

Comments received by the CCBA during the validation audit.

CCB Standards Second Edition

Project: **The Community Ecosystem Restoration Project**

Comment 1

Date: 8 June, 2009

Sent by: George Harper, Research Scientist Stand Development, BC Ministry of Forests and Range

My comments are restricted to questions about the planned brushing and site preparation treatments to enable the growth of planted seedlings.

Fill planting or cluster planting into an established plant association will be a challenge. As stated in the project plan, there may be a need for brushing treatments to facilitate the survival and growth of planted seedlings.

Please consider the following questions:

- Is there a need for browse protection? Deer and rodents can easily damage and kill unprotected seedlings.
 - Are there raised micro-sites (mounds) that would be beneficial to the growth of planted seedlings?
 - Have you considered the use of brush blankets that may provide longer term benefits in extremely brushy, open sky conditions such as grass dominated openings?
 - Have you considered planting native deciduous trees (other than black cottonwood) such as bigleaf maple, alder and birch in order to maintain a broadleaf stand component?
 - Alder along riparian ecosystems may provide benefit to aquatic ecology and stream bank stability. Even though alder is not long lived it may help mitigate the absence of large conifers and may act as a nurse crop. Have you considered cluster planting under alder without felling? Or, partial girdling treatments that may reduce alder canopy leaf area without complete alder removal?
 - Have you considered the influence of slope azimuth on planting-site selection? The amount of light available to a planted seedling during the growing season may change dependent upon its slope position and view of the sun (north versus south facing slopes).
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