

BCTS Strait of Georgia

GROUND BASED HARVESTING GUIDELINES

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

This document provides guidelines for best management practices to be considered during ground based harvesting activities.

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 Shutdown thresholds are met

OR

BEFORE the following conditions develop:

- ◆ water is transporting visible siltation or sediment towards streams, Fisheries Sensitive Features (FSFs), lakes or Marine Sensitive Features (MSFs); or
 - ◆ Excessive rutting of 15cm or greater depth is occurring.

STOP WORK AND ADVISE YOUR SUPERVISOR OR BC TIMBER SALES REPRESENTATIVE

SAFETY FIRST (Identify conditions and Machine limitations)

- As per Section 26.2 of the Occupational Health & Safety (OH&S) Regulations, forestry operations must be planned and conducted in a manner that is safe for all workers.
- Daily ground based harvesting operations must be planned to ensure that hazards specific to ground based equipment from steep slopes are communicated and a written plan to avoid such hazards is in place.
- Slope Limitations for logging equipment, contained in Section 26.16 of the OH&S Regulations, must be adhered to during all ground based operations.
- All Operators take note that;
 - (a) a rubber tired skidder must not be operated on a slope which exceeds 35%;
 - (b) a crawler tractor, feller buncher, excavator and other similar equipment must not be operated on a slope which exceeds 40%

KNOW YOUR PLAN

Site Plan (SP) – Identifies the soil disturbance limits (approved in an FSP) that apply to each standard unit within a block.

TSL Document and Harvest Plan Map – Be familiar with contractual obligations as written in the TSL Document. All operators must carry and be familiar with the approved Harvest Plan Map for the block.

Environment Management System (EMS) and Safe Companies Safety Program Pre-Work - All persons conducting ground based operations must have had a recent, thorough pre-work and must understand the plan and potential environmental impacts of their work.

Amendments to the TSL document, the Harvest Plan Map, Site Plan Map, or legal portion of the Site Plan (FSP performance measures) –All legal documents, maps and plans must be followed. If an operator can not follow the harvest plan then they must stop and notify their Supervisor and BCTS representative. The TSL holder must prepare a new or amended harvest plan using a Qualified Professional (QP). In most cases the Licensee will be required to submit an application to the TSM such that a TSL amendment can be initiated.

GROUND-BASED OPERATIONS

Dispersed Ground Based – Avoid concentrated soil disturbance. Measured disturbance consists of gouges, ruts, scalps, and compacted areas.

Temporary Access Structures – These are designated trails where soil disturbance is concentrated. These are indicated on the Harvest Plan and Site Plan maps and limits set in the site plan as a temporary amount (%) that can be disturbed.

Maintain “Natural Surface Drainage Patterns” FPPR Sec 39(1) – must be maintained at all times. Be aware of all riparian feature locations including streams, non-classified drainages, and other sensitive areas indicated on the Harvest Plan and Site Plan maps. Be on the lookout for unidentified features or other natural surface drainage.

Riparian Management (Stream Prescriptions)- These are an important element of the Site and Harvest Plans. They must be followed at all times.

Machine Free Zones (MFZ’s) – Be aware of where these are on the map and flagged in the field. It may be necessary to re-flag these areas before each phase of the operation.

Designated Stream Crossings – Only cross at locations indicated on the map. Ensure that you know the location and make sure it’s marked in the field.

Locate, construct and use a temporary stream crossing in a manner that:

- ◆ protects the stream channel and stream bank, immediately above and below the stream crossing, and mitigates disturbance to the stream channel and stream bank at the crossing;
 - ◆ mitigates damage to understory vegetation;
 - ◆ does not disturb stable natural material that is in a stream or embedded in a stream bank; and
- Maintains natural drainage patterns and mitigates surface soil erosion, soil displacement, and sedimentation

Critical Site Conditions – As identified in the Site Plan which may affect the “timing of operations” and “conditions for operations”. There may be seasonal operating constraints or direction to avoid operations during certain conditions such as “saturated soils”.

Temporary Access Structure and other Soil Disturbance Rehabilitation – All temporary access structures must be rehabilitated. The operator may also rehabilitate other areas of concentrated soil disturbance under the direction of their Supervisor.

- Remove any puncheon or other temporary structures.
- De-compact the soil.
- Maintain natural surface drainage patterns.
- Return any displaced soils and other organic debris spread over the surface.