



Fact Sheet 6

Incidental harvesting of timber

This fact sheet provides information on harvesting timber as a result of other land use activities. If you require further information, please contact your local Compliance Monitoring and Inspections office or the Forest Management Branch.

What is incidental timber harvest?

Incidental harvesting is cutting or removing timber related to another land use activity. Examples include clearing trees to build or maintain a road, maintaining power lines and other right of ways, developing a gravel quarry or subdivision, and carrying out fuel abatement and FireSmart treatments.

Why is incidental timber harvesting an important consideration when carrying out other land uses?

Timber is a valuable public resource and the salvage and use of timber must be considered with any project involving the cutting or removal of trees. If you are clearing trees on public land for any reason, ensure you are familiar with any terms and conditions, standards, guidelines and operating procedures that apply to your timber harvesting activity including reclamation and/or clean-up obligations.

Do I need permission to cut or remove trees incidental to other land use activities?

Yes. The right to cut timber can be granted in several ways, including a licence or permit issued under the *Forest Resources Act*. Authorization can also be granted through the *Quartz Mining Act*, *Placer Mining Act*, *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* or the *Lands Act*. Contact your local Compliance Monitoring and Inspections office or the Forest Management Branch for more information.

Make sure you have the proper authorization before any harvesting occurs. Failure to do so may result in fines or other penalties.

Forest resources permits only give the authority to cut and or remove timber from a site. If your project involves other activities, be sure to contact the appropriate government agencies to get the proper authorization.

Government of Yukon Yukon.ca

Energy Mines and Resources

Forest Management Branch

Mile 918 Alaska Highway
Ph: (867) 456-3999
Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408
local 3999
Email: forestry@yukon.ca

Land Management Branch Land Use

Ph: (867) 667-5215
Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408
local 5215
• Land Use Permits

Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections

Dawson
Ph: (867) 993-5468
Haines Junction
Ph: (867) 634-2256

Mayo

Ph: (867) 996-2343

Carmacks

Ph: (867) 863-5271

Whitehorse

Ph: (867) 456-3877

Teslin

Ph: (867) 390-2531

Watson Lake

Ph: (867) 536-7335

Ross River

Ph: (867) 969-2243

Do I own the wood once I cut it down?

In most cases, no. Timber harvested incidental to other land use remains the property of the Government of Yukon unless permitted otherwise. An exception is timber to be used for purposes that directly support mineral exploration, development or production. Under the *Quartz Mining Act* and the *Placer Mining Act*, you are not required to have a forest resources permit if you are using the timber for mining. For more information, read Fact Sheet 7: Timber on mining claims.

What do I need to do to gain ownership of incidentally harvested wood?

You can apply for authorization at your local Compliance Monitoring and Inspections office. Public notification of your application may be required. If your project requires an assessment by the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board, it must be completed before a forest resources permit will be issued to you. Also, if you require an authorization from another agency, you must have that before you will be issued an authorization under the *Forest Resources Act*.

Are there fees for a forest resources permit?

There is no application fee for a forest resources permit, but if you are awarded rights to the timber, stumpage fees will likely apply. For more information on stumpage, see Fact Sheet 4: Forest resources fees.

If I don't own the wood, what will happen to it once it is cut down?

The Forest Management Branch will try to ensure the fair allocation and use of the salvaged timber.

Common scenarios for the utilization of salvage timber include:

- a) a client gets rights to the wood for use or sale through a forest resources permit;
- b) the timber rights remain with the government to be issued to a commercial forest industry client; or
- c) the timber is offered to the public for personal use.

A note on compliance and enforcement in Yukon forests

Compliance and enforcement are a significant part of managing Yukon forests for their long-term health and to ensure that we can continue to realize the many benefits forests provide. As a forest user, it is your responsibility to ensure you are complying with applicable laws, regulations and any terms and conditions outlined in licences and permits. For more information about your responsibilities and possible penalties for non-compliance, read Fact Sheet 5, contact your local Compliance, Monitoring and Inspections office, or the Forest Management Branch.

Community Services
Corporate Affairs
Ph: (867) 667-5314
Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408
local 5314

- Business Registration

Highways and Public Works
Transportation
Maintenance Branch
Ph: (867) 667-5644
Toll-free: 1-800-661-0408
local 5644

- Access Permits

Other Agencies

Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board
Ph: (867) 667-5645
Toll-free: 1-800-661-0443

Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board
Ph: (867) 668-6420
Toll-free: 1-866-322-4040

City of Whitehorse
Ph: (867) 668-8346
• Harvesting Fuelwood
• Business Licence