BCTS Kamloops Business Area

Ground Based Harvesting Guidelines

This document provides guidelines for the Best Management Practice (BMP) to be considered during ground based harvesting activities. Most statements are recommendations only unless required by legislation or the BCTS Environmental Management System. In the event of any discrepancy between this guideline and contractual, legal and regulatory requirements related to forest practices or safety, the latter shall prevail.

SHUTDOWN STANDARDS
STOP WORK and contact your Supervisor and BCTS if any part of the plan is unclear, or if you believe the work cannot be completed safely or may cause negative environmental impacts.
Ground based operations should cease if the Wet Weather Operating Guide thresholds are met **OR** **BEFORE** the following conditions develop: ➢ Water is transporting visible siltation or sediment towards streams, lakes or other riparian features **OR** ➢ Excessive rutting of 15cm or greater depth is occurring. **ADVISE YOUR SUPERVISOR AND BC TIMBER SALES WHEN SHUTDOWN OCCURS.**

Safety First

1. **As per Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OH&S) Section 26.2, forestry operations must be planned and conducted in a manner that is safe for all workers.**
2. **As per the OH&S regulation Section 26.5, an initial safety meeting must be conducted at a new work location (TSL). Refer to the TSL Safety and Highlights Report for known safety hazards.**
3. **Ground based harvesting operations must be planned to ensure that hazards specific to ground based operations are communicated and a written plan to address or avoid such hazards are in place.**
4. **Slope limitations for logging equipment contained in OH&S regulation 26.16 must be adhered to during all ground-based operations. Where operations exceed slope limitations on a site, a qualified person must complete a risk assessment and develop written safe work practices for the site.**

Know Your Plan

1. The Licensee must have had a thorough pre-work and understand the plan and the potential environmental impacts of their work (***see EFP's #1, #2 and #5***).
2. The Licensee conducting ground-based operations must have a harvest plan map or site plan map complete with stream classifications and designated crossings shown.
3. All areas that are authorized for harvest under a Timber Sale License (TSL) must have a signed Site Plan prepared by a Registered Professional Forester. All harvesting operations should be conducted in accordance with the Site Plan. Where operations cannot be carried out and the Site Plan must be amended, it must be completed by a Forest Professional and submitted to the Timber Sales Manager. The Licensee must complete a "Change of Plan" form and submit it to BCTS where a Licensee proposes to use an alternate harvest method than what BCTS had developed.
4. If ground-based operations will exceed soil disturbance limits stated in the Site Plan, or contravenes FRPA Section 46 and FPPR Section 35, **operations must stop** (***see SFI 2022 forest management standard Objective 2)***.

Ground Based Harvesting Operations

1. Use knowledgeable, trained and experienced operators.
2. BCTS Block boundaries are marked with blue paint and orange ribbon; if these marking cannot be distinguished then notify your Supervisor and BCTS Representative. The Licensee will be made aware of any changes to these standards (i.e. purchased wood).
3. BCTS Riparian Management Zones are marked with orange ribbon; if the ribbons cannot be distinguished then notify your Supervisor and BCTS Representative. The Licensee will be made aware of any changes to these standards (i.e. purchased wood).
4. Any unidentified features must be reported to your Supervisor and BCTS Representative.
5. Brush matting or corduroy should be used on repeat machine trails for skidding to reduce soil compaction and displacement. (***see SFI 2022 forest management standard Objective 2***)
6. Skid trail cuts on steep slopes should not exceed 30 cm where practicable and should be re-contoured after use to manage the overall soil disturbance within the block. **The Kamloops Business Area has posted a Best Management Practice (BMP) document for trail construction on the TKA EMS website "Skid Trail Rehabilitation on Steep Slopes".**
7. Ground based operations must:
    a. not deposit soil or slash in a stream, wetland or lake.
    b. maintain natural surface drainage patterns.
    c. conform to soil disturbance limits identified in the Site Plan.
    d. be completed during times to avoid soil compaction issues. Operate when soils are dry or frozen.

Streams and Stream Crossings

1. Maintaining water quality is the primary o (***see SFI 2022 forest management standard Objective 3)***.
2. Do not store fuel or re-fuel machines in Riparian Management Areas (***see EFP #6***).
3. Maintain the prescribed Machine Free Zones (MFZ) that are identified in the Site Plan and associated maps.
4. Proposed temporary stream crossings are identified on the Harvest Plan map(s). The use of alternate crossing must be discussed with the BCTS Representative. The Licensee must complete a "Change of Plan" form.
5. Locate, construct and use a temporary stream crossing in a manner that:
    a. protects the stream channel and stream bank and mitigates any disturbance to the stream channel.
    b. mitigates damage to understory vegetation.
    c. minimizes the number of temporary crossing on a stream.
6. Any material used to construct a temporary stream crossing must be removed after use or prior to the completion of harvesting (***see FPPR Section 55***).
7. Log bundles used as temporary crossings must be removed prior to freshet (**see FPPR section 39**).

Trail Rehabilitation

1. A Licensee must rehabilitate constructed skid trails after harvest.
2. Trails should be constructed in a manner that allows for productive soil to be replaced on the trail, and then have logging debris scattered over the exposed soil. **The Kamloops Business Area has posted a Best Management Practice (BMP) document for trail rehabilitation on the TKA EMS website "Skid Trail Rehabilitation on Steep Slopes"**.
3. Water management must be considered and re-established as part of the trail rehabilitation (***see FPPR Section 39***).

Road Deactivation and Rehabilitation

1. Licensees must manage water on all roads at all times on operations, including times of inactive operations (breakup or other shutdown).
2. Licensees must be aware of the requirements of deactivation or rehabilitation of roads identified in the TSL document Schedule C or Road Permit document Schedule R.
3. Where deactivation is required, Licensees must meet TSL Schedule C Section 5.00 requirements. Use of water bars, cross ditches with ditch blocks can be installed to manage water on road surfaces and ditches (***see FPPR Section 82***).
4. Where rehabilitation is required, the Licensee must meet obligations stated in TSL Schedule C Section 6.00 or Road Permit Schedule R Section 7.00
5. Requirements for rehabilitation are:
    a. De-compacting compacted soils
    b. Returning displaced soils, retrieval of side cast and berm materials.
    c. Placing wood debris on exposed mineral soil.
    d. FPPR Section 36 (3) (a) states: "removing or redistributing woody materials that are exposed on the surface of the area and are concentrating subsurface moisture, as necessary to limit the concentration of subsurface moisture on the area".

Always follow the STOP WORK requirements indicated on all BCTS EFP's.

STOP WORK
and contact your project supervisor and the BCTS representative if:

- You are uncertain of the Project Plan, your responsibilities, or the location of hazardous/sensitive areas.
- A previously unidentified resource feature, resource value (e.g. cultural) or sensitive area is found.
- You experience unfavourable weather or site conditions that could cause environmental damage.
- You observe conditions that have the potential for immediate environmental damage.
- You believe the Project Plan will not work.