**Small Landowner Harvest**

This guide is to serve as a starting point for landowners to manage their own timber sale; it is not comprehensive as all logging jobs are unique. Most loggers will assist with the logistics of your logging operation.

Selecting a Logger

* Good source to find loggers <http://loggers.com/master-logger-program/>
* Ask for and check references on similar sized/type of logging job (including site visits)
* Consider loggers equipment, crew size, reliability, and experience
* Receive written bids from potential loggers
* Board foot vs. percentage bids; keep bids consistent to ease evaluation

Prepare a Contract

* Clearly state: Timing, Insurance requirements, Prices, Operational expectations, and who pays for each activity including; permits, hauling, taxes, road repair, site prep, planting, etc.
* Include landowner on loggers broad form insurance

Access and Property Lines

* All property lines are marked and not contested by neighbors
* Establish and mark lines by professional surveyor if necessary
* Access is off of public roads or a legal and recorded easement

Forest Practices Permit

* Proper logging plan for site (equipment, road type and location)
* Understand opportunities under the Forest Practices Rules (Stream buffer widths)
* Property lines, riparian management zones, roads, and leave trees are well marked

Notify your neighbors

* Potential for mutual timber harvest to share and reduce costs
* Avoid conflicts or address them early to prevent mid harvest delays
* Shared road maintenance/repair agreements
* Removal of hazard trees

Marketing Logs

* Solicit bids from multiple destinations for each product
* Arrange pre bid inspections of high quality or specialty logs
* Evaluate each bid based on price, haul cost differences, length requirements, and grading differences

Logging Operation

* Walk property with logger to address property lines, leave trees, sensitive sites, and special expectations

Clean-up / Job review

* Slash piling and site preparation
* Road repair and maintenance
* Equipment removal and garbage cleanup
* Erosion control
* Withhold final payment to logger until all contract expectations are completed

Starting your new forest

* Vegetation control (pre-emergent herbicide)
* Tree density and species
* Plantation maintenance