



## Forested Landscapes

### Structural Diversity

2101. The maximum size of openings created by even-aged management will be 40 acres, regardless of forest type, with the following exceptions:

- a. Where proposals for larger openings are approved by the Regional Forester after a 60-day public review;
- b. Where larger openings are the result of natural catastrophic conditions of fire, insect or disease attack, or windstorm; and
- c. Where the area that is cut does not meet the definition of created openings.

**STANDARD** (Amended Regional Guide Silviculture Standards)

2102. The maximum width of openings created by the application of uneven-aged silviculture will be no greater than one to two-tree heights regardless of forest cover type. **GUIDELINE**

2103. The size of the uncut forest areas between openings must be based on the management objectives for the landscape unit being analyzed. If these objectives include creating a mix of vegetation types to benefit the kinds of wildlife associated with early successional stages and edges, the uncut units can be small. If the objectives include provisions for late successional associated species, the uncut units should be large enough to function as an ecological system not overly influenced by the edge. **STANDARD** (Amended Regional Guide Silviculture Standard)

2104. Artificially created openings, as discussed in Standards 2101, 2103 and 2106, will no longer be considered openings when they no longer meet the definition of structural stage 1, the grass/forb stage. However, this criteria



will be validated or modified based upon local conditions encountered during implementation. Criteria to consider in determining when an opening is no longer an opening include:

- a. The desired future conditions planned for the management area;
- b. Visual sensitivity of the area;
- c. The character of the landscape, abundance, quality, and need for cover for big game animals;
- d. Other vegetation that may be present (such as tall shrubs);
- e. Forest health;
- f. Need for seed sources;
- g. Need for interior forest area;
- h. Production of wood fiber; and
- i. Watershed and riparian area protection.

**STANDARD** (In Accordance with Amended Regional Guide Silviculture Standards)

2105. When developing openings in vegetative communities, copy naturally shaped edges. **GUIDELINE**

2106. Avoid altering more than one-third of the edge of a natural opening whenever an artificially created opening is adjacent to a natural opening. Additional edge should not be created until previously treated areas are considered closed, according to Standard 2104. This guideline does not apply to treatments intended to restore meadows to historic conditions. **GUIDELINE** (Amended Regional Guide Silviculture Guideline)

2107. \*Conifer encroachment on areas that have formed over grass, meadow, or hardwood vegetation may be treated (e.g., to conserve habitat for threatened, endangered, and sensitive species, management indicator species and species of local concern, maintain forage base, and landscape diversity). Consider soils that formed under grass or meadow plant communities and other factors in determining extent of pine-encroachment removal. **GUIDELINE**

2108. Consider the landtype association information in Appendix K in designing projects. **GUIDELINE**

2109. Where patch cuts are used to create the grass/forb structural stage on suitable lands, design their size, shape, and location to promote regeneration within five years of the harvest. **GUIDELINE**