



# A Timber Harvest from Start to Finish



Harvest time is often viewed as a necessary evil to be put off as long as possible. Stories of the devastation caused by logging abound, and we all know of woodland owners who have been cheated, deceived, or otherwise disappointed by the performance of loggers or mill operators.

On the other hand, a good harvest can be the payoff for years of good management. At intermediate stages in the life of a stand it can be the way to improve woodlot quality. For both financial and biological reasons, the cutting of trees is usually essential; when done properly, it can be a rewarding part of the overall management of your forest.

From The Woodland Steward by James Fazio

## Timber Sale Prospectus

1. Species, volume, and scale for what you are selling.
2. Map and location of the timber sale.
3. Tour date.
4. Bid opening date.
5. Sale specifics (Roads, slash, topwood, seeding, etc...)

## Timber Sale Contract

### **1. Name of Purchaser and Seller**

It's wise to include a statement prohibiting the buyer from sub-contracting or conveying the contract to anyone else without your permission.

### **2. Location of the sale (same map as in your prospectus)**

### **3. What's for sale (species, volumes, and scale).**

Include species, the agreed upon price for each, the scale used.

### **4. How it's marked.**

What color paint and manner (slashes, dots, stump marking!)

Also include maximum stump height, no tree length skidding, what to do with cull trees, what to do with topwood.

### **5. Land protection**

Here is where you can be creative in protecting your woodlot. In addition to specifications for roads, bridges, and culverts; you can also include:

- Post harvest erosion control measures
- Types of logging equipment allowed
- Avoidance of springs and creeks
- Repair to existing roads and repair of damages
- Protection of residual trees
- Litter cleanup

### **6. Permits and slash disposal**

Know what permits might be needed for your harvest

What to do with and where to put slash (cut it up, drag it where)

### **7. Payment**

How, when, and to whom payment is to be made. Include penalty rates for damaged residual trees or salable trees left in the woods. Severe penalties should be set for trees taken that are not part of the sale.

### **8. Time limits**

Set definite but reasonable beginning and ending dates, with a statement that all timber rights revert back to you after the closing date. Provide a clause to suspend logging in case of very wet or dangerously dry weather.

### **9. Sale performance**

Insist on a surety bond to be held in escrow to guarantee their performance and adherence to the contract.

## 10. A Consultant Forester can help you with all of the above.

For more information on this topic contact your local Service Forester:

- (814) 723-0262 Warren County
- (814) 332-6875 Crawford County
- (814) 796-6787 Erie County
- (814) 437-3368 Forest /Venango County