

A Decision Tree for Forestry Contracts, Permits and Leases

When do I add what specifications to address invasive species?

(Note, as of January 1, 2010 invasive species specifications are to go in all new or renewing silviculture, development, roads and lands contracts, permits and leases. As of December, 2010, specifications for timber sale permits have only been approved in the case of high conversation value sites).

This document is meant to provide guidance in determining if and when to add specifications to your contract, permit or lease beyond the normal standard guidelines that go in all documents. They are guidelines and not rules. As such, they are meant to provide the flexibility needed to address site specific conditions and the local resources available to meet the needs.

It is important to conduct a site visit during the growing season prior to developing the bid or contract, permit or lease specifications so that you are familiar with the invasive species issues that need to be addressed. If possible, control any infestations present prior to initiating other planned management activities. If that's not possible, plan to work around the infestations to the extent feasible. If possible and management objectives allow, carry out planned management activities under frozen conditions when the movement of invasive species is much less likely to occur. If it makes sense to write that into the contract, permit or lease, then some of these specifications can be omitted. If critical infestations cannot be controlled and/or avoided, additional specifications are needed to prevent the accidental spread of invasive species.

Step 1 Pest Quarantines - Is the stand to be managed within a quarantined area?

No - no additional language is needed to address quarantined pests. **Go to step 2.**

Yes - include the following text in the contract:

"This site is in a quarantined area due to the (enter pest). Obtain a compliance agreement from USDA APHIS prior to hauling wood or woody debris off this site. For more information, visit <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/plants/pestmanagement/eab/regulatoryinfo.aspx>"

Then go to step 2.

Step 2 Non-quarantined Plant Pests – Is oak wilt or other exotic pathogen known to occur on this site?

No - no additional language is needed to address non-quarantined plant pests. **Go to step 3.**

Yes - include the following text in the contract:

*"This site is infested with (enter disease). When removing trees or clearing brush, stack infested material and cover tightly with a tarp for one growing season before moving off site, **OR** process (chip, burn or debark) before April 1st. Do not haul infected trees between April 1st and November 1st."*

Then go to step 3.

Step 3 Invasive Plants - Check FIM, NPC and Quick Themes/Environmental Quality/Terrestrial Invasive Species data for reports of invasive plants in the stand or on the road (within 1 mile) leading to the stand to be managed.

Step 3a - Are there invasive plants in or adjacent to the stand to be treated?

No - no additional language is needed to address invasive plants. **Go to step 4.**

Yes - determine in what category the plants fall (see SOP Appendix B). **Then go to step 3b.**

Step 3b - Do any of the species fall in category 1?

No - no additional language is needed to address category 1 plants. **Go to step 3c.**

Yes - include the following text:

“This site is infested with (enter plant(s)). Before starting work, review known infestations with the site administrator. Avoid traveling through or parking in infested areas. When traveling between multiple sites a day, inform the site administrator of your daily work plan and the sites to be visited. Time operations and site visits to avoid the spread of weed seed. Using a power washer or air compressor, (enter frequency based on the volume of traffic moving on and off site) clean all vehicles, equipment and trailers taken on and off site during the snow-free season. Washing may be done at an approved location on site or off site at an appropriate cleaning facility. Cleaning is not required during frozen conditions.”

Then go to step 3d (skip 3c).

(Note to site administrators – the washing requirements may be omitted IF the infested areas can be controlled ahead of time or IF they are located such that all traffic can stay out of those areas AND the areas are clearly marked and instructions to stay out of those areas are clearly communicated to the vendor).

Step 3c – Do some of the species fall in category 2?

No - no additional language is needed to address invasive plants. **Go to step 3d.**

Yes - include the following text:

“This site is infested with (enter plant(s)). Before starting work, review known infestations with the site administrator. Avoid traveling through or parking in infested areas. When traveling between multiple sites a day, inform the site administrator of your daily work plan and the sites to be visited. Time operations and site visits to avoid the spread of weed seed.

Step 3d - Do some of the species fall in category 3?

No - no additional language is needed to address invasive plants. **Go to step 4.**

Yes - include the following text:

“This site is infested with one or more woody invasive species. When cutting, (enter preferred practice – chip, pile or pile and burn) rather than scattering the tops.”

Then go to step 4

Step 4 MBCS High and Outstanding and FSC HCV stands – check the status of the stand to be managed and determine if the stand is considered to be of high quality.

Step 4a - Is the stand to be managed of high or outstanding quality, or a HCV stand?

No - no additional language is needed to address high quality sites. Include the standard guidelines as follows:

“Before entering and leaving the site, be sure all vehicles, equipment and trailers are free of caked mud, dirt clods, noxious or invasive plants or plant parts. The use of a power washer or air compressor is not required unless specified elsewhere.”

(Note to site administrators - road grime does not qualify as ‘caked mud’. We’re looking for noticeable accumulations of mud or plant parts that could fall or be blown or knocked off during transit.)

Yes - determine what features are present that make this a high quality site. **Then go to step 4b.**

Step 4b - Would the accidental introduction of invasive plants into this site, put these features at risk of damage or degradation?

No - no additional language is needed to address high quality sites. Include the standard guidelines as follows:

“Before entering and leaving the site, be sure all vehicles, equipment and trailers are free of caked mud, dirt clods, noxious or invasive plants or plant parts. The use of a power washer or air compressor is not required unless specified elsewhere. In the case invasive plants are found during the operation (to be determined by the site administrator), the contractor/lease/permittee agrees to stop operations and gate or otherwise close the site until the infestation can be controlled or other arrangements can be made to avoid the spread of invasive plants.”

Then go to step 5.

(Note to site administrators - road grime does not qualify as ‘caked mud’. We’re looking for noticeable accumulations of mud or plant parts that could fall or be blown or knocked off during transit.)

Yes – add the following text:

“Before entering and leaving the site, be sure all vehicles, equipment and trailers are free of caked mud, dirt clods, noxious or invasive plants or plant parts. Using a power washer or air compressor, (enter frequency based on the volume of traffic likely to move on and off site) clean all vehicles, equipment and trailers taken on and off site during the growing season. Washing may be done at an approved location on site or off site at an appropriate cleaning facility. Cleaning is not required during frozen conditions. In the case invasive plants are found during the operation (to be determined by the site administrator), the contractor/lease/permittee agrees to stop operations and gate or otherwise close the site

until the infestation can be controlled or other arrangements can be made to avoid the spread of invasive plants.”

Step 5 Temporary access roads – Are temporary access roads or road improvements needed as part of the project?

No - no additional language is needed to address invasive plants. **Go to step 6.**

Yes - include the following text:

“All materials (gravel, fill, mulch, chips, sand, etc) brought to the site are to be weed free. Sources are to be approved prior to purchase and acquisition.”

Then go to step 6.

Step 6 - Completing the project – Is restoration/reclamation work to be included in the project?

No – Include the following text:

“Upon completion of the project or operation, close, obstruct or gate all access routes. If the project is inactive for longer than (add time frame) obstruct or gate all access routes until the project resumes.”

No other text is needed to address invasive species. So you’re done.

Yes – Include the following text:

“Plant or reclaim the site within (enter time frame) of the end of lease or project. Use weed-free native plant and seed mixes. Where available, use certified sources. Sources are to be approved prior to purchase and acquisition. Upon completion of the project, close, obstruct or gate all access routes. If the project is inactive for longer than (add time frame) obstruct or gate all access routes until the project resumes.”

No other text is needed to address invasive species. So you’re done.