



FOREST CERTIFICATION GREEN-UP GUIDELINES

This information is provided by the DNR to assist in identifying and resolving green-up conflicts.

The purpose of these guidelines is to help minimize the visual impact of clearcut and seed tree silvicultural prescriptions and to conform to the indicators of Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) Performance Measure 5.3. To do so, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) hereby implements guidance to meet green-up requirements. On certified forestlands, the DNR will use the following tools, information, and guidance to recognize when a proposed or prescribed clearcut or seed tree harvest may cause conflicts with forest certification green-up requirements.

Performance Measure 5.3. Program Participants shall adopt a green-up requirement or alternative methods that provide for visual quality.

Indicators:

1. Program implementing the green-up requirement or alternative methods.
2. Harvest area tracking system to demonstrate compliance with the green-up requirement or alternative methods.
3. **Trees in clearcut harvest areas are at least 3 years old or 5 feet high at the desired level of stocking before adjacent areas are clearcut, or as appropriate to address operational and economic considerations, alternative methods to reach the performance measure are utilized by the Program Participant.**

Identification of Potential Green-Up Conflicts

Interactive maps located within the Enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS) or Michigan Forest Inventory (MiFI) can be accessed to identify potential areas that may cause green-up conflicts.

Implementation

The following are instances during the forest inventory and compartment review process where compliance with the green-up requirement may be verified:

- 1) **Forest Inventory:** Potential conflict between a potential treatment and the green-up of adjacent stands can be assessed during compartment inventory by evaluating records of regeneration checks of regenerating stands (as coded in MiFI).
- 2) **Pre-review:** A check for potential conflict between an approved treatment and the green-up of adjacent stands should be conducted during the pre-review process to avoid potential conflicts before actual sale preparation. At this point, all treatment proposals are reviewed and agreed to by unit staff. Unit managers are required to review all treatments to ensure they meet current guidelines. Use GIS or MiFI to identify and resolve possible green-up conflicts prior to proposals being posted for public comment.
- 3) **Compartment Review:** Potential green-up conflicts may be assessed by unit and district staff during review and final approval of proposed treatments.
- 4) **Post Compartment Review Changes:** All post compartment review changes will be reviewed for conformance to the green-up standards by unit manager and district inventory and planning specialist before approval by district managers.
- 5) **Timber Sale Preparation:** A final check of the green-up of adjacent stands (age, height and stocking) is conducted at the time of timber sale preparation to be sure that no recently approved sales (new inventory, out-of-year-of-entry changes, etc.) will cause conflicts. Any potential conflict should be resolved prior to timber sale preparation. Conformance with green-up requirements is recorded on the Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6). This step should be done by the unit responsible for the timber sale preparation.

Alternative Measures

Compliance to the SFI green-up performance measure is not meant to change the management strategy or decrease acres treated. The performance measure is not a totally inflexible rule. Alternative methods can be implemented with adequate justification. This justification must be documented on the Timber Sale Proposal Checklist (R4031-6). Reasons for using alternative methods include situations where operational and economic considerations need to be addressed. The alternative methods must reduce the visual impact of the clearcut.

Additional Guidance

- 1) Group stands scheduled for clearcut or seed tree treatments into the same timber sale contract when possible. This may be considered, even if the stands are in two different compartments or management units.
- 2) Two adjacent clearcut or seed tree treatments will only be acceptable, if there is documented management, economic or operational objective and other techniques are implemented to reduce the visual impact of the treatment (e.g. locate retention areas between two clearcuts).
- 3) A clearcut or seed tree prescription may be approved at compartment review, even though it may be adjacent to an existing contracted clearcut or seed tree harvest that has yet to be completed. In this instance, the newly approved treatment must consider alternative measures or be delayed until green-up requirements are met in the unharvested adjacent stand.
- 4) A clearcut or seed tree prescription may be approved at compartment review, if it can be combined with a previously approved adjacent clearcut or seed tree treatment that has yet to be contracted.