

## **Arranging a Timber Sale, Timber Sale Contracts, and Timber Stand Improvement - Jim Pitt** - New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Bath, NY

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### **Timber Harvesting**

Timber harvesting is a potentially lucrative means of regenerating a mature stand of trees. For many woodland owners this opportunity occurs only once. When selectively harvesting mature sawtimber it is important to receive several offers for the same trees. To be assured of receiving fair market value, the following are recommended:

- Identify and conspicuously paint boundary lines.
- Request the services of a professional forester to assess the timeliness of conducting a sawtimber harvest.
- If recommended, hire a professional forester to mark the timber sale with paint.
- Prepare a volume report, notice of sale, and location map to be sent to a long list of prospective bidders.
- Allow thirty-five (35) days for submission of bids.
- Prepare a timber sale contract to be signed by seller and successful bidder.
- Receive full payment before trees are cut and removed from your property.
- Hold a performance bond for the duration of the contract period.
- Allow one year for the completion of the contract.

### **Timber Stand Improvement**

Timber stand improvement (TSI) is an intermediate cutting made in an immature stand to stimulate growth of the trees that remain and to increase the total yield of wood fiber from the stand. Surplus trees are cut or killed in order to concentrate the potential wood fiber production of the stand on a limited number of superior trees. TSI may be accomplished with thinnings, cull removals, releasing juvenile trees, or a combination of these three stand treatments.

### **Situations When TSI may not be feasible**

- Stand is too young
- Stand is dominated by mature sawtimber
- Livestock is not excluded
- Stand dominated by trees with poorly formed stems
- Sites with poor internal soil drainage
- Stands dominated by such species as aspen, hornbeam, beech, hophornbeam, hawthorn, cottonwood, willow, or poplar
- Stands adversely impacted by insect outbreaks, disease, fire, wind, drought, snow, or glaze storms
- Too few trees per acre

### **Ways to accomplish TSI**

- Cut trees
- Apply a registered forestry herbicide to complete, overlapping ax frills. Registered herbicides must be applied under the supervision of a NYS certified pesticide applicator. Herbicides should be applied during the growing season, ideally after heavy sap flow ceases. Herbicides are available from farm supply outlets.
- Chain saw girdling is often ineffective and therefore not recommended.

water bar sheet

boundary line sheet