

Gathering the Information for the BMP for Invasive Species Prescription

Before completing this part of the form, be sure you can answer the following questions about the site conditions:

1. Are there any invasive plants present on site?
2. Do you see signs of pests, pathogens or diseases present on site?
3. Are there any invasive plants on nearby or neighboring sites?
4. Are there signs of pests, pathogens or diseases on nearby or neighboring sites?
5. What is the infestation level of invasive plants, pests, pathogens or diseases if present?

Remember, being in the field in the winter does not mean you shouldn't attempt to identify invasives!

You cannot properly fill in the BMPs for Invasive Species section without the answers to those questions.

The answers could be determined by talking with the landowner or the DNR Forester, **but are most often determined after scouting the site.**

You also need to think about what impacts the presence of invasive plants, pests, pathogens and diseases will have on the cutting prescription. This thought process should happen before trees are marked for harvesting.

1. What impacts will the presence of invasive plants, pests, pathogens and diseases have on sustainable forestry and the future forest regeneration?
2. What impacts will the presence of invasive plants, pests, pathogens and diseases have on the cutting prescription?

And more specifically:

1. Depending on the type of harvest being prescribed, how is the increased sunlight going to affect any invasives that have been identified?
2. What recommendations have been provided to the landowner about monitoring the spread of invasives after the harvest?
3. How is the harvest prescription going to affect forest regeneration if invasives are present on site?
4. If the harvest prescription will increase the amount of invasives on site after the harvest given increased sunlight, what recommendations or caveats have been provided to the landowner and logger?
5. If the harvest prescription cannot avoid invasives or the threat of spreading invasives, how will impacts be mitigated or minimized and how has that been communicated to the landowner and logger?

It is **CRITICAL** to think about the impacts that invasives might have on forest regeneration, because poor forest regeneration could put lands at risk of falling out of compliance with the requirements of the MFL program!

Once you have gathered enough information, you are ready to fill in this section of the Cutting Notice form. Items that should be described in this section include:

1. Explain whether an inspection of the property for invasive plants, pests, pathogens and diseases has occurred.
2. Describe invasive plants, pests, pathogens and diseases that are present on site.
3. Describe invasive plants, pests, pathogens and diseases that are on neighboring/nearby sites that have the potential to spread onto the site.
4. What management will occur to reduce the impacts of the plants, pests, or pathogens on the future health of the stand?

5. Describe specific BMPs that will be implemented to control, prevent or limit the spread of invasive species. In other words, (a) how will the harvest prevent new invasives from entering the site? (b) How will the harvest prevent or minimize existing invasives from spreading on the site and (c) beyond the site?
6. Identify the conditions for suitable harvest (i.e. phenology, dry, frozen, rutting guidelines, etc.)
7. Answers to any of the previously described questions if the answers haven't been covered by the items above.

Even if invasive species are not present within the sale area, timber sale activities may still introduce invasives to the site. Therefore, BMPs for invasive species should still be implemented even if invasives are not identified or present. This means simply stating on the cutting notice that no invasive species were found or present is not a sufficient narrative. The narrative should continue by describing specific BMPs that will be implemented to prevent invasive species from entering the site.

Don't forget about the map! The map that is required to be submitted with the cutting notice should include the following:

1. Location of known invasive infestations, especially if there are small, localized occurrences.
2. Proposed or existing forest roads, skid trails or landings.