

Taan Forest Ltd & Limited Partnership Forest Stewardship Plan - Major Amendment Supporting Document

6.165 Intermediate Entry Cutting - Commercial Thinning

Entries are planned in 10 year +/- intervals removing 10m²/ha to 40m²/ha BA of the stand depending on external factors and stand attributes (windfirmness, location, stand health, site degradation (trails)). Younger second growth stands will be targeted (30 to 140 years) to capture volume that will be lost as the stand naturally self-thins. Typically, spruce or spruce hemlock stands will be chosen however cedar stands can be targeted as well.

A pre-harvest stand profile of diameters, species and heights will be selected for harvest (generally thinning from below) for uniform harvest throughout the standard unit. Heavily diseased trees with no market value will be felled to waste unless of wildlife habitat potential or non-timber resource value. The remaining stand will have a range of diameters and species composition similar to the pre-existing stand.

The stand is expected to continue to develop for future harvest opportunities. Future harvest entries may be for additional commercial thinning or a clear cut/ retention silviculture system.

Road and trail networks are expected to be maintained throughout the rotation of the stand to allow for planned entries or final harvest.

The size of the intermediate entry will vary by stand size, reserves and other FSP or high-level restrictions. Small groups of trees should not be planned for removal in a commercial thin stand. If groups of trees are removed the opening size must be less than or equal to 0.25ha. This size of opening is not mapped, has no associated regeneration and requirements to establish a Free Growing Stand. The opening is small enough that there would be no impact on the overall productivity and future viability of harvesting the remainder of the stand. Openings > 0.25ha in white wood stands (Hw/ Ss) will become their own SU and managed to an even aged standard. If openings >0.25ha are planned within a commercial thin stand of cedar the opening size must exceed 0.5 ha and will be managed as a separate SU utilizing even aged standards. An opening size of 0.5 ha is the minimum opening size to allow enough light for the cedar to regenerate.

One Intermediate Entry Cutting Stocking Standard ID number will be created and applied to all standard Units where Commercial Thinning is prescribed. A commercial thin will not have any stocking (planting/ regeneration) requirements as a stand with >40m²/ ha is considered "stocked". A commercial thin will have the SS ID number applied to the Standard Unit. The SS ID will indicate the Basal area to be retained and a 1 year Early Free Growing date and a 3 Year Late Free Growing Date. This "window" between Early and Late Free Growing dates allows for survey time to ensure the target residual Basal Area is retained in the SU and no areas >0.25ha are created. If areas are created >0.25ha by natural events after harvest completion, the new opening may have to be amended and managed with an even aged stocking standard. If less than the target residual basal area of 40m²/ha is surveyed, an amendment and new stocking standard would have to be applied (SEDRS or re-evaluation of the silviculture system to meet Even aged standards). Utilizing the approved variation mechanism in RESULTS the basal area retention and preferred and acceptable species can be updated for specific standard units once the SS ID is entered for a new opening in RESULTS.

Table 12: Stocking Standards Application

Contiguous Opening Size for Standard Unit (ha)	Standard Unit Basal Area Retention (m ² /ha)	Applicable Stocking Standard
<p>>0.5 No commercial thinning will be planned where the minimum SU size is <0.5 ha</p>	<p>≥ 40 Planned CT entries are to remove 10m² to 40 m² /ha without reducing the residual basal area below 40m². Residual stems are ecological suitable and will provide an economical viable stand for future harvest (10 – 20yrs)</p>	<p>Commercial Thinning 2nd growth stands only</p>
<p>>0.1</p>	<p>>5 to < 40</p>	<p>SEDRS Single entry only, not for intermediate Cutting Use</p>
<p>>0.25 (Ss/ Hw stands) >0.50 (Cw/Yc stands) Minimum opening size to allow for enough light for successful regeneration</p>	<p><5</p>	<p>Even Aged</p>
<p><0.25</p>	<p><5</p>	<p>N/A Left for Natural regeneration, surrounding stand is assumed fully stocked with ecologically suitable species</p>