



Update on Stocking Standards and Rules

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Development of Rules

▶ Even Age Standards 2016

Advocacy for new legislation-Assembly Bill No. 417

- ▶ William Main Group
- ▶ 2-3 year process
- ▶ Many meetings
- ▶ Including CLFA Spring 2018!!!!!!!
- ▶ Exhaustive record compiled, compelling case



The Law

- ▶ 4561. Stocking standards.
- ▶ It is the purpose of this section to set forth resource conservation standards for Timber Operations, **and to ensure that a cover of trees of commercial species, sufficient to utilize adequately the suitable and available growing space**, is maintained or established after Timber Operations.
- ▶ To that end, the following resource conservation standards define minimum acceptable stocking, and an area covered by a timber harvesting plan shall be classified as acceptably stocked if either of the following conditions exist within five years after completion of Timber Operations:
 - ▶ (a) **The area contains an average point count of 300 per acre**, except that in areas which the registered professional forester who prepares the timber harvesting plan has determined are site IV classification or lower, the minimum average point count shall be 150 per acre.

The Change

- ▶ 4561.2. Alternative stocking standards.
- ▶ Notwithstanding Section 4561.1 or the resource conservation standards relating to stocking pursuant to Section 4561, **the board may adopt alternative stocking standards** that meet the purposes of Section 4561 if those alternative standards reasonably address the variables in forest characteristics, **achieve suitable resource conservation, and contribute to specific forest health and ecological goals as defined by the board.**

Development of Rules

▶ Uneven Age Standards 2019

No Legislation involved- yet

- ▶ Unevenage working group- authorized by Board of Forestry
- ▶ 2-3 year process
- ▶ Many meetings
- ▶ Including CLFA!!!!
- ▶ Exhaustive record compiled, compelling case

The Law

- ▶ 4561. Stocking standards.
- ▶ The average residual basal area, measured in stems **one inch or larger in diameter is at least 85 square feet per acre**, except that in areas that the registered professional forester who prepares the timber harvesting plan has determined are **site II classification or lower, the minimum average residual basal area shall be 50 square feet per acre**

Overview- Issues Identified

- ▶ Shade intolerant reproduction
- ▶ Fire resilience
- ▶ Technical issues

1. Alternative Rx:

- ▶ Potential solution to several problems
- ▶ General experience has been that such creative “non-standard” approaches are met with skepticism by reviewing agencies, which in turn leads to extended review times

2. Group Selection

- ▶ Larger Groups.
- ▶ Third Generation Entries.
- ▶ Increase Area of Group Openings to something higher than 20%.

3. Transition

- ▶ Eliminate the upper limit of stocking.
- ▶ Reduce Site I stocking level from current 85 to 50 sq. ft. BA/ac.
- ▶ Remove the requirement for Selection regeneration method after two subsequent Transition entries.

4. Southern Sub District Rules

- ▶ Allow more harvesting than 50% of trees between 12 and 18 inches
- ▶ Other possible changes for flexibility

5. Technical Issues

- ▶ Allow for basal area credit hardwoods as well as snags (like current oak silviculture standard). Allow for lower snag standards (smaller sizes allowed).
- ▶ Allow for more flexibility in group B justification-like current oak standards.
- ▶ Rules do not reflect heterogeneity in many stands.
- ▶ More flexibility for plan submitters on the “8 18” rule to allow for better spacing

The Rule

- ▶ Not more than ~~20%~~ one third of the stocked plots may meet Stocking Standards utilizing the standards of 14 CCR § 912.7(b)(1), [932.7(b)(1); 952.7(b)(1)] ~~with trees that are at least ten (10) years old.~~ The minimum required age of the trees utilized under these standards shall be ten (10) years old, and shall be based on the percentage of the Plan area harvested by this method in Small Group clearings as described in the table below:

Re-entry

<u>Percentage of stand harvested as small group clearings</u>	<u>Minimum age of trees utilizing the standards of 14 CCR § 912.7(b)(1), [932.7(b)(1); 952.7(b)(1)]</u>
<u>20.0% or less</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>20.1-22%</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>22.1-24%</u>	<u>12</u>
<u>24.1-26%</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>26.1-28%</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>28.1-30%</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>30.1-32%</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>32.1-33.33%</u>	<u>17</u>

MSP requirement changed

- ▶ For unevenaged management, ~~complying with the seed tree retention standards pursuant to 14 CCR § 913.1(c)(1)(A) [933.1(c)(1)(A), 953.1(c)(1)(A)] or 913.2(b)(6) [933.2(b)(6), 953.2(b)(6)],~~ meeting minimum stocking and basal area standards for the selected silvicultural methods as contained in these Rules ~~only with group A species,~~ and protecting the soil, air, fish and wildlife, water resources and other public trust resources through the application of these Rules.

My thoughts

- ▶ MSP is....
- ▶ How much growing stock; and
- ▶ Held for how long; and
- ▶ At what risk?

FIN