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**BCTS Strait of Georgia**  
**DE-STUMPING GUIDELINES**

***In the event of any discrepancy between these guidelines and the contractual, legal and regulatory requirements related to forest practices or safety, the latter shall prevail.***

***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.***

BCTS will check to determine completion of de-stumping activities as per the Timber Sale License or Contract. BCTS will not be responsible to identify and mark the areas to be de-stumped, as shown on the Site Plan maps. The Licensee or Contractor will be responsible to ensure that a qualified person will properly identify and mark the areas to be de-stumped.

***This document provides guidelines for best management practices to be considered during de-stumping activities. All statements are recommendations only.***

The BCTS Strait of Georgia Business Area Wet Weather Shutdown Procedures and Ground Based Harvesting Guidelines will be followed in addition to the following general conditions:

**General Conditions**

1. Stop work when continuing to work would cause excessive site disturbance, such as soil compaction, erosion or environmental damage of any kind, or as directed by a BCTS representative.
2. De-stumping is to be conducted during periods of dry soil moisture conditions and not during periods of high rainfall.
3. De-stumping is to be conducted in areas prescribed on the Harvest and/or Site Plan Map.
4. Avoid areas with wet ground or drainage channels as identified on the Site Plan Map.
5. Discuss the treatment objectives with the BCTS representative for any small-unmapped sensitive areas, such as: standing water, bedrock or residual trees. Do not walk the machine in obvious wet areas.
6. Walk the excavator on slash as much as possible to reduce soil compaction.
7. Ensure that any compacted soil is rehabilitated. The excavator operator should always work behind himself to prevent soil compaction. This technique will result in the rehab of machine tracks.
8. Do not walk the machine on slopes over 40% or where unsafe to operate.
9. Rebuild or clean any ditch lines or cross-ditches that are altered by de-stumping, unless on a rebuilt road location.
10. Reduce the machine traffic on access trails by reducing the number of passes to less than three, especially when this involves crossing drainage areas.
11. Use the machine crossing areas indicated on harvest maps to cross creeks.

### **De-stumping Procedure**

Pull out all second growth stumps (minimum 99% to a 95% confidence interval), removing as much root mass as possible. Shake off excess soil and invert the stump in the hole created by the removal of the stump, ensuring that the roots are exposed to the air and not in contact with the soil. Large roots (>10cm) broken from the stump and remaining in the ground should also be removed. The following recommendations also apply:

- Stump removal will not occur in excluded zones that are identified on the Site Plan Map (ie. minimum of 5m from any drainage).
- Along the standing timber edge or adjacent to leave trees or patches, the operator will not stump any closer than 5 meters to the stem of a standing live tree, remaining outside of the dripline.
- The operator will lift and roll the stumps out of the ground to lessen soil disturbance and root breakage; pushing stumps over is not preferred.
- The operator is not required to remove old growth stumps or disturb partially buried, large, organic debris.
- Establish plantable spots as per conditions specified in the contract.