



Update on forest management guidelines revision process

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Timber Producers Association Annual Meeting
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Timeline

Task	Date
Scoping	January – June 2010
Evaluation (Site-level committee)	Sept. 2010 – Nov. 2011
Council preliminary decision	January-March 2012
Peer and public review	May - June 2012
Economic analysis	June-July 2012
Final changes adopted	July-Sept. 2012
Publish new guidelines	End of 2012

Topics considered

Harvest monitoring

Retention of balsam regen.

Erosion control

Peatland crossings

Rutting metric

Seasonal ponds

Watershed condition

Invasive species

Infrastructure

Leave trees

Biomass harvesting

Riparian guidelines

Changes were primarily
limited to these topics

Preliminary changes

Allowable infrastructure

- tiered amount based on harvest size

Biomass harvesting guidelines

- Modify 20% backhaul of FWD depending on incidental breakage
- Deviate from FWD retention to achieve silvicultural goals
- Language changes to address differences in slash/FWD retention

Leave tree guidelines

- Allow scattered and clumped leave trees to be used in conjunction
- Use a distribution that achieves a desired future condition
- Allow RMZ area to count towards recommended leave tree area
- Consider economic value when choosing which trees to leave

Harvest size	Infrastructure area
< 20 acres	1 acre
20-30 acres	5% of harvest
>30 acres	3% of harvest

Preliminary changes

Riparian management zones

- Modification of RMZ widths
- Minimum of 60 ft² residual basal area for all RMZ's

Stream and lake characteristics	RMZ widths (ft)
All trout streams and lakes and their tributaries	165
All non-trout streams > 3 ft. All non-trout lakes/wetlands > 1 ac.	120
All non-trout streams < 3 ft. All non-trout lakes/wetlands < 1 ac.	50

Language changes / added information (these are not new guidelines)

- Clarify when erosion control is needed and necessary
- Informational section on consideration of overall watershed condition
- General information on threat of invasive species
 - guidelines/alternative approaches currently being considered by MFRC
- Other minor information items to be developed (e.g., master logger program)

Review of preliminary changes

Peer review (2 categories)

Scientific – aquatic and wildlife biology, forest ecology, soils, silviculture

Practitioner – loggers, landowners, foresters

- 22 individuals total, reviews due by mid-June

Public review

- Notice of comment period sent out in early May
- Electronic submission of comments required
- Comment period closes 5 p.m. on June 8th (tomorrow)
- Materials and link for submission on MFRC website:

http://www.frc.state.mn.us/initiatives_sitelevel_management_revision.html

Next steps

Economic analysis – conducted by staff (guidance from outside economists)

- Focus on infrastructure, RMZ/leave tree area, update RSTC economic analysis

Consider/incorporate peer/public review comments

- Initial recommendations by site-level committee (late June 2012)
- Final approval by full Council (July-September 2012)

Publish guidelines

- Field manual (timber harvesting guidelines)
- Options for complete guidebook still being considered
 - LCCMR proposal submitted for web-based publication (with MLEP)

