

AMENDMENT *(this amendment is to replace the original material found on page 35)*

Provincial Legislation/Guidelines for Buffer Zones

NOVA SCOTIA

Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations

In Nova Scotia the Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations apply only to those people carrying out forestry operations in a forest or on forest land.

Special Management Zones (SMZ)

- 20 meter SMZ on watercourses, equal to or greater than 50 centimeters in width, situated on or adjacent to forest land on which a forestry operation is carried out (includes all lakes and ponds, saltwater bodies, marshes with permanent water openings, and streams/rivers equal to or greater than 50 centimeters in width)
- when land slope exceeds 20% within 20 meters of a watercourse boundary, for every 2% increase beyond 20% 1 meter must be added to the SMZ width and may increase to a maximum of 60 meters in width
- machinery for forestry operations is not permitted within 7 meters of the watercourse
- no forestry operator may reduce the basal area of living trees to less than 20 meters²/hectare
- no forestry operator may create an opening in the dominant tree canopy larger than 15 meters at its greatest dimension
- on watercourses, less than 50 centimeters, on or adjacent to forest land on which forestry operation is carried out, machinery is not permitted within 5 meters of the watercourse
- on all watercourses a forestry operator shall ensure that understory vegetation and non-commercial trees within 20 meters of the edge of any watercourse are retained to the fullest extent possible
- on all watercourses no forestry operator shall conduct any activity within 20 meters of the edge of any watercourse that would result in sediment being deposited in the watercourse

Legacy Trees and Habitat Structure

In Nova Scotia, on any harvest site greater than 3 hectares of forest land, forest clumps of at least 10 living, or partially living, trees must be left standing for each hectare of forest land cut.

- the trees left standing shall be in the same proportion by species as the forest stand being harvested
- the trees left standing shall be as large or larger than, in height and diameter, the average height and the average diameter, measured at the height of 1.3 meters from the ground, of the trees within the forest stand being harvested
- each forest clump must contain at least 30 trees
- for each 8 hectare area of forest land cut, there shall be at least one forest clump
- where there is more than one clump, clumps should be no more than 200 meters apart and at least 20 meters but no more than 200 meters from the edge of the forest stand being cut
- where there is one clump it should be at least 20 meters but no more than 200 meters from the edge of the forest stand being cut
- no harvesting is permitted within any forest clump
- a forestry operator shall ensure that levels of snags and coarse woody debris on all harvest sites are similar to natural patterns to the fullest extent possible