



Level 1 Tree Marking Course

Forest Stand Requirements for Field Evaluation Audits

Updated May 2016

The purpose of the Field Evaluation Audit is to evaluate a tree marker's work in their own area after the tree marker feels confident that they can apply the competencies required to conduct tree marking as required in the Tree Marking Course. This assumes that the tree marker has been practicing in their home area since passing the course exams and is ready for the Field Evaluation Audit, based on a sense of confidence in his/her marking abilities.

The woodlot chosen needs to have background data from cruising or inventory and should be suited to one of the two main silvicultural systems taught at the course, either:

- tolerant hardwoods selection system or
- pine shelterwood system –regeneration cut and first removal stages of the system are accepted.

A prescription must be written by someone with the proper qualifications (i.e. R.P.F. or associate member of the OPFA with the necessary competencies).

The marking should be done on an operational project area intended to be cut soon after the audit. It needs to be done with tree marking paint and include butt marks. An artificially setup marking area using flagging tape to identify the trees is not acceptable.

Examples of woodlots **that are NOT acceptable for a field evaluation audit** include:

- Understocked hardwood stands: < 24 m²/ha of total basal area. Please be sure that good sampling has been done with a prism or fixed area plot system. Preferably at least 10 well spaced prism plots are used. Be sure the prism has been used carefully. Situations have occurred where the audit BA is considerably different from the prescription BA and this has disqualified the audit.
- Young or single diameter class stands, such as polewood stands that do not have structural diversity and only require spacing.
- Conifer stands/plantations that are young and only require thinning, or a final removal cut as opposed to the regeneration cut stage of shelterwood.
- Other unusual stands or prescriptions that have conditions that do not match those taught at the tree marking course, i.e., a stand of lowland hardwoods or intolerants such as trembling aspen, or a stand appropriate for the clear cutting silvicultural system.

You may receive a Certificate for the tolerant hardwoods selection system or pine

shelterwood system, or both. You will need a separate woodlot for each. Each Field Evaluation Audit typically requires a marked area of approximately 8 hectares (20 acres) in size. The shape of the woodlot must enable the auditor to place at least 10 prism audit plots well-spaced within it. If more than one student marker is involved in the evaluation and they are using a single stand or woodlot, each student marker needs to have flagged off his/her own 8 hectare area. The area being audited must be marked solely by the student marker being audited.

Student Steps for Getting a Field Evaluation Audit Completed

1. Find a suitable woodlot.
2. Collect the appropriate maps, the required inventory data and have a prescription prepared and approved by a qualified person.
3. Contact one or more Level 2 Tree Marking Auditors. Up-to-date lists are available from the Canadian Institute of Forestry (CIF). Find out if they would conduct a Field Evaluation Audit for you. Expect them to charge for their time and expenses. Select an auditor and make arrangements.
4. Provide your background data, prescriptions, maps, aerial photos, etc. to your auditor. They will not be able to conduct the audit without reviewing this information first.
5. Conduct your tree marking.
6. The Level 2 Tree Marking Auditor conducts the audit and will give you a general onsite indication of whether your marking is acceptable.
7. The Auditor will complete the Tree Marking Audit Report form and submit the results to the CIF.
8. The CIF will make your Code of Ethics available for you to accept online through the Learning Compass. Advise the CIF when you have accepted the Code of Ethics.
9. The CIF will then make your Certificate (pine or hardwood or both) available online. You can download and/or print the Certificate at any time.
10. Your Certificate will be valid for 5 years.