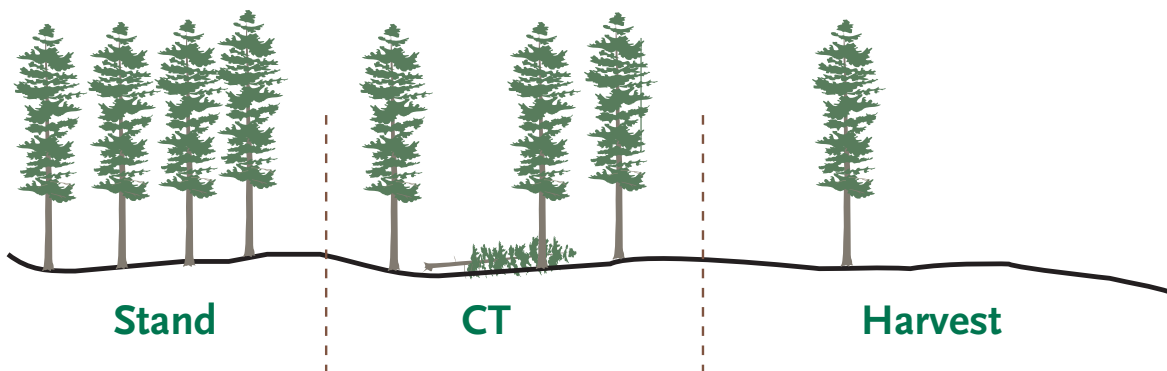


CT – Two Ends of the Spectrum

Prescription 1



Prescription 2



Overhead: CT – the two ends of the spectrum

Facilitator: Go over the following two scenarios.

Creating a Commercial Thinning Regime.

There are two different situations.

- ▲ The first is to create a regime from scratch; that is, harvest the stand and stock it based on planned entries that include a CT entry. This may also include a juvenile spacing entry prior to CT, fertilization – the works. This form of regime will come with time as we have clearer objectives and more second-growth harvest. You will create these regimes in SPs and SMPs that will direct future CT entries.
- ▲ The second situation is where you inherit a stand that is a candidate for CT. You must then determine its feasibility, create a prescription for the CT and estimate the time until the final harvest.

Note: The first situation will not be driving present commercial thinning prescriptions. The second situation is where most commercial thinning prescriptions will emerge for the near future. We will therefore cover the second option here.

Overhead: Creating your prescription – some concepts and terms that you will be using.

Facilitator: Have the participants turn to page 8 in the *Commercial Thinning Guidebook* and have them read the four definitions for thinning types.

Flip chart: If there are any questions, draw diagrams of the various thinning types on the flip chart.

Ask: What thinning types are likely going to be accepted by the Ministry of Forests – and why?

- ▲ Thinning from below as it conforms with the points outlined in the preamble to the Forest Practices Code.

Code preamble: Whereas British Columbians desire sustainable use of the forests they hold in trust for future generations; and whereas sustainable use includes:

- ▲ managing forests to meet present needs without compromising the needs of further generations,
- ▲ providing stewardship of forests based on an ethic of respect for the land,
- ▲ balancing productive, spiritual, ecological and recreational values of forests to meet the economic and cultural needs of peoples and communities, including First Nations, and
- ▲ restoring damaged ecologies.

Go over Other types of thinning may also be appropriate depending on the stand conditions (overstorey removal with tolerant species beneath). The key would be to keep damage to a minimum. Often, it is necessary to harvest some of the codominants and possibly dominant trees along with thinning from below to make the entry economic (mix of low and crown or selection thinnings).

In your SP In your SP you will want to describe the type of thinning you plan using – one or a combination of the four methods described. For example, the block will be harvested using a combination of a low and crown thinning with the emphasis on thinning from below.

This is not enough: To describe what you are going to do you need more of a description. An additional method is to provide a d/D ratio.

Introduce the d/D ratio:

Use the flip chart: This ratio is a common quantitative description of thinning type.

d = mean DBH of cut trees

D = mean stand DBH before thinning

- ▲ Low thinnings (where the mean of the cut trees will be less than mean of the stand before thinning) will result in a ratio of less than 1 (e.g., 25 cm/35 cm).

A d/D ratio of >1 would be from selection thinnings and possibly crown thinning.

WINSTIM uses d/D ratios when the stand is thinned. They describe the ratios as follows:

< 1 – thinning from below

> 1 – thinning from above

= 1 – uniform thinning.

Note: Often CT results in a uniform spatial distribution of residual trees in either the low, crown or selection thinnings.

Ask: Why is the type of thinning important?

The effect on post CT growth can be significant. Taking the best trees can result in much reduced potential yield (see guidebook p. 7, Larson and Cameron 1986 reference). High grading does not fit the preamble of the code.

What else should you do?

- ▲ Create a stand and stock table that shows the stand before logging and the post-logging stand. Refer to the *Stand Density Management Guidebook* for examples???

Exercise:

- ▲ Go over a completed example from a real SP.

Tail gate exercise – making it work

(Optional field exercise – depending on time, weather and logistics)

Exercise: From prescription to the ground – An exercise with four sets of hats.

The objective of this exercise is to provide the participants an opportunity to go through completed examples of an SP, a marking contract, and a logging plan and to point out the relevant information for those who will be implementing the plan on the ground.

People will be broken into groups of four, then two. The groups of two (Pair #1 and Pair #2) are provided with one of two tasks: both pairs will be given 45 minutes to research their task and given 20 minutes to go over it with the contractor. We will do a wrap-up with the entire group afterwards.

Total time is 45 + 20 + 20 + 20 wrap-up = 1 hour and 45 minutes.

In the participant's workbook are the following instructions:

Task one – You and your partner (lets call you Pair #1) have been asked to take a green (inexperienced) tree-marking contractor to the site. Your task is to ensure that the contractor is familiar with all relevant information in the SP and marking contract that you have. These two documents are found in section xx of the participant's workbook. You have 45 minutes to go over the documents and highlight pertinent information. Once you have done this you have 20 minutes to present your information to the other group. The presentation should resemble a tailgate session. The other pair (Pair #2) will ask questions and want clarification; it is your job to get the information across so they can understand what they will be doing, what they need to do to get paid and what fines are applicable and when.

Task two – While Pair #1 is preparing for their tree marking overview, Pair #2 have been asked to review the logging plan and present the requirements to the green (inexperienced) logging contractor who has won the bid for the block. Forty-five minutes have been provided for you to go over the logging plan and highlight issues that the logger should be aware of. You will then be given 20 minutes to go over this information with the loggers. The other pair (Pair #1) will act as the loggers and question you to ensure they are sure of their responsibilities.

Note: If you have any questions during phase 1 of this exercise, the facilitator will be circulating to help you.

The role of green contractors is to ask questions and ensure they are clear on all aspects of their job. This includes penalties and variances allowed. Due to time constraints, please no hang-over excuses, or really thick contractors. This group, while green, are keen.

The timing of this is:

45 minutes – both pairs prepare for their tailgate meeting

20 minutes – Pair #1 presents to Pair #2 (who will act as green tree marking contractor)

20 minutes – reverse roles Pair #2 presents to Pair #1 (who are the green logging contractor)

20 minutes – review issues, go over suggestions and wrap-up as a group.