

Conserve Harvest Policy Requirements



chestnut
forest carbon works

Your Legacy Rooted. Your Conservation Rewarded.

Purpose of the Conserve Harvest Program

Climate-Friendly Forestry:

Promotes long-term carbon storage, forest health, and climate resilience through sustainable practices.

Key Practices:

- Extended rotation lengths, group and single-tree selection, variable density thinnings, patch cuts
- Mixed-age classes and diverse forest structure
- Increased biodiversity
- Habitat protection

Harvest Policy Details

Notification and Approval Required:

Harvest notification is required at least six-months before any harvest; written approval is required from FCW before commencing a harvest.

Certification:

Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC® certification is required prior to commencing a commercial harvest (trees 5 inches or greater in diameter removed from the property).

Forest Certification Requirements

Mandatory FSC® Certification: Required for all commercial harvest activities (excluding firewood and sanitation removals).

Free Certification: Certification included with Conserve membership and provided by Forest Carbon Works.

Carbon Reserves

Carbon Reserves:

Approximately 10% of the total carbon in standing forests is reserved for climate-smart forestry practices.

Harvest Offset Fee (HOF)

Purpose: Covers emissions from climate-smart management; when removals exceed 10% reserves; determined based on trailing twelve month credit pricing and biomass (carbon) removed from harvest.

Removal Limitations

Carbon Stock Limit: Harvesting must not reduce carbon stocks by more than 20% over five years.

Invasive Species: Harvest activities must not promote invasive species.

Firewood Removals

Annual Allowance:

- 40–80 acres: 3 cords
- 81–120 acres: 6 cords
- 121 acres and up: 10 cords

Reporting: All firewood removal must be reported in the Member Survey(s).

Sanitation Removals

Definition: Removal to prevent disease or correct disturbances; may exceed 10% reserve without HOF.

Approval Required: Prior written approval from FCW is needed.

Sanitation Removals

Restricted Harvesting: Commercial harvesting on peat soils is not permitted during the Conserve Payment Period. Sanitation and firewood removals are permitted.

Peat Identification: Peat areas will be identified and mapped and on-site inspections by FCW will confirm peat areas during harvests.



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the process with Forest Carbon Works when I would like to harvest?

A: Harvest notification, approval, FSC® certification, and on-site inspections are the main steps in our harvest process. See “Conserve Harvest Process” below for a detailed overview of our harvest process.

Q: Explain the differences between a commercial and non-commercial timber harvest.

A: Commercial harvest: Our Conserve program defines a commercial harvest as any removal from the property 5 inches and greater in diameter. These types of harvests require Forest Stewardship Council certification.

Non-commercial harvest: Firewood removals and trees less than 5 inches in diameter removed from the property or trees cut and not removed from the property. FSC® certification is not required.

Q: What happens if I need to conduct a sanitation/salvage harvest?

A: Any harvest needs to be approved by FCW. A sanitation harvest is defined as the intentional removal of trees for the purpose of preventing disease or correcting a natural disturbance and will not incur a harvest offset fee when removal amounts exceed the 10% reserve. Example sanitation harvests include removals post-bark beetle outbreaks, emerald ash borer dieback, and spongy moth decline. The volume of material removed will count against (deplete) the carbon reserve.

Q: I need a Forest Management Plan (FMP). How do I obtain one?

A: An FSC®-Certified FMP will be required for all removals that are 5 inches or greater in diameter and leave the property during the payment period, except for firewood and approved sanitation harvests. If the removals do not leave the property, an FMP will not be required. Forest Carbon Works will manage adapting existing FMPs to meet FSC® standards; in the absence of an FMP, Forest Carbon Works will facilitate developing an FMP for landowners.

Q: What is Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) Certification and what are the benefits?

A: A Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certification is required for all harvest activities when trees are removed from the forestland for any purpose other than allotted firewood removals or sanitation removals during the payment period. This certification is required to ensure that harvest activities adhere to rigorous stewardship and sustainability criteria, allowing us to market carbon credits at a premium, sharing this added value with our members. Forest Carbon Works provides these certifications at no cost to our members. For additional information on forest certifications with Forest Carbon Works, please visit forestcarbonworks.org/forest-certifications/.



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Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is an FSC® audit and what can I expect?

A: A Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) audit is an independent evaluation process used to assess whether forest management practices meet established environmental, social, and economic standards. This audit will be completed by a third-party that meets FSC® certification standards, and will ensure that forestry operations are sustainable and responsible. For example: during an audit, you can expect the auditor to visit your property, check boundaries, ask questions, typically completed within one day. The goal of these audits is to certify that forestry operations:

- Preserve ecological integrity
- Support community welfare
- Operate in a way that's economically feasible and transparent

Landowners that pass the audit receive FSC® certification, which helps them appeal to environmentally conscious consumers, meet regulatory standards, and potentially command higher market prices for their products. This certification is reviewed periodically to maintain high standards.

Q: What is required from FCW when I want to harvest?

A: It is highly encouraged that landowners work with a consulting forester to meet their property objectives. In the absence of a consulting forester, landowners should work directly with the regional forester to ensure all FCW harvest policies are met. Documentation should include harvest map(s), harvest prescriptions, volume removal estimates, logger contact information, FSC®-approved Forest Management Plan, and an intent to harvest form.

Q: Do we require a consulting forester for any type of harvest?

A: While a consulting forester is not required when you harvest, our on-staff professional foresters are available to facilitate your FSC® Certification, guide you through our harvest process, and help connect you with a local consulting forester if you so choose.



Frequently Asked Questions

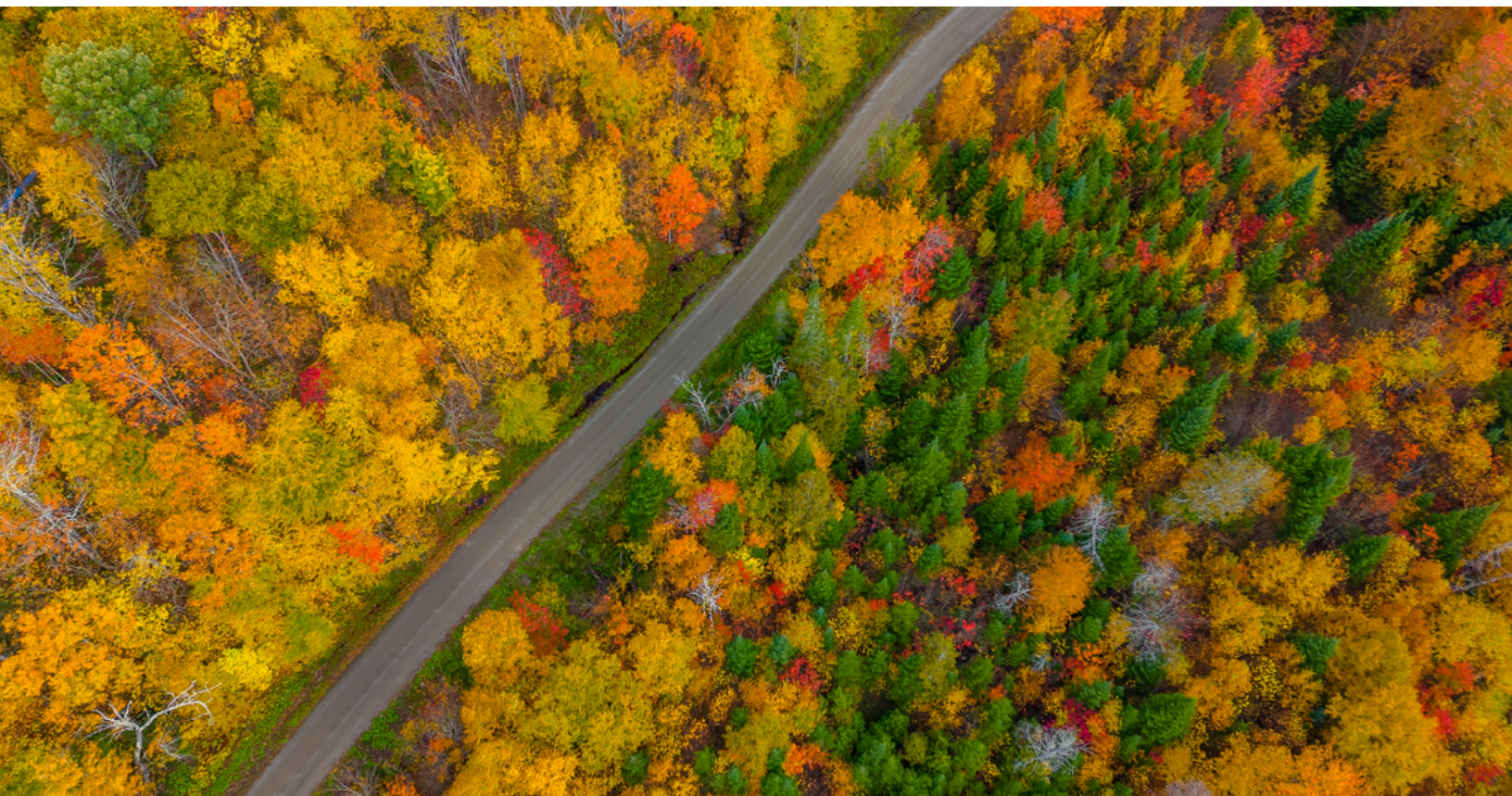
Q: What is peat and why can't I harvest on it?

A: FCW Conserve utilizes the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) definition of peat soils, which defines peat as Histosols (commonly called bogs, moors, peats, or mucks). A soil is classified as a Histosol if half or more of the upper 80 cm is organic. Histosol suborders include Fibrists, Folists, Hemists, and Sapristis.

Commercial harvesting is prohibited on peat soils during the Conserve Payment Period, as required by the methodology we use for our Conserve carbon program (VM00003) under the Verified Carbon Standard. Commercial harvesting is defined as tree removal for any purpose other than limited sanitation removal and approved firewood collection. These restrictions do not apply during the Monitoring Period.

When peat soils are identified on a Conserve member's property, FCW forest technicians will mark boundaries around these areas before harvesting and inspect them afterward to ensure no commercial activities occurred. Peat soils will be mapped and identified prior to enrollment in Conserve and can further be confirmed by:

- Consultation with local or national databases
- Geo-referenced soil test results
- Field survey data and maps



Conserve Harvest Process

Pre-Harvest

1. **Submit “Intent to Harvest” Form at Least 6 Months in Advance of Harvest.** Forms can be submitted online or via forestry@forestcarbonworks.com. These include harvest documents like harvest maps and prescription details.
2. **Harvest Review and Approval Notification.** FCW will review and approve your harvest. You will be notified upon approval.
3. **Forest Stewardship Council® Certification**
4. **Pre-Harvest Checklist Completed** by FCW and you/your forester.
5. **Pre-Harvest Inspection/Boundaries Confirmed:** Harvest boundaries and treatments confirmed by FCW/your forester via (possible on-site inspection).

During Harvest

1. **Harvest Inspections and Reporting:** FCW will maintain regular communication with you/your forester during your harvest, potentially conduct inspections, and collect harvest reporting materials as they are available.

Post-Harvest

1. **Submit Mill Receipts/Final Removal Volumes to FCW**
2. **Post Harvest Cruise and Final Harvest Inspection Completed by FCW**
3. **Harvest Impact to Reserve/HOF Calculated, Communicated to Conserve Member**

To contact us, please visit forestcarbonworks.org,
call 1 (800) 399-5246 or email inquire@forestcarbonworks.org

