

PRE-HARVEST CHECKLIST

■ Don't cut a cord until you read this



Legal:

- Are your property boundaries clearly marked to protect against accidental timber trespass?
- Have you ensured you have all necessary permits and have checked your harvest plans against local regulations? Do any government agencies need to be notified of this operation?

Silviculture:

- Does your land have a clear forest management plan so your forest can remain a productive asset for the you and your children's lifetimes?
- Is the timing of the harvest correct, or would a harvest now significantly limit your total yield and silvicultural benefit?
- Does your harvest have a clear objective (such as to increase growth rate or improve species composition) that will improve or maintain the long-term value and production of your land?
- Do you have a clearly-written silvicultural prescription to achieve your objectives as a guide for harvest or timber marking?
- Have you ensured your harvest won't high-grade the forest by removing only the most valuable timber and leaving low-value wood, hampering its value and future production for generations?

Harvest Operation:

- Will the timber be harvested by a machine or crew that is well-suited and ideal for the site and operation?
- Does the logger have the experience and skill to protect residual timber and maintain its value as growing stock?

- Has the logger been provided with a well-made map and GPS files of the harvest location? Are they well aware of the location of boundaries?
- Will trails be kept to an acceptable width and spacing?
- Is there a plan to prevent rutting and remediate damage and running water if rutting occurs?

Roads:

- Has the logger been provided with a well-made map and GPS files of the harvest location? Are they well aware of the location of boundaries?
- Is the timber currently accessible, or does a road need to be constructed prior to harvest?
- If a road exists, does it need to be graded, graveled, or otherwise upgraded prior to harvest?
- Who will be responsible for the road? You or the logger?
- Who will repair the road if damage occurs to the road itself or culverts during the operation?

Payment:

- Do you have a good understanding of the current market rate for standing timber in your area? Are you satisfied with payment terms?
- Are payment terms clear to both parties?
- Has the timing of payments been specified?
- Have product classes been specified and defined?
- Have individual rates been determined for each product?
- Have measurement methods been specified for each product?