Protecting Gene Pool Reserves

Cancels: This procedure replaces guideline GL 14-004-020, issued August, 1999. Implement immediately.

Date: May 2000

Application: All Forests

DISCUSSION

This procedure identifies the process DNR will use to protect or relocate designated gene pool reserve (GPR) stands. These GPR stands are considered to be a trust asset that the department intends to maintain and improve to protect the genetic integrity of future forests.

The department identified Douglas-fir stands in every 500-foot elevation band of every seed zone in western Washington that contained at least 1,000 acres of trust land. These stands were then designated as GPR stands and have been removed from the harvest base (i.e., are designated as off-base land (see PR 14-004-010). Management activities are not permitted in these GPR areas unless the stand is damaged by catastrophic events (see PR 14-004-020). (Note: Although Forest Resource Plan Policy 15 applies to both eastern and western Washington, there are no designated GPR on the eastside at this time.)

The department will evaluate management options (i.e., keep, relocate, or eliminate the GPR) when:

- a designated GPR is impacted by a proposed activity (such as a land exchange),
- a designated GPR is impacted by a catastrophic event,
- access to a proposed timber sale is blocked by a GPR, and
- fish or wildlife habitat or water quality is impacted by existing roads and road relocation through a GPR is needed.

The department will consider the importance of the specific resource and the availability of a replacement stand before choosing to eliminate a GPR stand.

Action

(1) Evaluate options when a GPR may be included in a proposed activity. Consider:

- excluding the GPR from the proposed activity area.
- replacing the GPR with another stand that contains a similar resource. Contact the Lands and Resources Division's geneticist to determine if a suitable replacement stand exists.
- eliminating the GPR. Contact the Lands and Resources Division's geneticist to determine the impact.

(2) Notify the Lands and Resources Division geneticist if a GPR is going to be included in a management activity proposal (i.e., before requesting approval to include the GPR in the management activity).

(3) Request approval from the Lands and Resources Division manager to include the GPR in a proposed management activity including any proposed land exchange or sale. Provide:

- reasons for including the GPR in the proposed activity or exchange,
- impacts of both including and not including the GPR (i.e., impacts to the trust, specific timber sale, and genetic resource),
- alternatives that were considered, and
- the reasons why alternatives were found to be unacceptable.

The decision should be based on the criticality of the GPR to the activity and the impact of losing the GPR.

(4) Record decisions in the Planning and Tracking (P&T) system.

- Record denied requests and end this procedure.

- Record approved requests and document whether the GPR will be replaced or eliminated. If the GPR is replaced, include the location of the new stand and ensure that the new stand is placed off-base (see PR 14-004-010).

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