

Release Cutting

The felling or felling/removal of the overstory from a two story stand where the overstory is suppressed or threatening to suppress a young stand of desirable softwood trees not past the sapling stage.

Eligibility Criteria:

- * The overstory is generally of merchantable size but because of low merchantable volumes per hectare, it cannot be economically removed.
- * A minimum of 60% stocking of desirable softwood regeneration.
- * The overstory shall not exceed an average total merchantable volume of 90 m³(st)/ha.(10cd/ac)
- * Total volumes in excess of 63 m³(st)/ha must be removed. (7 cd/ac)
- * The overstory must have a minimum of 25% crown closure.
- * This treatment is not to be used to remove residual trees from cutover areas.

Inspection Criteria:

- * A minimum of 60% stocking of desirable softwood regeneration.
- * A maximum total volume of 63 m³(st)/ha has been laid on the ground. (7 cd/ac)
- * Overstory trees have been either:
 - (1) felled and laid close to the ground; or
 - (2) felled and removed to roadside.
- * All merchantable material has been removed or prepared for extraction and non-merchantable material laid close to the ground.
- * A maximum of 90 m³(st)/ha of merchantable volume has been removed.

Methods:

- * Prior to treatment, the understory must be assessed for its ability to respond, thus avoiding treatment of suppressed stands that are incapable of release.

S.N.B. Fund Assistance Rate: \$250/ha.