

## **Plum Creek Timber Harvesting – Frequently Asked Questions**

Please review the following questions and answers relating to timber harvest on Plum Creek property. Please remember that while logging crews take special care to prevent any damage, we are not responsible for loss or damage to items left unattended in the woods per the terms of our lease contract. It is our hope that our notification process and this document will alleviate this risk by helping you with your planning efforts for the coming season.

### **How do I know if Plum Creek plans on harvesting timber on my property?**

Each spring, Plum Creek sends Harvest Notification letters to our lease contacts informing them of our intentions/plans to harvest timber on particular leases. This letter provides basic information as to which parcel(s) will be affected, and suggestions for dealing with harvest activities. If you do not receive a Harvest Notification early in the spring, your lease is not currently scheduled for harvest, although it is still possible that an unscheduled harvest can take place on your lease at any time. These unscheduled harvests are typically due to insect outbreaks, weather conditions, or unexpected market conditions. In rare cases, clubs may not receive notification of harvest activities.

### **When will Plum Creek harvest the timber on my lease?**

Plum Creek cannot provide you with a specific date or time of harvest; we can only inform you that your lease will be affected at some time by harvest during the year (when our contractors can best access the timber and fit that job into their logging schedule). The timing of the harvest depends on many variables including weather, seasons, ground conditions, contractor schedules and market conditions. Please be aware that logging could take place on your lease at any time of year, including during hunting season, and we cannot provide you with advance notice of timing.

### **Can I call someone for more information?**

No. Neither your lease manager nor our foresters can provide information beyond what is given in the Harvest Notification letter (for the many reasons/variables stated in the question directly above) or in this document. Lease managers do not have additional information, and do not have control over the scheduling of timber harvest. Even Plum Creek foresters will not typically have further details to provide.

### **How will I know when harvest is about to take place if Plum Creek can't provide a specific date?**

There are some telltale signs you can watch for that will indicate logging will soon begin. These include: delineation of stream buffers with flagging tape or tree marking paint; fresh road grading or other road work; and clearing of log decks. Generally, we try to complete these setup activities several months in advance of logging startup, but occasionally the interval is much shorter. When you see these activities, make sure you have removed your property from the area. While a hunting stand or feeder may seem clearly visible to you or me from the ground, an operator in the dark, enclosed cab of a feller-buncher or skidder may not be able to see it.

### **How do I prepare for Harvest on my lease?**

In general, plan on not using stands, feeders or other equipment or structures in the affected area until after the harvest is completed (in order to prevent damage or loss of your property).

First, make sure gates are the proper width and have the appropriate setback to allow logging trucks to pass through the gates. Gates should be set back 100 feet from road entrances and should be a minimum of 12 feet wide, with wider gates being preferred. If gates do not meet these minimum criteria and damage occurs to your gates, you will be responsible for gate replacement/repair. If gates meet these dimensions and damage occurs, Plum Creek or the logger will be responsible for repair.

Also, inform the members of your lease/club that they should avoid leaving personal property in that area until after harvest and that they should realistically plan ahead to hunt other areas of the lease until after the harvest is completed. Hunting is still permitted in the scheduled harvest area, but it will be best to avoid placing/leaving stands, plots or feeders in the area as they will likely need to be moved, and could be damaged.

### **What do we do with our hunting stands?**

To prevent risk of damage to your stands and other equipment, you should immediately proceed to remove your possessions from the harvest impact area. Also, be aware that any large wood /metal box or tower stands that are located close to roadsides may require removal to facilitate road preparation and log truck traffic.

### **How will our food plots in the harvest area be affected? Can I protect existing plots or add new plots after the harvest is completed?**

Give careful consideration to planting food plots in old log decks or along roads within or leading to the designated harvest area. Unless these are enrolled/protected within our **Food Plot** program, they could be disturbed or even destroyed by logging activity. It is best to postpone any such planting until harvesting and post logging cleanup work are completely finished.

Food plots are a sure method of providing high-quality, preferred browse and feed to White-tailed deer and wild turkeys, and that makes them a great way to attract and hold more game on your lease. Our Food Plot program provides an option for you to protect your food plots by enrolling, and therefore protecting, that acreage on your lease as paid and designated food plot acreage. Under the Food Plot program, you can create food plots in recently harvested stands as well as planted stands up to five years old.

Details of the Food Plot program:

- Your club must apply for at least three acres of plots (leases under 100 acres can apply for between one and three acres of plots).
- Individual plots must be a minimum of one acre. There are no limits on the maximum size of food plots.

- Plot clearing and planting are the responsibility of your club.
- Plots will be protected from Plum Creek forest management operations.
- The annual rental fee is \$70 per acre, per year for food plots approved and installed after the site has been harvested, but before site preparation activities for tree planting begins (spraying, bedding).
- For food plots installed on land that has already been site prepared for tree planting or that has trees up to five years of age, the annual rental fee for food plots will be \$125 per acre, per year.
- Once your club enrolls in the food plot program, you must remain in the program and must keep the food plots maintained (yearly mowing at a minimum) as a condition of your lease.
- You may utilize other existing openings for food plots without charge, but please remember they are not protected plots.

### **What about our campsite, campers, etc..?**

We recommend campers or other personal equipment at your campsite to be removed if your campsite is in the affected area or on the same roads which will be used for logging purposes. We cannot guarantee the safety of your personal property.

### **Logging activity just started on my lease and deer/turkey season will open next week. The loggers say they will be on our tract for 6-8 weeks. Can I get a refund for that acreage?**

A primary reason Plum Creek owns land is to grow and harvest trees. We must harvest timber at all times of the year. Unfortunately, your lease must be harvested during the hunting season. The lease contract states that timber harvest may occur at any time. Furthermore, we make every attempt to provide clubs notification of timber harvest prior to lease renewal so that they may make an informed decision on lease renewal. We regret that timber harvest is impacting your ability to hunt, but we will not issue refunds or prorate the lease.