



PENNSYLVANIA SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY INITIATIVE® IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

211 Barrington Lane, Bellefonte, PA 16823

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative® is a service of SFI, Inc.

TIMBER HARVESTING CHECKLIST

Timber Harvester _____	Landowner _____
County _____	Date _____
Township _____	

PRE-HARVEST CONSIDERATIONS: Assess during the planning stage and site walk-through

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

	<input type="checkbox"/> Doing any excavation or ROW crossings? [PA One Call System: Dial 811 or 1-(800) 242-1776] <input type="checkbox"/> Need a municipality/township permit?
Site Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Need a road or bridge bond? <input type="checkbox"/> Need an access permit for a state/township road? <input type="checkbox"/> Need a culvert at entrance to public road? <input type="checkbox"/> Need to stabilize approach to public road?
Haul Roads, Skid Trails & Landings	<input type="checkbox"/> Will they be located away from streams and outside riparian buffers? <input type="checkbox"/> Will road/skid trail grades be minimized throughout the job (max 15%, min 2%)? <input type="checkbox"/> Will landings be located on firm, well drained soils with a gentle slope? <input type="checkbox"/> Where will E&S control structures be needed, and what type will be used?
Harvest Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Any high quality or exceptional value streams? [If yes, additional regulations may apply] <input type="checkbox"/> Any public/private drinking water supplies nearby? [If yes, additional regulations may apply] <input type="checkbox"/> Is a stream crossing permit needed? <input type="checkbox"/> Will spring seeps/vernal pools be avoided? <input type="checkbox"/> Are there any special sites (historical, geological, cultural significance) or plants present? <input type="checkbox"/> Has soil drainage and erosion potential been considered? <input type="checkbox"/> Is Erosion and Sedimentation (E&S) Plan completed and are all required permits obtained?

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

	<input type="checkbox"/> Has the landowner received the PA SFI informational brochure? <input type="checkbox"/> Are property boundaries and timber sale boundary lines located? <input type="checkbox"/> Are there any overhead utilities (phone, cable, or electric lines) that could be a problem?
Site Access	<input type="checkbox"/> Have all options been considered – right of ways? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the access need a gate?
Haul Roads, Skid Trails	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing roads, trails locations suitable for upgrade/reuse? <input type="checkbox"/> Will the amount of clearing for roads/trails be minimized? <input type="checkbox"/> Any “control points” to work with?
Harvest Site	<input type="checkbox"/> Are wildlife habitat needs (cavity trees, snags, mast production) being considered? <input type="checkbox"/> Is regeneration present or planned for when canopy cover will be reduced to less than 50%? <input type="checkbox"/> Is residual species composition being considered when selecting trees to be left? <input type="checkbox"/> Is competing vegetation present (ferns, grass, and/or undesirable understory trees/shrubs)? <input type="checkbox"/> Have deer impacts been considered?
Landings	<input type="checkbox"/> Existing open areas suitable for use? <input type="checkbox"/> Landing(s) kept to the minimum size for efficient operation? <input type="checkbox"/> Are the haul road approaches stable? <input type="checkbox"/> Are skid trail approaches stable?
Minimizing Visual Impact	<input type="checkbox"/> Can haul roads be designed to screen landing areas from public road view? <input type="checkbox"/> Can harvesting area be screened from public road view? <input type="checkbox"/> Can topography be used to soften visual impact?

ACTIVE HARVESTING CONSIDERATIONS: *Assess during active harvesting operations*

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

- Is Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan on-site at all times?
- Are waterbars and diversions controlling water runoff effectively?
- Are skid trails, haul roads and landings graded to ensure proper drainage?
- Are sediment barriers/filters being used where needed?
- Are riparian buffers established and being protected (no equipment in them)?
- Are the approaches to stream crossings stabilized?
- Is tops/slash being kept out of stream channels?
- Is slash in vernal pools/spring seeps/wetlands minimized?
- Is mud and debris on public roads being minimized?
- Is effort being made to prevent/contain spilled fuels, lubricants, or other chemicals?
- Is trash being collected and removed from the site as it is generated?

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

Minimizing Visual Impact

- Are screens along public roads maintained throughout the harvest?
- Are trees in skid trails being cut (vs. being run over) and stumps removed where needed?
- Are stumps being buried or flipped upright along roads and landing areas?
- Are trees with severely broken tops, "rainbowed," or otherwise damaged being felled?
- Is slash being cut low near roads or residences?
- Are tops/slash being kept inside property/sale boundaries?

**Regeneration/
Productivity**

- Are bumper trees along skid trails being used to minimize damage to residual trees?
- Are stump heights being kept low?
- Is rutting and excess soil compaction being minimized?
- Is an adequate seed sources being left if no advance regeneration is present?

Other Values

- Are harvested trees being fully utilized?
- Are hung trees being removed in a timely manner?
- Are sensitive areas being treated with care?
- Are there any fences or stone walls that need to be repaired?

SITE RETIREMENT CONSIDERATIONS: *Assess during retirement and closeout of a site*

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

- Have skid trails been re-graded and long-term water control structures installed?
- Have haul roads been re-graded and long-term water control structures installed?
- Have critical areas of skid trails and haul roads been seeded and/or mulched?
- Have landing areas been seeded and/or mulched?
- Have stream crossings been removed and stabilized per DEP requirements?
- Have pipes or other temporary crossings been removed from skid trails?
- Are accesses to township/state roads retired per permit requirements?
- Is all trash and refuse removed from the site?
- Was landowner informed they are now responsible for maintenance of site's E&S controls?

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Has slash and large woody debris been removed from landing area(s)?
- Has a gate been installed if needed?

COMMENTS AND SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

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**Pennsylvania Sustainable Forestry Initiative®
Implementation Committee**

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