

VFF CERTIFIED TIMBER HARVEST PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOL

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Timber Harvest Procedures 11-20-03.doc)



Timber Harvesting on Family Forests

In all harvests that occur on lands in the certified pool, it is important that the selection of timber to be harvested promote ecological forest management, that harvest activities be conducted in compliance with the VFF Forest Management Checklist, and that records be maintained to document procedures and the flow of products. This paper outlines that protocol.

Timber Harvesting

Before any harvesting occurs, the landowner is responsible for submitting a Timber Harvest Plan (see attached). At this time, VFF will conduct a pre-harvest assessment to determine if the proposed harvest and other management activities such as road access and boundary marking are in compliance with VFF standards. This assessment may require a site visit or that requirement may be waived. If no remedial work is deemed necessary, the harvest plan will be approved and the landowner will be given a copy of the signed Timber Sale Harvesting Plan, Summary, & Certificate and will be assigned a certified timber harvest number.

At this time, VFF shall also submit a proposal for in-process harvest monitoring and associated fees (see attached). These proposals will vary with timing and volume of the harvest, the fragility of the site, and the difficulty of monitoring and other factors. In-process monitoring may also be waived in some circumstances. Once harvesting begins, VFF will provide the landowner, logger, or trucker with VFF Log Delivery Tickets if no remedial work is deemed necessary during the in-process monitoring visit(s).

Post Harvest Assessment

Following completion of the timber harvest, the landowner shall notify VFF and schedule a post-harvest assessment. This assessment will look at compliance with the Forest Management Checklist, suggest any necessary remediation, and document practices and harvest volumes for Certification compliance in the VFF database. At the present time, VFF will conduct this assessment without charge to the landowner.

Certification Documentation

Certification compliance requires at a minimum the following practices and documentation:

- Management plan is current for area to be harvested and includes natural community typing. If area to be harvested is and S1 or S2 natural community, harvest plans must be reviewed by a forest ecologist.
- A Timber Harvest Plan is submitted prior to cutting trees.

- VFF Log Delivery Tickets are filled out and submitted for logs skidded to a landing for trucking or on-site milling.
- A post harvest site visit is scheduled and the resulting assessment and actual harvest volumes are recorded in the VFF database.

Sample Certified Harvest Timeline:

- Landowner and/or forester complete Timber Harvest Plan.
- VFF returns approved Timber Harvest Certificate, in-process monitoring proposal.
- Landowner contracts with logger, begins harvest.
- VFF conducts mid-harvest assessment, issues Log Delivery Tickets.
- Landowner or an individual working for the landowner coordinates completion of Log Delivery Tickets, notifies VFF of completion of harvest.
- VFF completes post harvest assessment and records results.
- Landowner schedules any necessary remedial work.