

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR GIANT TREES

PROCEDURE STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	FOR WHAT?	KEY DOCUMENTS
<p>Giant trees are defined as trees that are at least 85 metres tall or at least 280 cubic metres estimated stem volume. All trees greater than 4.5 metres DBHOB or greater than 80 metres in height will warrant measurement to confirm whether they meet the above definition.</p> <p>This procedure covers the identification, location, nomination, measurement and protection of Giant Trees, in accordance with the Giant Trees Policy. Not all steps may be required for each operation or done in the order indicated.</p> <p>Suggestions for changes to these procedures are welcome and should be made to the Manager Planning (Conservation & Environment).</p>			
<p>1. Searching for Giant Trees - Pre-harvest photogrammetric surveys - all E1 stands on State forest have been PI surveyed for tall stands and tall trees recording the estimated height of the tallest tree in the stand. Map composition (Giant Tree Check) by coupe is available for Districts. The photogrammetric survey for tall trees is not a failsafe procedure. The inability of this survey to identify all tall trees in prospective patches of E1 forest does not imply that they do not occur there.</p>			
Request pre-harvest planning photogrammetric surveys of coupes where local knowledge indicates that giant trees may be present outside PI surveyed E1 stands	District Planning Coordinator	Senior cartographer to assess areas designated by the District as potentially supporting giant trees outside E1 stands and report to District.	Giant Trees Policy
<p>2. Searching for Giant Trees - Pre-harvest ground surveys and coupe visits</p>			
a) Coupe identification	District Planning Coordinator	<p>Trees that may exceed the Giant Trees volume criteria will most often occur in E1 and occasionally in good E2 forest types of c, d and f mature crown densities, where the low stocking will allow for increased diameter increment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All coupes in the draft Three Year Plan that contain E1 forest will be identified by the District Planning Coordinator for field investigation for Giant Trees. 	Three Year Plan
b) Coupe surveys and Planning	District Forest Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Determine when coupes are to be surveyed including which coupes are to be surveyed prior to completion of the three-year plan. 	Giant Trees Coupe Survey Guidelines Giant Tree Nomination

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR GIANT TREES

PROCEDURE STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	FOR WHAT?	KEY DOCUMENTS
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Coupe surveys will be carried out in E1 forest type or other identified tall stands using the Giant Tree Inventory Guidelines. ◆ The Giant Tree Check map (map composer output) for the coupe will guide the location of the coupe survey. The location of each survey transect will be mapped using GPS, all records of giant trees attached to the map and signed off by the District Planning Coordinator and placed on the Operational Planning Advice (OPA) or coupe file; • All trees found to exceed 4.5 metres dbhob should have a preliminary height measurement taken and the location mapped using GPS. The Giant Tree Volume Model should be used for a preliminary volume estimate of the tree. If the preliminary volume estimate exceeds 250m³, proceed with a nomination (see below). • If any trees are found to be 80 metres or taller at preliminary measurement proceed with a nomination (see below). ◆ All potential Giant Trees will be identified, location recorded using GPS and an interim protection zone of 100 metres radius established around them prior to formal measurement following the procedures under 3b, 3c and 4 below. • The results of the Giant Tree coupe survey will be incorporated in the OPA • Where giant trees are identified in or within 100 metres of the coupe boundary the OPA will be provided to the Giant Trees Technical Committee for input and a risk assessment carried out. The Committee's recommendations will be documented 	<p>Form</p> <p>Giant Trees Coupe Survey Guidelines</p>

NB All printed copies of this document are uncontrolled. Refer to the electronic copy on the Forestry Tasmania Intranet EMS site for the latest version.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR GIANT TREES

PROCEDURE STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	FOR WHAT?	KEY DOCUMENTS
		<p>and placed on the operational or coupe file. The FPP cannot be certified until this process has been completed and the outcomes incorporated in the Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> During any routine coupe inspections planners any potential giant trees not recorded in the systematic survey will be recorded. 	
3. Searching for Giant Trees - Operational Coupe Procedures			
a) Identification and preliminary measurement	Harvesting Contractors District staff	<p>Occasionally additional potential Giant Trees, particularly large diameter trees, are identified once a harvesting operation has commenced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where E1 and /or E2 stands occur in a coupe to be harvested the FPP will include the following paragraph:- "The harvest area has the potential to contain giant trees, If the harvesting contractor finds a tree with a breast height diameter greater than 4.5 metres or a total height greater than 80 metres, no forest activities will be carried out within 100 metres of the tree pending detailed height and diameter measurements. The tree will be reported to the Forestry Tasmania harvesting supervisor." <p>In coupes containing E1 or E2, once a harvest operation has commenced, contractors, and field staff should be alert for the presence of Giant Trees, especially large diameter trees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The identification of potential Giant Trees should be brought 	Giant Trees Coupe Survey Guidelines Giant Tree Nomination Form

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR GIANT TREES

PROCEDURE STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	FOR WHAT?	KEY DOCUMENTS
		to the immediate attention of the District Forest Manager and an interim protection zone established around them. The matter should be then referred to the Giant Trees Technical Committee for advice. The advice of the committee should be documented, placed on the operational or coupe file and the FPP amended prior to operations proceeding in the vicinity of the giant tree and surrounding protection zone.	
b) Interim protection	Harvesting Contractors District staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees found to exceed 4.5 metres dbhob (14 metres girth) or taller than 80 metres height at preliminary measurement, shall have an interim protection zone of 100 metres radius immediately established around them. • No harvesting activity or machinery shall be permitted within the interim protection zone once it has been established. • The interim protection zone will remain in place until the tree has been formally assessed and its Giant Tree status resolved. 	
c) Post formal measurement	Senior Planning Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential Giant Trees that are found upon formal measurement to meet the Giant Tree selection criteria will be protected through a variation to the FPP and changes to the harvesting boundary. See Protection & Management below. • Potential Giant trees that are found upon formal measurement NOT to meet the Giant Tree selection criteria can have their interim protection zone removed. 	
4. Nomination Process			
Nomination of Giant Trees	Manager, Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nominations for Giant Trees shall be submitted to the Manager, Resources using the Giant Tree Nomination Form. 	Giant Tree Nomination Form

NB All printed copies of this document are uncontrolled. Refer to the electronic copy on the Forestry Tasmania Intranet EMS site for the latest version.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR GIANT TREES

PROCEDURE STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	FOR WHAT?	KEY DOCUMENTS
		<p>The Manager, Resources will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enter all Giant Tree nominations onto the Giant Trees database; • initiate formal measurement procedures for all new Giant Tree nominations on State forest; • reject any nominations considered unreliable; • notify the District Forest Manager of any nominations in that District • consult the landowner to determine an appropriate and mutually agreed response for nominations other than on State forest eg. Formal measurement and listing on the Register(s). 	<p>Giant Trees database</p> <p>Giant Trees Nominations Process.doc</p>
5. Measurement/remeasurement Methods			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diameter • Height • Volume 	<p>Manager, Inventory /accredited Giant Tree measurers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accrediting technically competent District staff for the measurement of Giant Trees • The accredited Giant Tree measurer will be responsible for the measurement/re-measurement of all new nominations and existing Giant Trees and will be according to standard Forestry Tasmania Inventory practice. • The accredited Giant Tree measurer will inform the District Planning Coordinator and the Giant Tree Technical Committee of the results of formal measurements of new nominations, and results from the remeasurement program. 	<p>Giant Tree Manual.doc</p> <p>Significant Tree Periodic Remeasure Sheet</p>
6. Protection & management			

NB All printed copies of this document are uncontrolled. Refer to the electronic copy on the Forestry Tasmania Intranet EMS site for the latest version.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR GIANT TREES

PROCEDURE STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	FOR WHAT?	KEY DOCUMENTS
<p>MDC Protection Zone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – designing & establishing protection zones – coding and data updates – Revocation of protection zones 	<p>District Planning Coordinator</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nominations that meet the Giant Tree criteria following measurement, will be protected as a minimum within designated MDC Protection Zones. • The Giant Trees Technical Committee will be consulted to determine the size and boundaries of the protection zone and on prescriptions to ensure ongoing protection of the giant trees and surrounding protection zone. The committee's output will be documented and placed on the coupe file. • Protection Zones around Giant Trees should be designed to minimise the risk of damage by fire or wind. • All Giant Tree protection zones will be given a SMZ coding of RcTt. • When all of the trees within a Giant Tree protection zone fall below the minimum selection criteria due to fire, disease, old age or storm damage, the protection zone may be considered for reclassification to Production Zone in accordance with the Management Decision Classification System procedures. 	<p>MDC database</p> <p>MDC Manual</p> <p>SMZ Data Dictionary</p> <p>MDC Change Form</p>
<p>7. Giant Tree Database and Registers</p>			
<p>1) Registers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Tallest historic. b) Tallest existing trees. c) Biggest existing trees. 	<p>Manager, Resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain registers of the 10 tallest existing, 10 largest-by-volume existing trees and of the 10 tallest trees ever recorded in Tasmania. • Post these Registers on the Forestry Tasmania Internet site. • Derive data for all registers from the Giant Trees Database. • Regularly update the Registers. 	<p>Giant Trees Register</p>

NB All printed copies of this document are uncontrolled. Refer to the electronic copy on the Forestry Tasmania Intranet EMS site for the latest version.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE FOR GIANT TREES

PROCEDURE STEPS	RESPONSIBLE PERSON	FOR WHAT?	KEY DOCUMENTS
2) Databases a) Giant Trees database b) Tall Stands database	Manager, Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the Giant Trees Database as the data source for all Giant Tree history and nominations. • Maintain the Tall Stands Database as the data source for the results of the photogrammetric surveying work. 	Giant Trees database Tall Stands database

END OF PROCEDURE