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Tree Planting Project Planning Worksheet

This worksheet is intended to guide you through the key components of developing a tree planting project plan. Please provide as much detail as possible for the questions below.

1. Project Goals

Please explain your rationale for this project and what you want it to achieve.

2. Site Characteristics

- a) Please describe your proposed planting site(s), including its current land-use, vegetation cover, soil and moisture conditions, and other relevant characteristics.

b) Based on your description of the site on the previous page, please check off and provide comments about your site's *Key Limiting Factors* that will make it difficult to for seedlings to survive and thrive.

- Belowground competition Aboveground competition Soil compaction Excess moisture
 Lack of moisture Browse pressure Herbicide drift Salinity

Other _____

Comments:

3. Planting Design

Please describe and/or draw out your planting design. Indicate the species you are planning on planting, the pattern they will be planted in (e.g. row, scattered, grid, etc.), and what spacing they will be planted at (both within and between row if applicable). *Please also attach an aerial photo with your planting location shown.*

4. Site Preparation Plan

Please describe the steps you are going to take before, during, and/or immediately after planting to address your site's *Key Limiting Factors* that you identified in Question 2b above.

5. Planting Plan

Please describe how your site will be planted (e.g. labour and equipment used), and what stock type will be used (e.g. cuttings, seedlings, potted).

6. Maintenance Plan

- a) Please describe the steps you will take to protect your seedlings from aboveground and/or belowground competition from weeds and grasses for at least the first 3 years after planting.

- b) Please describe the steps you will take to protect your seedlings from drought for at least the first 3 years after planting.

- c) Please describe the steps you will take to protect your seedlings from browse pressure (if applicable) for at least the first 3 years after planting.

d) Please describe any other maintenance you are planning on doing to address other potential long-term stresses for the seedlings, if applicable.

7. Timeline

In bullet point form, please outline a timeline for your proposed planting project. An example bullet point entry would be:

- November 2019: Order of seedlings from nursery

Appendix A: Approximate Costs Relevant to Tree Planting Projects

The following table outlines some approximate costs for materials and labour/equipment time that may be relevant for tree planting projects. These costs were estimated based on professional experience, personal communication, and review of resources such as Alberta Agriculture and Forestry's *Custom Rates Survey 2017*¹ and the *Canadian Agricultural Partnership's Funding List*². **Please note that these estimates are not actual costs.** Instead, the costs are general approximations only – actual costs may vary significantly due to location, site conditions, and a number of other factors (some of which are listed in the righthand column below). We recommend that careful research is done on actual costs before formal project budgeting occurs.

Type	Item	Rate	Major Reason(s) for Cost Range*
Materials	3-wire barbed wire fence	\$1550/km (\$2500/mile)	
	3-wire electric fence (not including energizer)	\$1100/km (\$1800/mile)	
	1-wire temporary electric fence (not including energizer)	\$750/km (\$1200/mile)	
	1-year old seedlings	\$1.00-2.50 per seedling	Species, quantity ordered
	2-year old seedlings	\$2.00-4.00 per seedling	Species, quantity ordered
	Native grass seed	\$45-65 per kg (\$20-65 per lb)	Species
	Pulp mats (40cm x 40cm) with staples	\$0.85 per mat + 4 staples	
	Hemp mats (40cm x 40cm) with staples	\$1.05 per mat + 3 staples	
	Plastic mulch (2.7 mil)	\$170 per 450m (1500ft) roll	
	Biodegradable plastic mulch (2.0 mil)	\$395 per 450m (1500ft) roll	
Labour/equipment time	Basic labour	\$25/hour	
	3-string barbed wire fence construction	\$1500-1900 per km (\$2500-3000 per mile)	Soil conditions
	3-wire electric fence construction	\$870-1100 per km (\$1400-1800 per mile)	Soil conditions
	Use of <80 hp tractor	\$60/hour	
	Use of 81-120 hp tractor	\$80/hour	
	Use of 121-165 hp tractor	\$100/hour	
	Use of 166-200 hp tractor	\$120/hour	
	Use of 201-275 hp tractor	\$130/hour	
	Use of >275hp tractor	\$140/hour	
	Use of skid steer	\$85/hour	
	Planting 1-year old seedlings	\$0.90-1.25/seedling	Complexity of planting design, soil conditions
	Planting 2-year old seedlings	\$1.25-1.75/seedling	Complexity of planting design, soil conditions
	Harvesting stem cuttings	\$0.40-0.60 per m of cutting (\$0.12-0.18 per ft)	Ease of access to cutting material
	Planting stem cuttings	\$1.50-2.50 per cutting	Size of cuttings, complexity of planting design, soil conditions
Applying mulch mats	\$1.50/mat		

*This column only lists major reasons for cost variance that are specific to the particular item. However, costs may vary for other reasons (such as location, project scale, and vendor/contractor), regardless of whether a cost range is provided.

¹ Available online at: [https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/inf16413](https://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/inf16413)

² Available online at: <https://cap.alberta.ca/CAP/download/AGUCMINT-2686740>