



# WOODLOT MONITORING

Updated 12/31/02

**VFF Parcel Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Landowner Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Monitoring Crew:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Status:** Pre-harvest \_\_\_\_\_ During-harvest \_\_\_\_\_ Post-harvest \_\_\_\_\_

## FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANNING

OK Needs N/a  
Work

- Forest management implemented according to approved forest management plan and timber harvesting plan.
  - Trees to be removed marked prior to the inception of harvest.
  - Skid trails, truck roads, and log landings flagged or otherwise marked prior to the inception of harvesting.
  - Completed timber sale contract for commercial forest management operations.
  - Any forest management in natural communities that are ranked as “very rare” (S1) and “rare” (S2) or in natural communities ranked as “uncommon” (S3), “common” (S4), and “very common” (S5) but with little or no evidence of past human disturbance should be reviewed by the VT F&W Natural Heritage Biologists.
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## ACCESSING THE FAMILY FOREST

### *Skid Trails, Truck Roads, and Log Landings*

- Avoid rutting that extends beyond the A soil horizon.
- Use equipment that is as small as possible and that exerts the lowest possible ground pressure.
- The timber harvesting access network -- including truck roads, skid trails and log landings -- should not expose mineral soil on more than 10% of the treated area.
- Truck roads should be built at grades from 3% to 10%.
- Skid trails should be built at grades from 3% to 15%.
- Truck roads should be properly drained during use according to Table 1 in the Vermont AMPs.
- Skid trails should be properly drained during use according to Table 1 in the Vermont AMPs.
- Truck roads should be properly drained after use according to Table 1 in the Vermont AMPs.
- Skid trails should be properly drained after use according to Table 1 in the Vermont AMPs.
- Log landings should: be located on nearly-level, stable ground; be kept away from protective strips; have water diversions installed; and be graded to prevent erosion and sedimentation.
- Post-harvest use of the access network should be restricted in order to prevent erosion, compaction, and site disruption.

**Protective Strips and Buffer Strips**

OK Needs N/a  
Work

- Protective strips -- characterized by minimal soil disturbance, nearly-complete canopy closure, and many large, mature trees -- should be maintained between the access network and surface waters according to Table 4 in the Vermont AMPs.
- Areas of exposed soil that occur within the protective strip should be seeded and mulched according to Table 3 in the AMPs.
- Stream buffer strips should: be kept free of logging vehicles; have only little or no tree cutting; and be at least 25 feet in width.

**Stream Crossings**

- Stream crossings should be restored and non-permanent structures should be removed as soon as possible.
- Streams should be crossed with bridges or culverts which are properly sized according to Table 2 in the Vermont AMPs and installed at right angles.
- Sediment should be prevented from reaching streams by using turn-ups or broad-based dips on truck roads and skid trails prior to all stream crossings.
- Drainage ditches should not feed directly into streams or other surface waters.

**SOIL EROSION EXTENT**

Worst surface erosion type encountered: 1 = **sheet**, minute rills present; 2 = **rill**, rills up to 6" deep; 3 = **initial gully** 6 - 12" deep; 4 = **marked gully** 12 - 24" deep; 5 = **advanced gully** + 24" deep; 6 = **none to slight**

\_\_\_ Skid trails \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Truck Roads \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_ Log Landings \_\_\_\_\_

**SENSITIVE AND SPECIAL HABITAT AREAS**

- Wetlands \_\_\_\_\_
- Raptor nests \_\_\_\_\_
- Seeps \_\_\_\_\_
- Vernal pools \_\_\_\_\_
- Hard/soft mast \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**SILVICULTURE**

- The single tree and small group (up to one acre) selection methods should be used for communities with gap-phase replacement (e.g. northern hardwoods) and the irregular shelterwood method should be used for communities with stand-replacing disturbance regimes (e.g. spruce-fir). Clear-cutting should be avoided.
- Retain a minimum of 6 cavity and/or snag trees per acre with one exceeding 18 inches DBH and 3 exceeding 16 inches DBH. To address safety issues, this may be accomplished by clustering cavity and snag trees in areas such as riparian zones and wetlands and away from access roads and trails.
- Retain a minimum of 2 large, down trees per acre.

- Grow the largest trees and use the longest rotations possible within site and log quality limitations. For example, the DBH objective for high quality red and sugar maple, yellow birch, beech and white ash, should be 18 inches or greater. Culmination of mean annual board foot growth for these species occurs at 100 to 120 years.
- When planting, use only local sources of native species, plant three or more species, and include deciduous species.
- When thinning or regenerating stands, favor native species over non-native species.
- Use natural regeneration to the maximum practical extent.
- Promote the seed bearing capacities of poorly represented members of the stand.
- Tree felling should be avoided on slopes exceeding 60%.
- Leave all materials that are less than 3 inches in diameter on the site.
- Promote a vertical stand structure that includes over-story, mid-story, shrub, and herbaceous vegetation layers.
- The use of pesticides -- including insecticides, fungicides, and herbicides -- should be extremely limited and only those pesticides accepted by the Northeast Organic Farming Association should be used.
- The use of genetically modified organisms or "GMOs" should be avoided.
- Residual stand damage -- including basal wounds, broken and/or scraped tops, and exposed roots -- should be confined to 10% or fewer of the dominant or co-dominant trees.
- Avoid grazing by domestic animals.

**VEGETATION DATA** (1/10th acre plots (66 feet X 66 feet) or (37.2 foot radius))

Plot Number	Snag & Den > 16" (list diameter)	Downed Dead > 14" (DSE) > 8' long	Largest Tree DBH (inches)	Residual Stand Damage (%)
1	_____	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____	_____
6	_____	_____	_____	_____
7	_____	_____	_____	_____
8	_____	_____	_____	_____
9	_____	_____	_____	_____
10	_____	_____	_____	_____
Total	_____	_____	_____	_____
	X 10	X 10		
	_____	_____		
	/# plots	/# plots		
Mean	_____ (Per acre)	_____ (Per acre)	_____ (inches)	_____ (%)

