

## Harvest Operations Plan Standards for Direct Link Loan Program

Introduction: These standards outline requirements for Harvest Operations Plans (HOP's) prepared for timber harvests conducted using equipment purchased with an interest rate subsidy provided by the Direct Link Loan (DLL) Program.

The format for presenting this information is up to the landowner, the harvester, and, if involved, the Licensed Forester.

**All items on the list must be addressed in the HOP.**

The outline suggested by these standards may be followed but is not required.

**R: Required in Plan**

**M: Required in map. Basic required map elements: Landowner name, lot identification, north arrow, scale, preparer's name and signature, legend, and date prepared.**

- R M** Name of woodlot/parcel (can be Landowner's name or other non-technical identifier).
- R** Forest Operations Notification (FON) number.
- M** Nearest road (as in FON).
- R M** Town, city, township or plantation.
- R** County.
- R** Tax Map, Plan & Lot.
- R** Total parcel size.
- R M** Estimated acres to be harvested.
- R** Coordinates of primary work areas/ landing(s).
- R** Landowner contact information (from FON).
- R** Harvester contact information (from FON).
- R** Licensed forester contact information, if involved (from FON).
- R** Owner of timber contact information, if different from landowner.
- R** Existing forest management plan, if one exists: date prepared and preparer's name. Otherwise, state "no plan."

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- R** Landowner objectives: general and specific to operation. Should address what the landowner wants their land to look like post-harvest. Should repeat and/or reflect objectives in existing forest management plan, if one exists.
- R** Description of harvest boundaries: Include designation method, i.e. "red flagging," "blue blazed trees," etc.
- R** Description of nearby property lines, if not being used as harvest boundaries. Condition of and method for designating any property lines within 200 feet of the harvest area.
- R M** Water bodies: describe both within harvest area and any nearby with potential to be affected by harvest activities. If none present, state, "no water bodies present."
- R M** Habitats/natural communities: at minimum, includes Maine Natural Areas Program or Beginning With Habitat list. Can include specifics (nest trees, winter cover areas, etc.) and non-regulatory information. If none present, state, "no special habitats present."
- R M** Access: describe existing access and/or any landings, roads or trails needed to construct.
- R** Best Management Practices to protect water quality: includes riparian management areas, water crossings, road and trail maintenance, close-outs, etc. **Map** accordingly. If none needed, include statement to that effect.
- R M** Zoning considerations: Municipal, Statewide Standards, Land Use Planning Commission, other (watershed). If none present, include statement to that effect.
- R** Permits and Notifications: always include Forest Operation Notification plus other state and local information as appropriate. If none apply other than FON, include statement to that effect.
- R** Timing considerations: actual or recommended schedule, by month or season and year. Note if (any of) the harvest area is wet-weather suitable, frozen condition only, etc. Strategic considerations, contingencies for dealing with changing weather, markets, etc.
- R** List harvesting equipment to be used.
- R** Silvicultural prescription(s): Must either be quoted from existing forest management plan or written by a licensed forester. Includes expected/planned regeneration system, or statement of non-applicability. Should specify target post harvest characteristics, such as stocking level, etc. If no prescription exists, state, "no prescription."

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- R Method for designating trees or areas to be harvested or treated: paint-to-cut, paint-to-leave, species priority order, etc. Includes designations of differing treatment areas, such as riparian management, specific habitats or cultural sites. **Map** accordingly.
- R Provisions for monitoring and oversight of the operation, including the role of the licensed forester, if involved.
- R M Cultural resources; from forest management plan, if one exists; also from additional local knowledge and considerations. Include significant buildings, stone walls, etc. in or near harvest area. If none present, include statement to that effect.
- R M Visual impacts: Identify areas of higher visual concern; identify aesthetic BMP's as appropriate. If no visual issues, include statement to that effect.
- R M Other Factors: "special areas," landowner specifications, etc.
- R HOP preparer's contact information, if different from any above.
- R HOP preparer's signature, date prepared.
- R Landowner's signature and date.