

Liquidation Harvesting Rule – Chapter 23: Section 6 (C) Option 3 Timber Harvest Plan – Required Elements

Prior to conducting a timber harvest subject to this rule, a licensed forester must prepare a site-specific timber harvest plan that contains the following elements:

1. Landowner's name, address, and telephone number.
2. Designated agent's name, address, and telephone number (if applicable).
3. Signature and license number of Licensed Forester preparing or approving plan.
4. Forest Operations Notification number and the date it was filed.
5. Total parcel acreage.
6. A stand-specific narrative (for each forest stand) that includes:
 - a. Description of the pre-harvest stand conditions including information on:
 1. Approximate stand acreage;
 2. Stocking;
 3. Timber volumes;
 4. Timber quality;
 5. Potential increases in future timber volume and value after the harvest;
 6. An assessment of wind firmness; and
 7. Other stand characteristics relevant to the planned harvest.
 - b. **For harvests resulting in an adequately stocked stand**, the narrative must have a silvicultural rationale for the harvest for each stand that explains how the harvest will:
 1. Maintain or improve stand productivity;
 2. Grow stands to saw timber size;
 3. Improve timber quality and value; and
 4. **Specifically avoid high grading.**

The rationale must specify actions that will be taken to minimize damage to the residual stand: including but not limited to:

1. Minimizing the area occupied by skid trails;
2. Retaining adequate residual stocking to reduce the risk of blow down;
and
3. Other factors.

The rationale must include a description of the residual stand that will result from the harvest including but not limited to:

1. Species;
2. Stocking (use USDA-Forest Service stocking guides for species or forest type);
3. Tree condition;
4. Size classes; and
5. Other stand characteristics.

c. **For harvests that will result in *under-stocked stands***, and for regeneration harvests, the narrative must include a silvicultural rationale that explains the reason justifying the harvest. The narrative must also:

1. Include a justification for clearcutting identified in MFS Rule Section (5)(C)(8)(a-d) Chapter 20, Forest Regeneration and Clearcutting Standards.
2. Specify actions that will be taken to retain adequate residual stocking and to reduce the risk of blow down.
3. Specify actions used to minimize damage to the residual stand and advanced regeneration:
 - a. These measures can include but are not limited to: minimizing the area occupied by skid trails, and/or creating conditions suitable for prompt regeneration of the site to commercially valuable species.
 - b. The rationale must include a description of the residual stand that will result from the harvest, including but not limited to:

1. Species;
 2. Stocking;
 3. Tree condition;
 4. Size classes;
 5. Improvement and increase in value for the future stand;
 6. Specifically avoid high grading; and
 7. Other stand characteristics
7. An assessment of the soil erosion potential of the harvest area; and specific actions that will be taken to:
- a. Minimize rutting;
 - b. Minimize the potential of soil erosion;
 - c. Minimize the deposition of sediment into water bodies. These actions should include but are not limited to:
 1. Planning the layout of skid trails and yards to minimize erosion;
 2. The use of applicable Best Management Practices ("BMP's").
8. A description of how the proposed harvest will protect known occurrences of threatened or endangered species and rare or exemplary natural communities.
9. A description of how the proposed harvest will protect significant and essential wildlife habitat, water quality, wetlands and riparian zones (through the use of BMP's).
10. A stand specific map prepared at a scale adequate to identify individual stands clearly, but no less than 1:15,840 (1in. = 1,320 ft. or 20 chains) or larger. The map must also identify:
- a. Wetlands;
 - b. Water bodies; and
 - c. Any known occurrences of threatened or endangered species, rare natural communities, significant wildlife habitat and essential wildlife habitat, if present.

The map must contain:

- a. A legend;
- b. A north arrow;
- c. Landowner name;
- d. Town;
- e. Date of preparation; and
- f. The name of the preparer.

The landowner must update the map to conform to conditions in the field. Any amendments/updates must be attached to the original map of the plan.

11. The timber harvest plan must be implemented during the harvest.
12. A Licensed Forester must attest in writing within 60 days of completion of the harvest or expiration of the Forest Operations Notification, whichever is earlier, that the harvest has complied with the harvest plan. The attestation must include the Licensed Forester's signature and license number.
13. The timber harvest plan and attestation must be kept on file by the landowner and be made available to MFS for at least seven years following the completion of the harvest or the expiration of the Forest Operations Notification, whichever is later.

For complete details concerning the Liquidation Harvesting Rule go to www.maineforestservice.gov

Note: **Adequately Stocked Stand** for **even aged** stand management: A forest stand that contains **C-line stocking** as defined by the stocking guide relevant to particular species published by the USDA Forest Service.

Adequately Stocked Stand for **uneven aged** stand management: The stocking level of acceptable growing stock trees **must not be less than 60 square feet of basal area per acre.**

The outline above provides basic information on the development of a timber harvest plan for the Chapter 23: Liquidation Harvesting Rule. It is the Landowner and Licensed Forester's responsibility to insure that the timber harvest plan meets all the requirements of the rule for content, and that the harvest plan is implemented as prescribed during the harvest.