

Well-Distributed

Key Comments from Agency Foresters

1. Divide the “well distributed” zone into two parallel zones of equal width with required minimum basal area and live conifer tree count per 1000 feet for each inner zone.
2. Divide the “well distributed” zone into blocks of 100 or 200 feet with required minimum basal area and live conifer tree count as a percent of the per 1,000 foot standards.
3. Set minimum allowance for operational gaps or straight edges of trees next to a final harvest within the RMA and don’t allow enlarging existing low-stocked areas that would require reforestation.
4. Prefer measuring tree stems or stumps, not shade or canopy closure.
5. Use purpose statement. While meeting the standards for basal area and live conifer tree count: do not harvest or enlarge natural gaps of low-stocked trees; minimize operational gaps absent of trees or stocked with few trees; minimize straight edges of trees next to a final harvest within the RMA; and leave riparian trees unevenly distributed, minimizing clumping and uniform spacing.
6. Place the “well-distributed” metrics in a Forest Practices Technical Note, e.g., Forest Practices Technical Note Number 5, Determining the 50-Year Peak Flow and Stream Crossing Structure Size for New and Replacement Crossings.
7. Expect landowners will choose the no cut RMA management option if the “well-distributed” metrics are complicated to understand and implement.