**OPERATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS**

**January 2021**

**A menu of example language that can be adopted or adapted for use as appropriate in a prospectus, map, narrative, or contract to address common operational or situational concerns…**

**General**

* The contractor must contact the appropriate Department of Natural Resource office a minimum of two working days prior to starting a sale contract. *Note: Many people are using 48 hrs. Be sure to Cross reference with the contract.*
* If the contract is to be worked on during multiple time periods, a mid-contract “pull-off” inspection meeting will be required. Notice shall be given by the contractor a minimum of two working days prior to moving equipment off-site. During the pull-off inspection, provisions needing attention will be documented. At that time the contractor and forester will decide whether to remedy them before moving equipment off the site, or remedy them when moving back onto the site. If the latter is chosen, the documented items shall be addressed before harvesting can continue.
* The locations, building, and maintenance of new landings, roads, and accesses are the full responsibility of the purchaser and are always subject to advance approval and under the conditions of the seller. The Forester must be contacted at least 48 hours prior to construction of a landing, road, or access.
* Landing and skid trail locations must be approved by the DNR Forester or property manager prior to starting work on the sale. All existing trails, roads, and clearings used for logging operations must be restored to pre-sale conditions by the purchaser.
* Roads and landings shall be graded and leveled or closed out to the satisfaction of the Seller upon completion of timber sales. Any accesses developed across ditches or other drainage features will be restored to their original condition.
* Rutting will be monitored and if soil disturbances become excessive (based on established thresholds defined in contract), harvesting operations may be suspended until the affected areas are repaired properly.
* Any firewood sold to a private party must either be stick-scaled by DNR prior to leaving the timber sale, or it must be sold via a triplicate ticket system. If the ticket system is used, the logger, private party, and DNR must receive a copy of each ticket.
* No woodpiles may be left on the landing for more than 30 days without advance approval of the Seller.
* When accessing town roads or highways from a landing, signage will be required to indicate trucks entering roadway.
* No harvesting during gun deer opening weekend and a period between Thanksgiving and the close of gun deer season.

**Woods Operations**

* Do not cut boundary trees (property line, cutting unit, RMZ, etc.) that are marked with red, blue, purple, or yellow paint.
* Trees not designated for harvest shall not be cut without specific authorization from the Department. If a non-designated tree is authorized to be cut and is greater than 5” in diameter (DBH), it shall be identified, separated at the landings, and not removed from the sale area until scaled and paid for. Any trees cut without prior approval will subject the Purchaser to penalties and fines. *Note: This provision generally applies to lump sum sales; not applicable to scale sales.*
* Any trees that become partially tipped or root-sprung (due to damage from equipment or other felled trees) must be completely felled.
* Maximum stump height shall not exceed stump diameter; except for all stumps less than 10 inches in diameter, the stump height may not exceed 10 inches.
* All trees marked or designated to be cut must be felled unless otherwise agreed upon by the Forester and Purchaser.
* Slash shall be lopped and/or scattered evenly across sale area and lie within three (3) feet of the ground.

**Trails**

1. The Purchaser should be aware of the recreational trail uses in the sale area, including hiking, equestrian, snowmobile, and cross-country skiing.
2. Signage will be provided by the Purchaser and established at edges of sale area on trails indicating “*Timber Sale Area Ahead”* (minimum two-inch lettering).
3. Trails can be used and crossed at limited locations. Any debris entering trail area within \_x\_ feet of trail surface shall be removed immediately.
4. Care will be given to preserve the condition of the trails and all slash must be removed daily from trail surfaces. All slash shall be pulled back a minimum of \_x\_ feet from trail edge prior to completing individual stands.
5. All ruts created on recreational trail surfaces shall be repaired daily to the satisfaction of the Seller.
6. Snowmobile trail must be kept free of debris and kept snow-covered in winter. It must be left in good condition for vehicle traffic at all times. All trails must be repaired to pre-harvest conditions before the start of each snow season.

**Invasive Plants**

1. Off-road logging equipment shall be free of concentrations of plant material and soil prior to entering the sale area. The Purchaser will contact the Seller 48 hours prior to delivering equipment to the sale area to arrange for on-site inspection.

OR

1. To avoid spreading invasive plant materials, all equipment must be cleaned prior to entering and leaving the sale area.

**Coarse Woody Debris/Snags**

1. Existing snags and downed course woody debris will not be utilized and care will be taken to avoid damage with logging equipment.
2. Standing snags are to be retained uncut - except they may be felled and left in the woods if they are a safety hazard.

**Herbicides/Pesticides**

Heterobasidion Root Disease (HRD) – Prevention Treatment:

The Purchaser shall purchase and apply an approved fungicide (Rotstop C or Cellu-Treat) to all cut pine stumps and horizontal wound surfaces as follows:

1) Pesticide applicators must be certified/licensed by DATCP for this treatment.

2) All stumps shall be treated by the end of each day of cutting from April 1 – November 30.

Treatment may be required from December 1 – March 31 if abnormally warm for an extended period to be determined by DNR Forester.

3) All stumps shall be left clear of logging slash to allow for the application and inspection of the approved fungicide.

4) A marker dye shall be added to the solution to monitor application coverage.

5) Extra care must be done to minimize damage to residual trees.

6) If Heterobasidion Root Disease (HRD) is discovered prior to the completion of this harvest, a harvest protocol of infected area(s) shall be established and all harvesting equipment must be cleaned of soil prior to leaving this harvest.

**Oak Wilt**

* Due to the occurrence of oak wilt in this township, harvesting in select cut areas is not permitted between (\_applicable date\_) and (\_applicable date\_). *(per current oak wilt restriction guidance)*
* Due to the occurrence of oak wilt, harvesting is not permitted from (\_applicable date\_) to (\_applicable date\_).
* Due to the occurrence of oak wilt within sale, contractor is required to deliver all oak directly to a wood using industry that will process wood minimizing the spread of oak wilt. Only oak that has been chipped, peeled or has lost its bark may be sorted and sold as firewood.

**Pine bark beetles**

* All cut conifer products must be removed from the sale area within two weeks after being cut between May 15 and August 15.

**Cutting Requirements**

**All designated thinning areas have the following cutting requirements and operational restrictions:**

* Harvest all trees in accordance with the specifications listed on the tract description page and timber sale map.
* Care must be taken to avoid damaging residual trees.
* No cutting, skidding or road building between (\_applicable date\_) and (\_applicable date\_) in hardwood thinnings due to oak wilt concern.
* All cut pine and spruce products must be removed from the sale area within two weeks during the period of May 15 through August 15(?)
* Road building will be kept to a minimum, and residual trees avoided, whenever possible.
* The location of any roads proposed must be approved by DNR forester.
* Authorization for tree and pole length skidding will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
* Whole-tree skidding will not be permitted unless otherwise agreed upon by Forester and Purchaser.

**All designated regeneration harvests have the following cutting requirements and** **operational restrictions:**

* Harvest all merchantable trees within the designated sale area. Avoid damage to and no cutting of designated reserve trees, individually marked trees, or wildlife islands. Skidding through wildlife islands is only allowed with prior approval of the seller.
* Non-merchantable tree stumps shall be no higher than 6 inches.
* No tops or slash allowed across any red line, blue line or within any wetland.
* All slash must be lopped and scattered within 2 feet of the ground and pulled back into the sale area at least 10 feet from property lines and roads.
* Biomass harvesting is not allowed.

**Utilization Specifications**

* All trees containing one or more reasonably sound 100 inch sticks or 8 foot 6 inch logs, meeting to the minimum top diameter are considered merchantable.

 Whole Tree: No minimum top diameter. Includes all bark and limbs.

Contractor must leave one tree top (above the 4” minimum pulpwood diameter) out of every 10 trees at the felling site.

(Biomass Harvesting Guidelines)

 Cordwood: Minimum top diameter will be 4 inches DIB for all species.

Sawlogs: Minimum top diameter will be 11 inches DIB for all species.