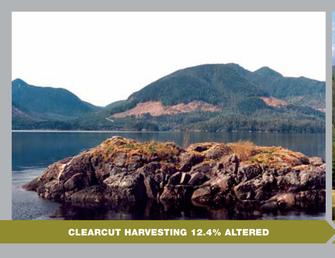
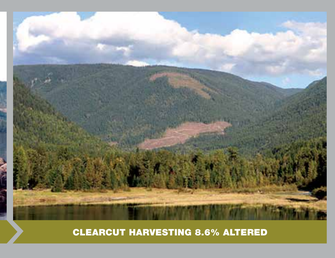
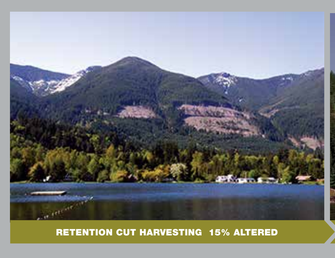
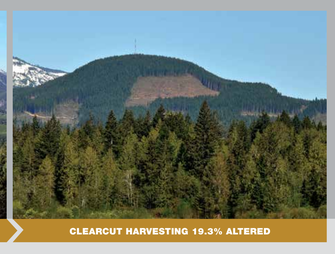
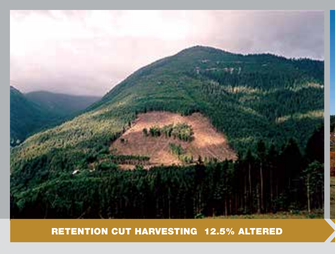
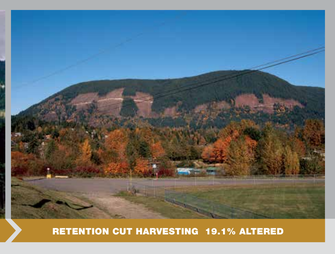
A Guide to Visual Quality Objectives

Categories of Visually Altered Forest Landscapes

VISUAL QUALITY OBJECTIVES	CLEARCUT HARVESTING		RETENTION CUT HARVESTING		PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING	
PRESERVATION Alteration is very small in scale, and not easily distinguishable from the pre-harvest landscape ***Percent alteration in perspective view:*** *0% of ground may be visible*						
	CLEARCUT HARVESTING 0% ALTERED	CLEARCUT HARVESTING 0% ALTERED	RETENTION CUT HARVESTING 0% ALTERED	RETENTION CUT HARVESTING 0% ALTERED	PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING 0% VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED	PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING 0% VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED
RETENTION Alteration is difficult to see, small in scale, and natural in appearance ***Percent alteration in perspective view:*** *0% to 1.5% of ground may be visible*						
	CLEARCUT HARVESTING 1% ALTERED	CLEARCUT HARVESTING <1% ALTERED	RETENTION CUT HARVESTING .05% ALTERED	RETENTION CUT HARVESTING 1.4% ALTERED	PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING 46% VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED	PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING 60% VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED
PARTIAL RETENTION Alteration is easy to see, small to medium in scale, and natural and not rectilinear or geometric in shape ***Percent alteration in perspective view:*** *1.6% to 7% of ground may be visible*						
	CLEARCUT HARVESTING 3.1% ALTERED	CLEARCUT HARVESTING 4.7% ALTERED	RETENTION CUT HARVESTING 7.0% ALTERED	RETENTION CUT HARVESTING 7.0% ALTERED	PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING 44% VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED	PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING 56% VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED
MODIFICATION Alteration is very easy to see, and is: **A** large in scale and natural in its appearance, or **B** small to medium in scale but with some angular characteristics ***Percent alteration in perspective view:*** *7.1% to 18% of ground may be visible*						
	CLEARCUT HARVESTING 12.4% ALTERED	CLEARCUT HARVESTING 8.6% ALTERED	RETENTION CUT HARVESTING 15% ALTERED	RETENTION CUT HARVESTING 17% ALTERED	PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING 72% VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED	PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING 92% VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED
MAXIMUM MODIFICATION Alteration is very easy to see, and is: **A** very large in scale, **B** rectilinear and geometric in shape, or **C** both ***Percent alteration in perspective view:*** *18.1% to 30% of ground may be visible*						
	CLEARCUT HARVESTING 16% ALTERED	CLEARCUT HARVESTING 19.3% ALTERED	RETENTION CUT HARVESTING 12.5% ALTERED	RETENTION CUT HARVESTING 19.1% ALTERED	PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING 83% VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED	PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING 90% VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED

THE DEFINITIONS

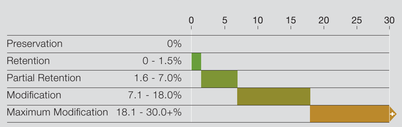
Visual Quality Objectives
Visual Quality Objectives are defined in the Forest Planning and Practices Regulation to provide qualitative descriptions of expected visual conditions.

Achieving Visual Quality Objectives
The application of Visual Design Concepts and Principles are essential to the success of achieving Visual Quality Objectives.

Indicators for Achieving Visual Quality Objectives
Visual Quality Research suggests that scale of alteration for clearcutting and remaining tree density (volume/stems per hectare) for partial cutting are useful indicators of achieved visual condition.

CLEARCUT HARVESTING ALTERATION GUIDE

The clearcut alteration percentages allowed for each Visual Quality Objective

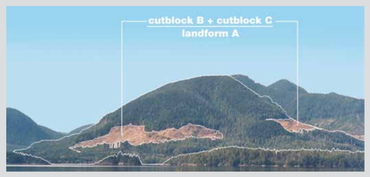


ALTERATION GUIDE APPLIED TO AN IDENTIFIABLE LANDFORM

Calculate percent alteration using this equation:

$$\left(\frac{\text{CUTBLOCK B + CUTBLOCK C}}{\text{LANDFORM A}}\right) \times 100 = \%\ \text{ALTERATION}$$

Percentage alteration numbers must be applied to readily identifiable landforms (not applied against an entire visible landscape). A landform is a distinct topographic feature, is three-dimensional in form, and is generally defined by ridges, valleys, shorelines, and skylines. Landform examples include hills and mountains. For more information:
www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/values/visual/index.htm



PARTIAL CUT HARVESTING ALTERATION GUIDE

Use this table to calculate volume/stems per hectare removed for partial cutting

This Partial Cut Harvesting Alteration Guide may be applied across the landscape as this measure is landform independent.

Harvest Types

- RETENTION
- PARTIAL RETENTION
- MODIFICATION

VOLUME/STEMS REMOVED (%) \ TREE HEIGHT (m) OF RESIDUAL TREES	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
0	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	R	PR	PR
10	R	R	R	R	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
20	R	R	R	R	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR
30	R	R	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	M
40	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	M	M	M
50	PR	PR	PR	PR	PR	M	M	M	M	M
60	PR	PR	PR	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
70	PR	PR	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
80	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M
90	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M	M

BRITISH COLUMBIA

For more information about managing visual resources, please contact

Ministry of Forests, Lands and
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Resource Practices Branch
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www.for.gov.bc.ca/hfp/values/visual/index.htm

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