

Appendix 11: Alternative Harvest Operating Plan

Objective: To support the growth and quality of desired trees using alternative harvest systems which encourage regeneration, maintenance and growth of tolerant species and long-lived species. Harvest systems under this plan are intended to provide an alternative to clear-cut regeneration. Removal of stems which are at risk of losing value reduces competition among remaining crop trees. This increases growth rates and promotes higher valued products.

Pre-Treatment Assessment:

- Must present a harvest alternative to clearcutting. This may involve harvest systems such as selection, strip/patch treatments or shelterwood.
- Site must be without evidence of unacceptable wind throw, pest or disease risk.
- Does not include pre-merchantable thinning or semi-commercial thinning.
- Must include an objective to encourage regeneration and/or maintenance and/or improvement of key tolerant tree species and long-lived species. This includes tolerant hardwoods, spruce, white pine, cedar and hemlock. Red maple may also be included as it has been identified as a climate change adaptive species.
- Woodlot owner must sign an agreement on plan objectives and timeline
- A written prescription including pre-treatment stand information (including photos) and treatment plan/objectives must be prepared by an RPF or CFT and be made available to ERD if the treatment is selected for audit.

Post Treatment Inspection:

- The treated stand must have $\geq 50\%$ of BA comprised of sugar maple, red maple, yellow birch, spruce, white pine, cedar and/or hemlock.
- Treated using a consistent pattern
- Harvest treatment must meet the requirements set forth in the prescription.
- Crop tree damage incidents must be $< 10\%$ of crop trees (in BA sweeps).
 - exposed sapwood greater than 200 cm^2 ;
 - $> 20\%$ crown damaged;
 - $> 20\%$ root system damaged
- Minimal damage of desired regeneration and saplings.
- Areas $> 1000 \text{ m}^2$ either untreated or residual BA $< 15 \text{ m}^2/\text{ha}$ must be mapped out
- Sampling: Plot intensity greater of one plot per ha or 4 plots per work area.