

# Finding the right logger for your timber harvest



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# Finding the right logger

- Right equipment
  - Right approach
  - Reasonable price (may not be the cheapest!)
  - Availability
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# Factors influencing equipment choice

- Type of harvest: thinning vs. clearcutting
  - Size of timber
  - Terrain: ground vs. cable
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# Right approach

- Look for a match between what the logger is best at, and what you need
  - Reputation and skill
  - Professionalism
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# Skill – in action!





# Skill – action #2





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# Price – what is reasonable?

- Beware of split payments (i.e., 50/50)
  - Prefer \$/MBF on board truck, with separate haul rates
  - Cheapest is not always the best
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# Low bidder syndrome









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# Availability – a big challenge

- Do you have rocked roads, or is it summer-only work?
  - How large is the job? Consider move-in costs.
  - Plan in advance and don't flinch if log prices aren't exactly what you hoped they'd be.
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# Ex 1 – Thinning in 30 year old DF





# Ex 1 – Thinning in 30 year old DF

- Thinning
- Small trees
- Ground-based



# Ex 1 options

- Cut-to-length side





# Ex 1 options

- Machine or hand cut and skid to landing



## Ex 2 – Heavy thin in 80 year old DF





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## Ex 2 – Heavy thin in 80 year old DF

- Heavy thin, room for big machine
  - Large logs
  - Want to protect reprod
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## Ex 2 - Options

- Hand-cut and shovel-logged if gentle terrain
- Hand-cut and tower-logged if steep





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# Role of the forester

- Landowner's agent
- No conflict of interest
- Relationships with many loggers







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# Contracts

- Logging contracts spell out roles and responsibilities.
  - Which trees to cut?
  - Logging and hauling rates
  - Insurance requirements
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# Types of harvest contracts

- Stumpage vs. managed sale
- Lump sum vs. recovery (\$/MBF)
- Split with logger



