

APPENDIX 9

Silvicultural and Forest Aesthetics Handbook 2431.5

Excerpt

Class D-Special Forest Use Zone

- A. Criteria - designated special use areas.
- B. Objective - manage these areas as outlined in property management plan.
- C. Examples - Natural, Scientific, Wild River, and Wilderness areas (Emphasis added).

Stand Treatment Methods in Aesthetic Zones

Wherever possible aesthetic management should be integrated into commercial logging operations. However, it is anticipated that due to the variety of conditions and the special attention demanded in the treatments that separate small sale contracts or permits will be needed to accomplish the management objective. The development of small-scale jobbers who are interested in and properly equipped to handle aesthetic zone cuttings would be the ideal. Whichever method is used, certain principles of stand treatment should be followed.

The following stand treatment methods are intended to:

- (1) Maintain aesthetic zones in a healthy, forested, and aesthetically pleasing condition.
- (2) Reduce damage to residual trees.
- (3) Reduce visible evidence of logging.
- (4) Reduce soil erosion.

Logging Control

- A. All logging with the exception of pure conifer stands should be done when residual hardwoods are leafless to reduce falling damage and to eliminate persistent foliage in tops.
- B. All tops should be treated so that all slash is within 18 inches of the ground. This may require disposal effort by the sale contractor or by force account.
- C. No tops will be left in ditches, on shoulders or in streams or lakes.
- D. Landings for forest products should not be permitted in the aesthetic zone. No debarking equipment should be allowed to operate within sight of the travelled thoroughfare.
- E. Logging road entrances to public roads should be constructed in a manner that will not detract from scenic values. Entrances should be at an angle instead of perpendicular and curve so as to screen the road. Excessive bulldozing effort should not be permitted.
- F. All skid trails should be well-spaced and on the contour and lead back away from the aesthetic zone. Skidding to public roadsides should be discouraged.
- G. Skidding equipment must be of a type approved for use in aesthetic zones. Excessively large equipment which will cause damage should not be allowed. Skidding must be done in a careful manner to protect residual trees.

Sale Design

- A. Personnel establishing timber sales in or adjacent to aesthetic zones must have a sensitivity for scenic values. Orientation and training must be given in techniques to be used to preserve and enhance these values.
- B. Distances specified in the prescriptions are intended to be guidelines. Zone boundaries should be established so as to blend with the environment, i.e., topography, stand conditions, sight distances, etc. Management should blend.

- C. Strip clear-cuttings should be curved to avoid "tunnel-like" appearances.
- D. Paint marks should face away from the road.
- E. Plastic ribbons and painted boundaries should be used discretely. Excessive painting of survey corner witness trees is unnecessary.
- F. Patches of overstocked timber should be retained for variety and cultural interest where possible.
- G. Uniform spacing in plantations and thinnings should be modified to develop a natural stand appearance.
- H. Document outstanding attractions with routed wooden signs to identify what has or is happening.
- I. Vistas should be created to provide views of water or areas of high scenic interest.

Noncommercial Cuttings

Treatments of a noncommercial nature should be made in a manner which will enhance aesthetic values. This means that slash, cut trees, brush, etc., should be within 18 inches of the ground. Stump heights should be low. Saplings should not be severed high above the ground. Salvage for firewood is encouraged where such removal will not have detrimental impact on scenic values.

Herbicide treatment should be avoided in aesthetic zones. Stump treatment to prevent sprouting may be desirable at times. However, mechanical treatment methods are recommended.

Pruning

All pruning should be done according to standard acceptable practices. However, pruning to variable heights should be considered to prevent an artificial appearance to the stand.

Plantings

Tree and shrub plantings can be used to screen unsightly dumps, borrow pits, gravel pits, power and gas line R.O.W.'s, etc. Underplantings and interplantings can often be used to develop long-range solutions to aesthetic problems. Plantings should be adapted to the site and performed according to good forestry practices.