Reforestation

Cancels: PR 14-006-010 (Nov 2003)

Date: April 2008

Application: All forested state trust lands

Discussion: Prompt reforestation is required by forest practice rules for establishing and developing forests. It is the step in sustainable forestry in which the future stand can be influenced more than at any other decision point. This procedure summarizes regulatory requirements and Department direction for reforestation on forested state trust lands. Department education and training will sustain region capability to practice state-of-the art reforestation techniques and field craft in implementing this procedure.

Action: Forest stands subjected to final harvest shall be promptly reforested. Reforestation shall be by planting, natural regeneration, or a combination thereof. Reforestation efforts shall aim towards best attainment of forest management unit (FMU) objectives (re. PR 14-005-010, FMU Rotational Objectives), as determined in silvicultural rotational prescriptions (re. PR 14-005-060, Silvicultural Rotational Prescriptions). In order to preserve the native forest gene pool, seed source shall be consistent with the USDA-Forest Service/DNR publication "Washington Tree Seed Transfer Zones" (2002) for forest collection or, for seed orchard collection, comparable breeding zones.

Required Steps:

1. Reforestation planning shall begin as a part of the FMU silvicultural rotational prescription process and guide timber sale preparation/design by considering current harvest revenue along with projected future revenues (inter-generational equity).

   a. Planting shall be the first consideration for reforestation. Natural regeneration is intended for situations where suitable advanced regeneration or the probability of viable seed-fall, germination, and survival indicate achievement of targeted stocking and species composition as specified in the silvicultural prescription.

   b. Surveys: As a minimum, every reforestation project shall receive at least one early survey (after the first growing season following planting, or a natural regeneration survey within two years following harvest) and at least one subsequent survey to certify that desired species are present in prescribed numbers and distribution, vigorous, and beyond lethal vegetative competition ("free to grow"). Additional surveys shall be added as needed to ensure timely re-planting or vegetation management. Surveys may vary from formal plots on a grid to informal walk-through estimates (re. PR 14-006-010, Surveying Young Stands). The forester's professional judgment shall determine survey intensity. Survey intensity must satisfy the need for accuracy to guide a process that maximizes trust benefit for the site. All samples, whether formal or estimates, shall be recorded in P&T.

   c. Site preparation and management of competing vegetation (re. Under Controlling Competing Vegetation – PR 14-006-040, under Pesticides – TK 14-006-060 – Safety and several guidelines) shall be intrinsic to the reforestation process and shall employ

preventive and/or active measures to best attain prescription rotational objectives.

d. Forest Health: The reforestation process shall incorporate the concept that forest health is facilitated by species diversity and tree vigor.

2. The reforestation process shall terminate with the FMU being stocked and free to grow.

a. "Stocked" shall mean presence of viable crop trees in sufficient numbers, distribution, species, and vigor to accomplish rotational objectives per the FMU silvicultural prescription—as evidenced by appropriate intensity of surveys.

b. "Free to grow" shall mean that a sufficient number of suitable crop trees are beyond lethal suppression —as evidenced by appropriate intensity of surveys.

Other Requirements:

The maximum periods within which to achieve stocking targets (not necessarily "free to grow") after final harvest are:

Westside	Planted—Site III and Better	Natural Regen—Site III and Better	Planted—Site IV and Poorer	Natural Regen—Site IV and Poorer
	3 years	5 years	5 years	10 years

Eastside	Planted	Natural Regen
	5 years	10 years

Stocking shall be in accordance with the silvicultural rotational prescription, but not less than:

Westside
190 crop trees per acre of vigorous, undamaged, well-distributed seedlings of commercial tree species

Eastside
150 crop trees per acre of vigorous, undamaged, well-distributed seedlings of commercial tree species

Remedial action (e.g., site preparation, replanting, vegetation management) shall correct departures from stocking levels specified or implied in silvicultural prescriptions and the above schedules at first biologically and budgetarily available opportunity.

Summary

Reforestation shall be prompt and site-specific. A professional assessment of each situation shall certify when stocking and free-to-grow requirements are met. Timely remedial action shall address departure from stocking levels specified or implied in silvicultural prescriptions. Reforestation activity prescriptions, treatments, and certifications shall be recorded in P&T.

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