



## ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD PROCEDURE - 05

### HARVESTING

#### Purpose and Scope

This Environmental Field Procedure (EFP) applies to all BC Timber Sales (BCTS) licensees, permittees, and contractors (LPC), including their employees, agents, and subcontractors, involved in all phases of harvesting within the scope of the BCTS Environmental Management System (EMS). It describes procedures to reduce the risk of negative impacts of these field activities on the environment. This EFP does not replace the requirements of legislation, licences, permits, and contracts.

#### Project Plans

1. Have a project plan prepared by a qualified professional as appropriate. Ensure the project plan is applicable to the phase of operation.
  - a. Choose suitable landing and yarder setting locations that are stable and away from water courses.
  - b. Pre-mark or at least know existing culvert locations and classified stream locations; ensure they are functional at all times until these structures are removed.
  - c. If a change of plan is needed, stop work, then notify project supervisor. Changes to a project plan must be documented, made by a qualified professional, and meet the intended results and strategies for the project area and protect environmental values.

#### Falling

1. Fall next to boundaries only when boundaries are clearly visible (know where they are).
2. Use extra caution when falling adjacent to boundaries and reserves in order to minimize damage to standing trees and protect resource features, resource values (e.g., cultural) and sensitive areas.
3. Follow stream prescriptions when falling, limbing and bucking adjacent to watercourses.
4. Know which streams and gullies require cleaning of introduced debris.
5. Know leave-tree, stubbing and retention requirements, and monitor your progress to ensure the requirements are met.

#### Yarding, Skidding, Forwarding, Loading, Processing and Hauling

1. If yarding or skidding in steep or gullied terrain, ensure you implement yarding/skidding strategies to minimize impacts to soil productivity and water quality.
2. Use appropriate methods to minimize damage to reserve trees (e.g., dispersed retention trees, retention tree patches, etc.).
3. Know the applicable soil disturbance limits and use appropriate methods to avoid excessive soil disturbance (e.g., temporary access structures, gouges, ruts, scalps and compacted areas).
4. Minimize the impact on water quality and site productivity:
  - a. Take actions to mitigate potential erosion and/or sedimentation from temporary access trails.
  - b. Utilize sediment control measures as required (e.g., silt fences, hay bales or sediments ponds).
  - c. Clean introduced debris from ditches, streams, and culverts on an on-going basis, and before any blockages can occur.
5. Operate during favourable weather and site conditions. Know the project shutdown criteria.
6. Know the project shutdown criteria including operational site conditions and timing windows (e.g., fisheries windows, community watersheds, migratory birds, wildlife, blasting, recreation).
7. Know the stream classifications and implement riparian management area requirements (e.g., machine free zones, riparian reserve zones, stream cleaning, etc.) for the watercourses identified in the project plan.

8. Rehabilitate excavated and bladed temporary access trails, temporary roads, landings, etc., as required. Ensure rehabilitation activities maintain natural drainage patterns.
9. Temporary structures such as log bundles must be removed prior to unfavourable conditions.
10. Avoid decking wood, processing wood, and piling wood debris in riparian management areas.
11. Minimize decked wood and debris pile impacts to standing timber and reforested areas.
12. Report to the project supervisor any road conditions which may adversely affect the environment (e.g., siltation of streams, lakes or other water bodies or deterioration of the road).
13. Before equipment demobilization or prior to temporary or seasonal shutdown, perform site clean-up to ensure water management features (culverts, ditches) are clean of introduced logging debris and functional.

## Fire Hazard Assessment and Abatement

1. Complete hazard assessments at prescribed intervals and complete abatement in accordance with the *Wildfire Act* and Regulation. Submit assessment to BCTS upon request.
2. If burning is part of the plan for abatement, ensure required notification is made, approvals are received, and conditions are followed. Ensure burn area is safe from escape and clear of hazardous or sensitive areas. Monitor burned sites for extinguishment.



### Stop Work – Contact Project Supervisor and BCTS Representative if:

- There is a hazardous material spill, uncontrolled fire or erosion/landslide event.
- There is uncertainty about the project plan, the responsibilities, or the location of hazardous or sensitive areas.
- Previously unidentified resource feature, resource value or sensitive area is found (e.g., species of management concern, bear den, wildlife habitat feature, culturally modified tree)
- Unfavourable weather or site conditions could cause environmental damage.
- Conditions have the potential for immediate environmental damage.
- There is reason to believe the project plan will not work.