

# **WOODLAND OWNER'S CHECKLIST WHEN MARKETING FOREST PRODUCTS**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Any decision to initiate a timber harvest on your woodlands can be bewildering and even frightening. However, both educational and technical assistance is available to lead you through the step-by-step procedures of selling your forest products.

A properly planned timber harvest can result in immediate financial returns along with future benefits, such as a more productive woodland, better wildlife habitat, increased property values due to increased accessibility, improved recreational potential for hiking and hunting, and the ability to better protect your woodland from fire, insects, and disease.

Use the following checklist to help you through the process.

## **BEFORE YOU SELL THE TIMBER:**

- know your boundaries,
- contact professional foresters for a timber resource inventory and a plan, and
- learn what you have in the way of tree species, tree quality, tree volume, logging limitations, and accessibility.

## **OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING MARKETS:**

- who is buying timber, and
- what are the prices being paid.

## **THE TIMBER SALE INVOLVES DEVELOPMENT OF A PROSPECTUS WHICH INCLUDES:**

- description of timber for sale,
- show-me date,
- bid opening date, and
- outline of some pertinent contract provisions.

## **THE CONTRACT SHOULD INCLUDE:**

- legal description;
- timber for sale description;
- method of payment;
- length of contract; and
- special provisions for damage, road developments, restrictions, etc.

## **THE HARVEST INVOLVES:**

- planning the job with the logging contractor to locate
  - timber concentrations,
  - haul roads, and
  - landings and skid trails;
- maintaining buffers (no soil disturbance areas);
- planning for water control structures; and
- determining development of permanent roads vs. temporary roads.

**MONITORING THE ACTIVE LOGGING JOB INVOLVES:**

- watching for contract compliance,
- checking on damages, and
- maintaining water control structures.

**ENDING THE HARVESTING INCLUDES:**

- smoothing and waterbarring skid roads,
- smoothing and draining landings,
- smoothing and draining haul roads,
- cleaning or removing water control structures, and
- seeding disturbed areas.

**THE CURRENT FOREST WATER QUALITY PROGRAM (LOGGING SEDIMENT CONTROL ACT):**

- is regulated;
- makes stream sedimentation illegal;
- includes an educational and training program for loggers;
- incorporates logger licensing, certification, and notification; and
- monitors compliance.

**BMPs ARE PRACTICES USED IN LOGGING TO LIMIT EROSION AND PREVENT SILTATION OF CREEKS. THEY ARE:**

- planning the operation,
- using filterstrips,
- using necessary water control structures,
- maintaining these structures, and
- seeding certain areas when finished.