Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI) Photo Interpretation Training Package

Version 3.0

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Introduction

The Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (MFLNRORD) Forest Analysis and Inventory Branch (FAIB) has developed a new VRI photo interpretation training package. This training package provides materials for a Vegetation Resources Inventory (VRI) photo interpretation course. This course is for photo interpreters with some experience to:

- Gain knowledge and skills to complete VRI Photo Interpretation work successfully.
- Become familiar with the concepts required for the VRI Photo Interpretation Certification exam.
- Learn techniques from certified industry professionals.

Through this course photo interpreters will:

- Understand the purpose of VRI, its components and the role of photo interpretation.
- Develop skills in Polygon Delineation, Field Calibration and Polygon Attribution.
- Learn about Derived Attributes.

An overarching course objective is to provide participants with the necessary skills and knowledge required to attempt the VRI Photo Interpreter Certification exam. FAIB administers this exam as a completely independent process: the exam is not part of this course. Individuals may challenge the exam when they believe they have an appropriate level of skills and knowledge.

The course has four areas:

1. Introduction – consists of Module 1 and a pre-course quiz
2. Polygon Delineation – consists of Modules 2 through 5
3. Field Calibration – consists of Module 6
4. Polygon Attribution – consists of Modules 7 through 19

The use of web-based training materials (if available) allows participants to become familiar with some of the material before attending classroom and field training sessions. All classroom and field training sessions focus on applied skills and techniques. The information contained in the various modules (web-based or classroom-delivered), in conjunction with practical field calibration exercise, helps participants to become familiar with VRI polygon delineation and attribution concepts and learn techniques from certified VRI photo interpreters.

Student Prerequisites

There are no educational prerequisites for this course. The training package is intended for use by photo interpreter trainees working under the direct supervision and mentorship of a certified VRI photo interpreter. The training package is not acceptable for use as the only prerequisite for taking the province's VRI photo interpretation certification examination. Instead, this training package has been designed to augment the ongoing applied photo interpretation work that trainees are currently involved with, including day-to-day polygon delineation, field calibration and polygon attribution tasks. All trainees are required to complete a minimum of two years of direct experience along with the completion of at least 6 map sheets, ideally in a variety of areas across the province, before taking the exam.

Course Delivery

The theory components of all training modules are provided through either web-based or classroom-delivered instruction and can be self-directed or instructor-led. Parts of the field calibration module require in-field training delivery. The practical components of the polygon delineation and polygon attribution modules require access to the following:

1. Digital stereo plotter software: Either DAT/EM Summit Lite v.7.x or ISM PurVIEW v.2

2. GIS software: ESRI ArcMap v.10.x

The installation of Veg Cap for Contractors v.2 as an addition to ESRI ArcMap v.10.x is preferred. Participants require skills and knowledge in the use of this software. Training in the installation, operation and functionality of this software is beyond the scope of this training package.

Course Schedule and Flexibility

This training package is designed to take four days to complete but as little as two days by dropping the field calibration practicum and shortening other components based on the participants' experience level. Participants should complete the Pre-Course Quiz between the first and second modules and review it at the end of the course. Classroom delivery takes up to four consecutive days, while web-based training may take longer. Additionally, the training package is designed to be split into two courses if required. The first course focuses on photo interpretation and includes Modules 1 to 4 and Module 9 (Species Identification). The second course focuses on polygon attribution and includes the remaining modules. Either course can accommodate Module 6 (Field Calibration).

Future Updates

This training package has been designed to accommodate future updates such as new viewer sets and other pertinent imagery or graphics as they may become available. Please check the FAIB training webpage for possible future updates.