

## **WEST >> NRS Field Guide, Version 3.1: Changes from NCFG, Version 3.0 << WEST**

The following document highlights the changes from the *North Central Field Guide v3.0* to the *Northern Research Station Field Guide v3.1*. The v3.1 field guide must be referenced for complete variable description and procedures of all changes and added regional text that affect data collections procedures in the northern region. When reviewing the printed field guide, please take note of the following:

- If text is highlighted gray or the variable name is highlighted gray, then the information is regional text that has been added to the national text.
- Text in gray highlighted boxes indicates a NRS Note that may be a change for either NE or NC.

[The above information is referenced on page 2 of the *NRS Field Guide, v3.1: NRS Note to User*.]

### **1.0 PLOT LEVEL DATA**

1.6 SUBPLOT EXAMINED, page 19 – This will be coded as a '4' on all plots visited in the field.

1.16 GPS Coordinates, page 25 – The format has changed from DD MM.MMM to DD MM SS.SS

1.16.16.1N GPS PDOP, page 30 – This is a new regional variable.

### **2.0 CONDITION CLASS**

2.4 DELINEATING CONDITION CLASS, page 38 – Jumping nonforest conditions is allowed when forested area across from a forested area is at least 30 ft wide and 120 ft long.

2.4.1 CONDITION CLASS NUMBER, page 42 – The center of Subplot 1 will be classified as Condition 1 no matter the number previously assigned to the point or condition.

2.5 Riparian forest area, page 45 – A Riparian Delineation Flow chart has been added.

2.5.1 RESERVED STATUS, page 46 – Private ownership can not be classified as Reserved.

2.5.2 OWNER GROUP, page 47 -- Only enter owner information into the data recorder if center of point 1 is forested and private. Appendix B has additional regional ownership data collection procedures.

2.5.3+N FOREST TYPE, page 47 – Attempt to match Forest Type name with Species present on plot. If species is not listed, match the associated species even if species is not located in the name.

2.5.7 OWNER CLASS code 41, page 51 – Owner Class 41 (Corporate) includes private educational institutions.

2.5.17 TREATMENT code 10, page 54 – When Cutting (10) is coded as a TREATMENT, it needs to affect 1 acre or more.

2.5.17 TREATMENT code 50, page 55 – Non commercial thinning is regionally included in Other Silvicultural Treatment (50).

2.5.22.1N STAND HISTORY, page 55 – This is a new regional variable.

2.5.23 PHYSIOGRAPHIC CLASS code 33, page 57 – Code 33 (Bays and Wet Pocosins) does not occur in the NRS region. Apply code 31 (Swamps/Bogs). See Appendix 6 for added regional glossary terms for bays and pocosins.

2.5.23.1N PRODUCTIVITY STATUS, page 57 –This is a new regional variable. Productivity Chart with Minimum SI Values is provided for western crews.

2.5.24+N PRESENT NONFOREST LAND USE, page 58 – This national variable will be collected on all Condition Class Status 2 (Nonforest). New variables and definitions have been added.

2.5.24.1N NONFOREST TREES, page 61 – This is a new regional variable.

The following former NC regional CONDITION variable is no longer applicable.

- NC LAND USE – National variables and added NRS variables will now cover this NC variable.

### 3.0 SUBPLOT INFORMATION

3.0, page 63 – If point center can not be occupied safely, the entire subplot will be classified as the condition that prevents the safe occupancy.

3.0, page 63 – Replace subplot and microplot pins if they have deteriorated. Remove the old ones from the plot to reduce the number of markers on plot.

### 4.0 BOUNDARY REFERENCES

4.0 NRS NOTE, page 67 – Boundaries are required between CONDITION CLASSES 1, 2, 3, 4 and/or 5.

4.1 REFERENCE PROCEDURE rule 1, page 68 – A plow line can represent a definite boundary line instead of the boles of the trees.

### 5.0 TREE AND SAPLING DATA

5.0 NRS Note, page 74 – Trees that have been harvested above DBH qualifies as removals. Do not continue to tally these trees.

5.5 HORIZONTAL DISTANCE, page 77 and 78 – If a tree has fallen over, visually stand the tree up to get the distance. See illustrations for examples. Slope/horizontal distance calculation examples have been added.

5.7.2 STANDING DEAD, page 81 and 82 – STANDING DEAD [DEAD] has been moved up the list on the data recorder screen. If this is left as '0' on a dead tree, only Cause of Death is required if the tree was live last time. To determine if tree is STANDING DEAD when it is bent, measure from the base to 4.5 feet and check the angle. New figures 20.1N and 20.2N.

5.9 DIAMETER, page 85 – Do not scribe or paint in Wilderness areas. Follow rules in field guide.

5.9.2 DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT, page 92 – If trees are growing on an object (i.e. a rock), measure from root crown.

5.9.4 DIAMETER AT ROOT COLLAR, page 94 – When species 66 is entered, a DRC application will pop up allowing entry of multiple stems.

5.12.1N TREE CLASS, page 96 – NE and NC TREE CLASS [TCC] have been combined and revised. TREE CLASS flow charts have been added. See Appendix F for TCC example illustrations.

5.12.2N TREE GRADE, page 99 – NE and NC TREE GRADE [TRGD] have been combined and revised. Tree Grading cards have been changed. **The old cards do not apply anymore!!!** See Appendix E for new grading tables.

5.123N SAWLOG LENGTH, 5.12.4N % ROUGH BOARD-FOOT CULL, 5.12.5N % ROTTEN/MISSING BOARD-FOOT CULL, 5.12.6N BOLE LENGTH, 5.25 % ROUGH CUBIC-FOOT CULL, page 101 to 103 – These tree data variables are only recorded in the eastern states.

5.20.7N DAMAGE AGENTS STANDARD, page 110 – Only the Standard Damage Agents list will be collected for all states, east and west.

5.28N-MN BALSAM FIR BOUGHS, page 113 – Balsam Fir Boughs will only be collected in Minnesota. See Appendix D, page 231 for variable description, procedures and codes.

5.31N FOREST TO NONFOREST VARIABLES, page 113 – Forest to Nonforest Variables Chart for Trees

The following former NC regional or national TREE variables are no longer applicable.

- National Tree Damage variables dropped from P2 data collection. It will still be collected to on P3 plots.
- DAMAGE AGENTS MINNESOTA
- MORTALITY YEAR
- PAPER BIRCH BARK CHARACTERISTICS variables

## **7.0 SITE TREE INFORMATION**

7.0 NRS PDR Note, page 117 – Only one site index tree will be required per condition. If download information is included, the only item require to be entered is the condition number the tree represents.

### **National Appendices**

Appendix 5N, Determination of Stocking Values for Land Use Classification – Text has been added explaining how to install temporary subplots for stocking values. Sample stocking worksheets have also been added.

Appendix 6N, Glossary – Regional terms have been added.

### **Regional Appendices**

Appendix A, Plot Establishment and/or Relocation Procedures – SP coordinates will be collected in the same format as PC coordinates (see page 201).

Appendix C, Additional Northern Data Collection Procedures – Example figures have been added in regional (see pages 219 to 223).

Appendix D, State/Species Specific Data Collection Variables and Procedures – This is a new regional appendix that shows added variables and procedures for the state of Maine, Minnesota, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Appendix E, Tables and Charts -- Different Board Foot and Cubic Foot Cull tables have been added.

Appendix H, Tally Items Guides, Sheets and Prompts – The PDR Hot Key list is located on page 293. Index sheet that includes Allegro Prompt Abbreviation, Pages, and Chapters is now at the back of the field guide on page 294.

### **Regional Supplements**

INVASIVE PLANTS PROTOCOLS data will only be collected on a sub-sample of plots during the P3 window. These supplemental instructions will be provided prior to INVASIVE PLANTS PROTOCOL training and data collection.