

Appendix 15: Principles on Harvesting

While domestic harvesting and commercial harvesting vary in scale and equipment used, a number of principles are common to all harvesting. Monitoring of harvesting operations is an important component of any activity to ensure compliance with agreed principles. The following principles apply to all timber harvesting unless noted specifically as being applicable to only domestic or only commercial harvesting;

1. Patch cuts or variable size clearcuts preferred to large clearcuts. The size of the patch cut is to be determined by the area in question as it relates to the ecology of the area.
2. Portable bridges to be used for small streams in a manner to prevent significant environmental damage.
3. Doing as many things as temporary as possible so as to minimize impact in harvesting.
4. Commercial operators use high flotation tires, boogie wheels or similar equipment or use the “trail cutting system” where feasible, so that machines may travel on a bed of boughs to reduce site disturbance.
5. Using irregular boundaries (edges) rather than straight boundaries on cut strips or other cutting areas in concert with the local environment and good ecological principles.
6. Wetter sites could be harvested under conditions that would minimize environmental damage.
7. In certain situations using wider buffers on waterways (the width depending on age, regeneration, slope, wetness and sensitivity of soil, sensitivity of wildlife and fish habitat) in which a partial cutting could occur with no extraction equipment buffers and in consideration of guidelines from other jurisdictions as identified in a pre-harvest plan. The intent is to reduce timber losses to blowdown and retain the integrity and maintenance of the buffer.
8. Cut sizes would reflect the naturally occurring range of disturbances and historical stand size distributions (ie. 50% of cuts would be less than ten hectares, and 90%

of cuts less than 25 hectares in size. Larger modified clearcuts may occur in instances of burnt wood, insect-killed areas or areas of blowdown in consideration of landscape occurrence and design, forest age classes and habitat requirements.

9. Between clearcut areas an area of intact forest shall remain in consideration of landscape occurrence and design, forest age classes and habitat requirements. These areas shall not be disproportionate to the area harvested. This would apply in areas where road decommissioning is not scheduled.
10. Areas left between clearcut blocks shall not be harvested until the clearcut areas have regenerated to provide adequate habitat.
11. An annual pre-harvest plan be devised by the commercial cutting permit holder in consultation with District 01 staff and for domestic cutting areas by District 1 staff in consultation with local groups that shall include but not be limited to:
 - (a) delineation on an aerial photograph, (or a good photocopy of one) and/or on a forest stand type map the area that shall be harvested by the operator for that season
 - (b) delineation of areas not to be harvested within the main cutting block boundary
 - (c) delineation of riparian or wetland buffers and the width of said buffers in concert with item 7.
 - (d) type of machinery to be used for harvesting and wood extraction that would minimize environmental damage
 - (e) approximate time frame in which the block shall be harvested
 - (f) approximate number of seed trees and/or snags that shall be left per hectare
 - (g) the general location of main extraction routes.
12. Cutting shall not occur beyond the sustainable harvest in sections of the District.

13. Refinement of cutting areas so that immature stands are excluded from said areas.
14. On a trial basis, the determination of wood volume in cutting blocks and the number of permits issued for the area based on the volume estimate. This would apply mainly to domestic cutting areas.
15. To prioritize areas of burnt wood, insect killed or blowdown for harvesting.
16. On a trial basis, more aggressively promote the encouragement of selection thinning to determine the feasibility of domestic wood cutters using this silvicultural system.
17. A program for domestic and commercial harvesters to raise awareness about leaving riparian buffers, various harvesting techniques, encouraging patch clearcutting, selection thinning in younger stands and the need for leaving snags and/or suitable seed/wildlife trees.
18. Not more than 30% of the productive forest area within a watershed can be recently disturbed. Any combination of forest fires and harvesting areas less than seven years old that exceeds the 30% threshold would require harvesting be postponed.