

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE GUIDELINES FOR TIMBER SALES ON THE HIAWATHA SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

A. TIMBER SALE PHILOSOPHY

The forests, on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club (HSC), are important to the members. Our land and water provide an opportunity to participate in and enjoy the benefits of responsible stewardship for approximately 34,000 acres of land. Healthy forests provide habitat for many species of wildlife, and provide high quality water for organisms that make up the web of life in our many lakes and streams. Forests are pleasant places to visit and experience nature, and are for people who fish, hunt and enjoy photography. Healthy forests also produce wood products. The harvesting of wood will be done in ways that assure continuing reproduction of this valuable resource.

Forest products produce many benefits. Some benefits are: the opportunity to manage wildlife habitat; provide raw material for products important to our culture and income for the HSC. Timber harvesting will be done in ways that encourage the membership to use and enjoy the Club.

B. RESPONSIBILITY FOR TIMBER SALES

How and when to harvest timber is a responsibility delegated to the Natural Resources Committee by the Board of Governors. The Committee will receive and review advice from the Board, the Club Manager, the Membership and resource professionals in order to insure their decisions are made in the best interests of the HSC.

C. VISUAL MANAGEMENT

Sale design will attempt to create landscapes that appear as natural as possible, and is 'an important part of timber management.

New roads, to be added to the HSC road system, will be approved by the Building House and Grounds Committee and the Board of Governors. Construction of these roads will be designed to enhance viewing opportunities and reduce visual impacts as much as possible.

Roads, for access to timber sales, will be closed upon completion of harvesting operations, or when specified by the Club Manager and/or the Committee Chairperson. These roads will be designed to reduce negative visual impacts by recognizing the following:

1. Construction will be the responsibility of the Club Manager and/or Committee Chairperson.
2. Trees will be cut from root balls and utilized. Root balls are to be pushed back from the road edge, where possible.
3. Slopes along shoulders, ditches, borrow areas and landings will be graded (bladed) and not steeper than 1.5 or 2.1, with the ideal slope being 3.1. Raw earth areas, larger than 600 sq. ft., will be seeded. Appropriate seed mixtures will be used.
4. Wood will be decked at least 50 feet off all maintained HSC Roads and Trails.
5. Care will be taken to develop routes for logging equipment, which will cause the least possible inconvenience to the Club members.
6. On the designated Club road system (A Trail, P Trail, Graylock Road, G Trail, etc.), slash will be moved back 20 feet from the graded edge, or the back of the ditch along roads, whichever is further. Within 100 feet of the designated Club road system, slash will be lopped and scattered, so that it is no more than three (3) feet high, and not wind rowed.
7. Slash and logging debris, from landing areas, will be scattered throughout the harvest area.

D. TIMBER SALE PROCEDURES

A Hiawatha Club map showing the proposed timber sales for the upcoming year, the approved timber sales for the past three years and the sales harvested during the past three years is submitted. This map will be at a scale of at least one and three eighths inches (1 3/8")=1 mile. Symbols, showing type of cut for the proposed and approved sales, will be the same symbols that are used on the timber cover map, scale 4" = 1 mile, which is updated on a yearly basis, showing timber harvests that were completed during the past fifteen years.

A map, scale 4" = 1 mile, of each proposed sale, is submitted. The map will show the stand (s) that cutting is proposed in, as well as adjacent stands, type of cutting proposed, legal description, proposed sale name, acres proposed to be cut, roads and trails in or near the stand (s), and any other information that will help the Committee understand exactly what is being proposed and the likely impacts of the proposed cut(s). Standard cover type symbols, to be used, are attached.

When proposed timber sales are submitted to the Natural Resources Committee, they will be on the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club Timber Sale Proposal form (see attached). Also, there will be a statement about issues, such as harvest plans for large areas of aspen that include sale design for visual and wildlife objectives; Basal Area before, and the proposed Basal Area after, a thinning, shelterwood, or seed tree cut; etc. Potential sale decisions will then be based on:

1. The needs and interests of the Hiawatha Sportsman's Club.
2. Silviculturally sound guidelines. Examples of possible sources of such guidelines are: the HSC management plan; Manager's Handbook for Aspen, Red Pine, Jack Pine, Northern Hardwoods", etc. published by the North Central Forest Experiment Station, Forest Service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture; etc.
3. Sound visual management practices. Examples of sources of information about visual management practices include: "National Forest Landscape Management", Volume 1 and Volume 2, chapter 1, USDA, Forest Service: "Timber Harvesting and the Visual Resource", by Michael Schrotz, from: "Timber Harvesting — The Link Between Management and Utilization", Society of American Foresters Region V Technical Conference, Sept. 25 - 27, 1958; etc.
4. Requirements of any contract that may be in force.
5. Other criteria which may be required by the Committee.

After the Committee approves the timber sale proposal, the sale is set up. Any new information, encountered when setting up the sale, must be brought to the Committee's attention, along with recommendations for incorporating the new information into the sale design and specifications.

The resource professional, hired to set up and administer timber sales, is responsible to see that the timber sale is harvested according to specifications. He must work closely with the Club Manager. The resource professional is ultimately responsible to the Natural Resource Committee for the satisfactory completion of each timber sale.

E. CONSIDERATIONS FOR TIMBER SALE DESIGN AND CUTTING SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMMITTEE REFERENCE WHEN STUDYING SALE PROPOSALS

1. Visual management and cutting patterns in the proposed sale area:
 - a) Patches of uncut timber should be left along roads, so that people can drive in and out of cutting areas. This can be accomplished by leaving the small stands of hardwoods, red and white pine, and/or healthy white birch that often are mixed in with large aspen stands.
 - b) Clear-cut patches should be similar in size and shape to natural openings.
 - c) Roads, through the area, should provide diversity, by giving a partial view of clearcuts, as well as views of uncut and/or partially cut stands.
 - d) Clearcuts, larger than 40 acres, will be broken up by uncut islands of trees, about one quarter acre to several acres in size. This practice should also be used on many small clearcuts.
 - e) Clearcuts will have irregular shapes achieved by following type lines between stands, moving

diagonally across contour lines, copying the shapes and size of natural openings in the area, moving in and out along roads, leaving islands of trees uncut, etc.

2. **Clearcuts, where an aspen stand is the objective:**

- a) Large stands will be clearcut in several stages over time (6—10 years), and will have a cutting plan that considers visual impacts, wildlife values, stand condition and watershed impacts. Several small clearcut patches can be contained into one sale. The size of any one cut patch will usually be in the 10 - 30 acre range with only occasional 40 — 60 acre patches. Insect, disease or storm-damaged stands may occasionally require larger cuts.
- b) Scattered and healthy red and white pine should be left uncut for their positive visual impacts. Enough red and white pine should be harvested to assure a well stocked aspen stand, so the wildlife benefits of the aspen timber type are retained. If an aspen stand is in danger of being taken over by pine reproduction cut the smaller trees and leave most of the healthy large trees. The total Basal Area (BA) of pine and the wildlife species mentioned below should be between 0 and 30 in stands that are to be managed for aspen.
- c) Unless an opening is small, clearcuts should generally avoid going all around the entire opening. Cutting around openings should progress in stages over several cuts.
- d) Where aspen is the stand objective, cherry, oak, June berry, mountain ash and beech trees will generally not be cut, because of their benefit to wildlife, unless they total more than 20 to 30 BA. Reduce the residual of these species to about 20 BA by removing beech and cherry first.
- e) The specifications will call for harvesting all trees, except a maximum of 30 BA of red and white pine (and the wildlife species mentioned above) that are 5” or larger in diameter, measured at a point four and one half feet above the ground.
- f) If the red and white pine and wildlife species are 30 BA or more, the BA should be reduced to 15 - 25. Remove pine first, when reducing the residual BA. This needs to be done, so the aspen reproduction is not killed by shade, while some trees are still left in the cut area for their visual and wildlife values.
- g) Another option for visual management of pine in aspen clearcuts, is to leave islands of one half to several acres of pine and other species, and only scattered, or not pine, in the rest of the clearcut.

3. **Clearcuts, where jack pine is the objective:**

- a) Similar to aspen clearcuts (see above), with a few additions.
- b) Where the opportunity exists, a mixture of aspen, and jack pine is desirable, because of the more certain reproduction of aspen, and the increased wildlife habitat benefits of aspen over jack pine. It is important that every 5” DBH and larger aspen tree is cut, so that aspen reproduction is maximized.
- c) Jack pine reproduces by seeds (not mainly by root suckers like aspen). The serration’s cones containing the seeds must be scattered throughout the cut area, in order to have the best chance for jack pine reproduction. Therefore, tree length skidding is allowed, only when the trees are topped and de-lirtted before skidding, or the slash is evenly scattered over the harvest area after de—linting at the landing.
- d) If the area is going to be planted (usually to jack or red pine), the stump height maximums should be 4” for pulp and 8” for sawlogs. In order to keep stump heights down, cutting will be restricted to the May 1 through Dec 1 period. The cutting period may be extended by the Club Manager and/or the Committee Chairperson.
- e) Because of visual management considerations, and an effort to encourage species diversity, healthy scattered red and white pine will not be cut. Small stands of red and white pine, within the jack pine stand, will be selectively marked

4. **Clearcuts, where cedar, black spruce or spruce—fir is the objective:**

- a) Cedar stands should not be cut unless there is relative certainty that cedar reproduction and the establishment of a new cedar stand will be successful. Cedar stands are those stands in which more than half of the Basal Area is cedar. The cedar resource is much more valuable to the HSC (acting as a natural barn for yarding deer year after year), than it is as a food source for only one winter. Even if adequate reproduction could be guaranteed, only limited cutting should occur in healthy stands. There are only

about 1300 acres of cedar that can be used as a natural barn on the Club, and cedar can live to be well over 200 years old.

- b) One technique to consider, for stands in which the cedar component is 40 to 50 BA or more, is to cut everything but cedar, healthy hemlock and white pine. This retains cover mixed with new sprouts, which the deer will use in the early part of the winter. This relieves pressure on the main yarding areas, since deer tend to move into the main yards later in the winter, when these type of stands are available.
- c) A very important consideration, in black spruce or spruce-fir stands, is that adequate regeneration be provided for. Strip clearcuts or shelterwood cuts are most successful in accomplishing adequate regeneration in spruce and fir stands.
- d) Considerations for visual diversity, size, etc., in the sections about aspen and jack pine clear cutting are valid

5. **Shelterwood and seed tree cuts:**

- a) These are really modified clearcuts. Multiple cuts, over time are used in some forest types to achieve adequate reproduction, to develop high value products through thinning, and/or to remove poor quality growing stock once good reproduction has been established. They should take into account the eventual visual impact of the final clearcut (size, shape, etc.). One way to do this is to leave the seed trees until the reproduction is ready for the first thinning, but the residual basal area should be in the 10 to 25 range, so the reproduction is not severely shaded.
- b) Since these are usually used in stands of trees that only grow moderately well in shade, it is important to remove or greatly reduce the overstory once the reproduction is well established, but before the reproduction is so large that overstory removal will cause too much damage to the reproduction. The over-story should usually be removed in about 3 to 5 years, or once adequate reproduction is about knee high. The final cut should be in winter, with at least 8" of snow cover to help reduce logging damage to the reproduction. If the final cut is allowed, when there is less than 8" of snow cover, it should not be in May or June, because the bark is loose then and excessive logging damage would be guaranteed.

6. **Northern hardwood thinning and selection cuts:**

- a) Stump diameter cuts are a recognized silvicultural tool. However, they are not appropriate in northern hardwood stands that are in the condition of those presently found on the HSC. Trees should be individually marked for removal.
- b) The "Manager's Handbook for Northern Hardwoods in the North Central States", general technical report NC—39, North Central Forest Experiment Station, Forest service, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, is one of many good northern hardwood marking guides.
- c) During the early summer, when the tree is actively growing new wood, the bark is loose and trees are especially susceptible to logging damage. Therefore, harvesting in northern hardwood stands, that are being thinned, should not be allowed from May 1 through June 30.
- d) Tree length skidding and product piling, between or against unmarked trees, should not be allowed.

7. **Timber harvesting in deer yards:**

- a) Yellow birch, red (soft) maple, hard (sugar) maple, white birch, aspen, hemlock, cedar, and white pine are all species that provide good deer food. To take advantage of the natural food in the tops of harvested trees, timber sales in deer yard areas, which have a large component of those species, will be harvested during the period December 1 through April 1. Whole tree chipping will not be allowed in these sales.
- b) In hard winters, an extension on cutting, until breakup occurs, is a good idea. The Club Manager will make the decision whether or not to extend cutting.
- c) A sale that has a large area to be thinned (usually hardwood), or a sale that has a stand to be thinned, combined with a stand to be clearcut, should be divided into cutting units that allows cutting in one unit

to start October 1 and cutting in the other unit(s) to start December 1. The April 1 end should still apply to all units. The object is to allow the contractor to begin cutting a bit early. However, the contractor should make a commitment to cut all winter, if he is allowed to start early.

(Addendum to Natural Resources Committee Guidelines)

“Water Area Management Practices on forestland”

Forest buffer strips along all streams and bodies of existing water, permanent and recurrent, are to be maintained as a normal practice to safeguard water quality on our forest land.

These buffer strips are to act as filtering agents to retain vegetation growth which will trap and filter out suspended sediments, nutrients, chemicals and other polluting agents prior to reaching a body of water.

(Individual cabin and homeowners can exercise this same practice and precaution by utilizing smaller scaled buffer strips at their water’s edge.)

To retain good water quality buffer strips should be utilized by meeting the following criteria:

- (1). Buffer strips should be > 100 feet from each side of a stream or lake. Strip widths should be larger, if slope percent is greater.
- (2). Maintain shading of a stream and leave an undisturbed forest floor.
- (3). Attend to, immediately, all roads, cuts and fills in the buffer zone by Appropriately seeding and mulching the area.

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NR timber harvest policy