

## INT-FSC-STD-CAN-01-2018\_01

<b>Normative reference</b>	FSC-STD-CAN-01-2018 EN FSC National Forest Stewardship Standard of Canada Indicator 6.4.5b, Table 6.4.5 #4
<b>Publication date</b>	24 February 2023

**When evaluating the “Required Management Strategy” #4 of Table 6.4.5 (Indicator 6.4.5b),**

1. Does the statement “the area remains reserved for the duration of that period” mean that the 50% of undisturbed habitat to be set aside is in fact to be reserved for 50 years?
2. Does the phrase “in the remaining areas” refer to the rest of the area in the portion of the Management Unit that is within a caribou range excluding the 50% undisturbed habitat set aside?
3. Does the 30-to-50-year timeframe start at January 1st, 2018?
4. Is it possible that a disturbed area as of January 1, 2018, become “undisturbed” under the 30–50-year timeframe?

1. No, the 50% of the undisturbed habitat as of January 1, 2018 in the portion of the management unit that is within caribou range is set aside for at least 30 years (until 2048), and remains reserved until the <35% disturbance threshold is met and can be maintained over time. The <35% disturbance threshold shall be met at the latest by year 50 (before 2068).

One intended outcome of the “Required management strategies” outlined in Table 6.4.5 is to lower the % of cumulative disturbance in the portion of the Management Unit that overlaps the caribou range to a level equal to or lower than 35%. The “Required Management Strategy” #4, outlined in the table follows the same objective. The set-aside of 50% of the undisturbed habitat as prescribed by “Required Management Strategy” #4 is a means to reach that outcome.

2. Yes, the “remaining area” refers to the rest of the area in the portion of the Management Unit that is within a caribou range excluding the 50%

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undisturbed habitat set aside. An increase in disturbance in the remaining areas may only occur when linked to a plan demonstrating that the < 35% disturbance threshold will be met before year 50 for the entirety of the portion of the management unit that is within caribou range.

3. Yes, the timeframe is fixed and starts on January 1, 2018, regardless of when the audit occurs.
4. Yes, it is. The terms “undisturbed habitat” and “cumulative disturbance” as used in Indicator 6.4.5, are defined in the Glossary of FSC-STD-CAN-01-2018. A disturbed area accounted for in the cumulative disturbance calculation can be removed from the calculation as it becomes undisturbed or restored. As described in the definition, a 40-year benchmark for considering landscapes as undisturbed can be used in the absence of an empirical basis for another benchmark. That benchmark may be variable depending on the regeneration success or other factor(s). Another method for identifying undisturbed area is the approach used by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). For anthropogenic disturbance, ECCC considers a habitat as disturbed when the disturbance is visible using Landsat at a scale of 1:50 000<sup>1</sup>. The benchmark and method used needs to be based on best available information, and peer supported science.

Note: FSC Canada recognizes that landscapes identified with this approach are not necessarily equivalent to good caribou habitat.

<sup>1</sup> Environment and Climate Change Canada (2016) *Range Plan Guidance for Woodland Caribou, Boreal Population*.