



Idaho Forest Practices Act Rule Summaries

IFPA - Residual Stocking and Reforestation

Rule 050. Residual Stocking and Reforestation.

01. Purpose. The purpose of these rules is to provide for residual stocking and reforestation that will maintain a continuous growing and harvesting of forest tree species by describing the conditions under which reforestation will be required, specifying the minimum number of acceptable trees per acre, the maximum period of time allowed after harvesting for establishment of forest tree species, and for sites not requiring reforestation, to maintain soil productivity and minimize erosion.

02. Quality of Residual Stocking. On any operation, trees left for future harvest shall be of acceptable species and adequately protected from harvest damage to enhance their survival and growth. This may be accomplished by locating roads and landings and by conducting felling, bucking, skidding, yarding, and decking operations so as to minimize damage to residual trees. Acceptable residual trees should have a minimum live crown ratio of thirty percent (30%), minimum basal scarring, and should not have dead or broken tops. When stands have a high percentage of unacceptable trees, consider stand replacement rather than intermediate cuttings.

03. Sites Unpractical to Reforest. Sites unpractical to reforest, generally ponderosa pine and drier Douglas-fir habitat types, shall not be harvested below minimum stocking, unless the site is converted to some other use, or in instances of wildfire, insects, disease or other natural causes where salvage of the damaged timber is planned.

a. When harvesting timber on these sites, one (1) of the following actions must be taken:

i. Establish a new stand by leaving seed trees on the site and inter-planting at least once within five (5) years of completing the harvest, if needed to meet minimum stocking.

ii. Establish a new stand of timber by planting the site with an acceptable tree species, and inter-planting at least once within five (5) years of the original planting, if needed to meet minimum stocking.

b. If the efforts listed in Subparagraphs 050.03.a.i. and 050.03.a.ii. (above) fall short of meeting the minimum stocking level, the landowner will be encouraged, but not required, to meet the minimum stocking level through additional reforestation efforts.

04. Stocking. Stocking will be deemed adequate immediately following harvest if the following number of acceptable trees per acre, within each specified region, for at least one (1) size class, are reasonably well distributed over the area affected by forest harvesting. (NOTE: (1) DBH = Average Diameter (outside of the bark) of a tree four and one half (4.5) feet above mean ground level):

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Minimum Stocking - Acceptable Trees			
Idaho Region *	Size Class DBH (inches)**	Average Number of Retained Trees Per Acre	Average Spacing (feet)
North	0" - 2.9"	170	16 x 16
South	0" - 2.9"	125	18 x 18
North	3.0" - 10.9"	110	19 x 19
South	3.0" - 10.9"	75	24 x 24
North	11.0" and greater	20	46 x 46
South	11.0" and greater	15	53 x 53

*Forest Regions. Two (2) regions of forest land: one (1) being north of the Salmon River and one (1) being south of the Salmon River.

**DBH. Average diameter (outside of bark) of a tree four and one half (4.5) feet above mean ground level.


If immediately following harvest, the stand consists of retained trees of mixed size classes that are reasonably well distributed over the harvested area, and none of the size classes individually equal or exceed the minimum trees per acre shown above, stocking will also be deemed adequate if the weighted total of all of the size classes of the retained trees exceeds a value of one hundred seventy (170) for a stand in the North Region and one hundred twenty-five (125) in the South Region. The weighted total is calculated by multiplying the number of retained trees per acre in each size class by the weighting factors below, and adding all of these size class totals together.

Size Class	Weight
0" - 2.9"	1
3.0" - 10.9"	1.6
11.0" and greater	8.4

Harvested stands which are not adequately stocked, as defined above, will be subject to supplemental reforestation requirements specified in Subsection 050.06 (below). Minimum stocking requirements for Class I stream protection zones are specified in Subparagraphs 030.07.e.ii. and 030.07.e.vi. (see IFPA - Shade).

05. Reforestation Exemptions.

- a. Reforestation is not required for:
 - i. Noncommercial forest land;
 - ii. Land converted to another use. This may include land converted to roads used in a forest practice;
 - iii. A forest practice which will result in ten (10) acres or less below minimum stocking levels.
- b. On lands exempted under Subsection 050.03, where reforestation is not being planned, some form of grass or planted cover shall be established within one (1) year in order to maintain soil productivity and minimize erosion.



06. Supplemental Reforestation. Seeding and/or planting may be required if after three (3) growing seasons from the date of harvest, stocking levels do not meet the standards in Subsection 050.04. Required seeding and/or planting shall be completed before the end of the fifth growing season following the time of harvest, except that the director shall grant an extension of time if suitable seeds or seedlings are not available or if weather or other conditions interfere.

a. Reforestation practices must insure seedlings become established. This can be accomplished by adequate site preparation, utilizing acceptable seed or seedlings, following accepted planting or sowing practices, or by other suitable means.

b. The party responsible for reforestation is the landowner during the harvest which reduced stand stocking below the minimum levels stated in Subsection 050.04. (above).