QA

Q&A

1.

Q: The previous crew missed a call on two distinct trees growing together - they just tallied it as one tree. It was clearly 2 completely separate stems. What do I do?

A: *The largest tree will be reconciled as the previously measured tree. The smaller tree will be considered a missed tree, Reconcile code of 3 (missed live).*

2.

Q: I have a tree that is alive, but on the ground. Well, it's sort of alive, but it's only alive below 4 1/2 feet. There is a new stem coming straight up off the down tree at around 3 ft., and that one is alive. So looking at the rules on down trees, do I only record the one stem growing up off the down tree and not keep looking down the stem of the down tree for more branches that become trees?

A: *Correct. Only if the down tree were under the duff would you look for additional stems.*

3.

Q: Did you guys ever decide if a true fork is determined where the stem separates or at 3 1/2 ft. above the fork? Where does it have to be 1/3 the diameter of the main stem?

A: *We clarified this in a previously posted document. A fork is determined by the diameter ratio at the fork, not 3.5 feet above the fork.*

4.

Q: What do we call a cemetery for Status?

A: *A cemetery is always nonforest. The Present Nonforest Land Use would be Cultural.*

5.

Q: During a windstorm, one tree falls on another and lands in a fork, causing the tree to split. Now, what was once one tree looks like two trees. Should I add in the split portion as a new stem?

A: *No. Continue to treat it as one stem.*

6.

Q: Is a note required when a site tree is omitted from a condition with a Stand Size class of 1 (seed/sap). It seems unnecessary, since it is obvious why there was no site tree taken.

A: *Yes it is required. Site trees are actually expected, even for seed/sap stands because you can have site trees as small as 3 inches DBH.*

7.

Q: A previous crew misidentified numerous saplings. These saplings were actually shrubs. The trees were given a present status of 0 and reconcile 7. Is this correct?

A: *Yes.*

8.

Q: If I do a stocking check and find that an area is nonforest, do I need to go back to measure crowns for canopy cover as well.

A: *You should be measuring the canopy cover using the subplot method at the same time you are doing your stocking check.*

9.

Q: If an area is clearly nonforest do I need to measure crowns using the subplot method for canopy cover?

A: *No, not if the area is clearly nonforest.*

10.

Q: I have an area of woods that is over an acre, but it's full of paved bike trails every 130 ft. or so. Are these rights of way? Is this considered a recreation area?

A: Paved *trails* are not rights-of-way. Even though they are paved, we consider them part of the forest landscape. The only way this would be considered a recreation area is if the woods contained camping or picnic sites or other evidence of intensive nonforest use. *(In this case the woods were in their natural condition.)*
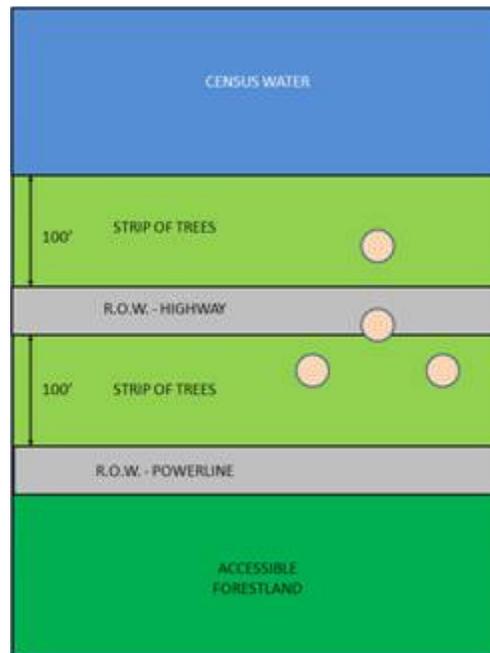

11.

Q: I have a tree that snapped off just below DBH, but there is still a 5-inch diameter splinter sticking up above 4.5 feet. Do I measure this as a tree?

A: *Yes. Do not confuse this with our rule for determining length to the point where 50% of the stem still remains (point of the break).*

12.

Q: Here is the scenario. The nonforest condition was identified easily at PC. The crew then
       used the accessible forestland to the south to jump the powerline to the strip of trees,
       calling subplots 3 and 4 Accessible Forestland. Because double jumping is prohibited,
       the crew then called the strip of trees between the road and the water nonforest. That's
       not how I would have done it. Were they correct?

A: *No. The problem was perhaps in assuming they needed qualifying accessible forestland
       before applying the jumping rule. On page 49, Figure 6.1N (5.0 Regional Field Guide)
       shows otherwise. Two strips less than 120' wide can be combined, provided that together
       they meet the 120' requirement. That's the case in this example. So, in this scenario you
       don't need to consider the accessible forestland to the south. Instead, the two strips on
       either side of the road can be combined to create accessible forestland using just one
       jump.*

13.

Q: I don't understand vegetation Disturbance. The way the field guide reads, almost anything can be considered a Disturbance. If there is some kind of vegetation that covers 25% of the soil surface in a mature stand, is that a Disturbance because it's preventing regeneration?

A: *The national core text is confusing. We've clarified this question to the best of our ability. The guidance we've provided can be found in Appendix C, page 278. In short, no; you would not code vegetation damage that does not affect the existing overstory. Unfortunately, greater consistency in applying Disturbance will rely on a better core definition.*