

Appendix 8

Forestry Regulations

Forestry Regulations

Several state and municipal laws regulate forestry and forest products harvesting operations on forestland in Maine. This plan will provide a brief overview of some of the more pertinent regulations. Prior to beginning any timber harvesting or any other alteration to the current use of a woodlot, checks should be made to ensure that the proposed activity is in compliance with all State and local laws and ordinances.

Prior to harvesting a "Notification of Intent to Harvest" form must be filed with the Maine Forest Service, Department of Conservation. Prior to January 31 of the year following a harvest, a stumpage report must be filed with the State. This report states volumes harvested and stumpage prices paid to the landowner. On harvest operations that cover ten acres or more, and occur within 200 feet of the boundary, the boundary lines must be clearly identified. The above regulations are, by law, the responsibility of the landowner. These responsibilities can be transferred to a second party such as a forester or managing agent by contractual agreement.

Following a harvest no slash can remain within fifty feet of a town road or twenty-five feet of a boundary line. Slash cannot be deposited in a stream channel, or below the high water mark of a waterway. It is unlawful to deposit silt in a watercourse.

In addition to the laws mentioned above, there are a number of laws that deal with clear-cuts beginning at five acres in size. Another law establishes a "trip ticket" system used when transporting wood. Additional information can be obtained through the Maine Forest Service.

The town of Cumberland does regulate timber harvesting in its Shoreland Zoning Ordinance. An updated copy of the town's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance will be consulted before any timber harvesting is to begin and all activities will comply fully with the restrictions and regulations therein.

Best Management Practices (BMP'S)

Best Management Practices are strategies and actions that, when properly applied, help protect water and soil quality through all phases of timber harvesting. A detailed examination of current accepted BMP's can be found in Best Management Practices for

Forestry: Protecting Maine's Water Quality. A publication released by the Maine Forest Service, Maine Department of Conservation in 2004.

These BMP's include practices such as water-barring of completed skid trails to prevent or minimize soil erosion, building proper bridges or fords when crossing brooks with equipment and constructing landings and roads to standards that minimize long term impact, to name a few. It is recommended that these BMP's be implemented wherever and whenever possible to maintain water quality while operating on Town of Cumberland Property.