

Retention and Regional Opening Size Guidelines

Southeast Region – Standard Language and Guidance (Advisory)

FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.0) language

Indicator 6.3.g.1 In Southeast, Appalachia, Ozark-Ouachita, Mississippi Alluvial Valley, and Pacific Coast Regions, when even-aged systems are employed, and during salvage harvests, live trees and other native vegetation are retained within the harvest unit as described in Appendix C for the applicable region.

Appendix C

The guidelines describe in Appendix C are not binding to the certification of forest management in the Southeastern United States. They have been retained in order to provide certification bodies and other stakeholders in forest certification with the spirit of the original, SE Regional Standard position on the use and size of clear-cuts.

FSTOA position on retention

Since Appendix C in the FSC-US Forest Management Standard is none binding in the Southeastern United States FSTOA has elected not to have a retention policy at this point. As future versions of the standard are published, retention will be revisited to make sure the FSTOA group lands are in compliance with standard revisions. Currently, no retention is required on tracts being harvested.

Opening Sizes

Indicator 6.3.g.1.a

- Primary and natural forests: clearcutting is not allowed. Harvesting is not allowed at all in primary forests.
- Semi-natural forests: stands with trees greater than 100 years old: clearcutting is not allowed; even-aged stands of hardwood and cypress; clearcutting is allowed; the size of openings should be conservative.
- Even-aged stands of pine and pine/hardwood; clearcutting is allowed; the size of openings should not be higher than the limit for plantations and should be justified by natural regeneration requirements.

Clearcuts up to 80 acres are allowed in cases where a 40 acre stand would not provide enough timber volume to secure an economically operable timber sale, meaning that the sale would not attract a buyer and/or the landowner would not make a profit from the sale.

Clearcuts up to 80 acres are allowed in cases where harvesting a stand in 40 acre blocks would cause unnecessary environmental disturbance to the area surrounding the stand.

An exception to all of the limits on the use and size of clearcuts can be made in cases of ecologic necessity.

FSTOA Harvest Opening Size Guidelines

In order, to be in compliance with the FSC-FM standard on the lands managed by the Four State Timberland Owners Association our policy for final harvest size will be as follows.

- Final harvests from 0-80 acres are preferred.
- Any snags or legacy trees are encouraged to be left but not necessary as long as not to endanger the health or safety of persons visiting the site.
- The “average for all openings” does not exceed 150 acres.
- Final harvest size will never exceed 200 contiguous acres.
- Large areas that are scheduled to be harvested that exceed 200 contiguous acres must be broken up by natural or planned features such as SMZ’s, AMZ’s, wildlife corridors or topographic features to ensure the 200 contiguous acres is not exceeded.