

# Chapter 20 Rules Harvest Plan Requirements

## for Category 2 and Category 3 Clearcuts

For all Category 2 and Category 3 clearcuts, the landowner shall develop, prior to harvest, a **site specific** harvest plan signed by a Licensed Forester that demonstrates compliance with the standards of Section 3 (Regeneration Standards) and Section 4 (Clearcut Standards) of the Chapter 20 rule.

For all Category 3 clearcuts, the harvest plan must be submitted to the Maine Forest Service with the Forest Operations Notification **at least 60 days prior** to commencing the timber harvest, as specified in MFS Chapter 26 Rule.

The following minimum elements are required in the harvest plan for each Category 2 and Category 3 clearcut:

1. Landowners Name, address and phone number.
2. Designated Agent information (if applicable).
3. Licensed Forester who prepared the harvest plan, with signature and license number.
4. Forest Operation Notification number and date.
5. Date(s) of the harvest (start to finish).
6. Certification statement that the clearcut is being created to improve the health or the productivity of the forest or for creation of wildlife habitat. This certification must be done by a Licensed Forester (LPF) or Certified Wildlife Professional (CWP).
7. Explanation of how the regeneration and clearcut standards will be met: (to include but not limited to)
  - A. Clearcut acres and separation zone acres.
  - B. Separation zone characteristics including species, basal area, stems per acre, height, stand types, etc.
  - C. Desired regeneration outcome, anticipated species and stocking levels.
  - D. Description of how the regeneration standards will be met within five years of harvest completion, including post-harvest monitoring and regeneration assessment.

8. Reason for creation of a clearcut (as provided by Chapter 20 standards).

In addition to selecting a reason for creating the clearcut, site specific stand description(s) must be included. This narrative must include detailed information supporting the clearcut justification. Information should include but is not limited to: species composition/proportions, stand age, harvest history, basal area, diameter, height/diameter ratio, live crown ratio, stand quality, insect/disease, wind damage and any supporting data that may have been collected, such as growth rates.

The reason for the clearcut must be one of the following four options and stated in the harvest plan.

- A. Removal poor quality, intolerant, understocked, short lived or mature overstories where the retention of the residual overstory trees is not justified for further increase in value, as a source of seed, or for protection of the new stand.
  - B. Ecologically appropriate improvement or creation of wildlife habitat, with accompanying prescription and justification by certified wildlife professional.
  - C. Removal of timber stands that if partially harvested by acceptable silvicultural practice, are at high risk for windthrow due to factors such as soils, rooting depth, crown ratio or stem quality.
  - D. Harvesting of an existing plantation or other forest stands established by or previously treated with precommercial silvicultural activities.
9. Soil erosion potential assessment of the harvest area and actions taken to protect water bodies and riparian zones and to minimize erosion: (to include but not limited to) soil type or site conditions (wet, dry, rocky, ledge, well drained etc.), terrain (flat, steep, slope %), identification of waterbodies (streams, brooks, rivers, lakes), identification of site specific BMP's that will be used, both during and after harvesting and identification of all stream/brook crossings with a description of the crossing method and closeout/stabilization plan.
10. Wind firmness assessment of the clearcut separation zone and how standards for the separation will be maintained: (to include but not limited to)
- a. If harvesting within the separation zone, both pre and post stand conditions should be included along with wind firmness considerations (live crown ratio, height/diameter ratios, soil conditions, etc.)
  - b. If no harvesting planned in the separation zone, then a description of stand conditions, site/soil conditions and wind firmness.

- c. If windthrow could be a problem, then explain any considerations and what will be done to minimize the effect on the separation zone.
11. Wildlife habitat certification (by LPF or CWP that the harvest is or is not in a significant/essential wildlife habitat area). Harvests in significant or essential wildlife areas will require certification that all appropriate approvals, permits or variances have been obtained.
12. A map that shows the clearcut location, associated separation area/zone, existing or proposed access roads and any waterbodies/wetlands. The landowner shall promptly update the map as needed by attaching amendments to the original copy if changes are necessary.
13. Regeneration plan certification by a Licensed Forester that the landowner has a plan to manage the regeneration consistent with the standards of this rule. This should include but not be limited to: regeneration method (planting or natural), identify desired species composition and anticipated number of trees per acre and if available a regeneration survey.
14. Additional information required for a Category 3 clearcuts: A summary of how the proposed clearcut and other adjacent harvesting activities collectively effect water quality protection and wildlife habitat needs. Information should include but not be limited to: mapped locations of main skid trails and log yards, protective measures for water quality (specific BMP practices, protection of buffers along water bodies etc.), maintaining wildlife habitat, cover, and travel corridors.

The Maine Forest Service recommends that applicants for Category 3 clearcuts should contact Maine Natural areas Program (MNAP), Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (Regional Biologist), and local municipalities to check for regulations on land use restrictions and identification of significant, threatened, endangered and essential habitats and wildlife species.

Any changes made to the original harvest plan during the harvest operation requires that an amendment/addendum be attached to the original plan. Any amendments to an approved Category 3 clearcut must be reviewed and approved by MFS before the change can be implemented.