Chop and Drop Update

Forestry and Fisheries Collaboration in Maine

2012 Rule Development

Maine Forest Service (MFS) Rule
Chapter 25
Standards for Placing Wood Into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat

Effective Date: December 25, 2012

Rule Basics

- Trained licensed foresters can oversee course wood addition treatments w/o permit if
  - Consistent with standards in rule
  - IFW or DMR has designated the stream reach
  - Treatment plan has been developed by DMR or IFW or designee
- Treatments that deviate from the standards in the rules may require permitting

Standards

- Taken from Project SHARE - Oregon Department of Forestry guides and Green Mountain National Forest
  - Defines “wood”. Does not = slash or debris
  - Establishes maximum loading rates
  - Minimum size “key” pieces to resist movement
  - Guidance on orientation and placement
  - Address sedimentation, shoreland zoning, downstream infrastructure

Applicability Limitations

Standards were written to cover activates that will not need permitting from state or federal agencies

B. APPLICABILITY. This rule applies to treatments where only wood will be placed below the bankfull elevation of the stream and that rely on the size of the wood for stability. Treatments that artificially anchor or cable wood, add boulders, or place fill material below the high water line or otherwise exceed or deviate from these standards, are not covered by this rule and require permitting.

Important Definitions

D. Biologist: A fisheries biologist employed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife or Maine Department of Marine Resources, or other qualified person identified by those departments, who has attended a training in wood addition techniques including an introduction to timber harvesting techniques and forestry regulation.

E. Designated Reach: A section of stream that has been identified by DIFW or DMR as suitable for wood addition treatment and where a DIFW or DMR biologist or their designee has developed a treatment plan that has been mutually agreed upon by DMR or DIFW, and the landowner or their agent. The treatment detailed in the plan must be consistent with the standards in this rule.

L. Wood: Wood refers to the stems and branches of trees either fully severed or partially attached to the stump. Wood may include uprooted trees if the root wad or disturbed soil is not in a position such that it will end up below the normal high water line. Wood does not include processed wood such as slabs, edgings, lumber or timbers, or logging debris including slash and material left from temporary stream crossings such as pole or brush fords, or other forest product refuse prohibited by 38 MRSA § 417 (1).

Process

- Foresters attend training
  - List of trained foresters maintained by MFS
- IFW or DMR Biologist designates a reach
  - List of reaches maintained by MFS
- Biologist Prepares “Plan”
  - Forester and Biologist sign plan
  - DMR MUST sign if in Atlantic Salmon area
- Designated reach and plan valid for 4 years

Process

- **Forester notifies MFS before treatment begins**
  - **Copy of plan and map get submitted with Forest Operations Notification**
  - **Check box**

Section 2. Harvest Information	
Check with your municipality for specific local requirements regarding harvesting activities.	
8. * Is the land that you intend to harvest taxed under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law? ☐YES ☐NO	
9. * How many acres do you anticipate harvesting?_____	10. * Will the land use change from growing forest products within 2 years. ☐YES ☐NO If yes, to what? _____ # of acres: _____
11. Do you plan to create clearcuts larger than 20 acres ☐YES ☐NO Larger than 75 acres ☐YES** ☐NO	
12. Will you be harvesting within 250 feet of any great pond, river or wetland, or within 75 feet of any stream. ☐YES ☐NO	
13. Will you be adding wood to stream that is consistent with MFS Chapter 25 Rule? ☐YES ☐NO **(If yes, attach plan)**	

  - **Treatment proceeds**

Specific Standards

- Requires at least 2 “Key pieces” at intervals through the treatment area
- Key pieces need to be 2X bankfull if no rootwad and 1.5 if root wad is attached
- Minimum diameter (large end)

Bankfull Width Feet	Minimum Diameter Inches
0 to 10	10
10 to 20	16
20 to 32	18
Over 32	22

Loading Rate

- **Maximum of 230 pieces per mile**
  - **natural and added**
- **40-60% 6-12” diameter, remainder >12” diameter**

Residual Stand

- Trees felled “count” toward the landowners maximum removals in the shoreland area
  - Example: Trees used for chop and drop count toward the 40% removal in a 10 year period.

Sedimentation

- Must take reasonable measures to avoid
- If it occurs must correct the situation

Downstream Infrastructure

- Treatments not allowed where downstream infrastructure could be put at risk
- Minimum of 2 meander bends

Plan

- Requires basic elements
- May have more detail if mutually agreed upon

Plan

In Stream Large Woody Debris Addition Treatment Plan

Completion of this form satisfies the plan requirement of Maine Forest Service Rule Chapter 25 "Standards for Placing wood into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat". All treatments proposed must be consistent with standards in Chapter 25.

Stream Name_____ Town_____ Date_____

GPS Coordinates of upstream end of treatment:

N_____ W_____

GPS Coordinates of downstream end of treatment:

N_____ W_____

Average stream bankfull width in feet: _____

Total number of pieces of wood to add:_____

By signing below I certify that I have reviewed this plan and that the proposed treatment is acceptable.

Signature_____
Date_____

Print Name_____
IFW or DMR Fisheries Biologist

Signature_____
Date_____

Print Name_____
License#_____
Licensed Forester

Completed Project

- Tukey Brook in Greenwood

In Stream Large Woody Debris Addition Treatment Plan

Completion of this form satisfies the plan requirement of Maine Forest Service Rule Chapter 25 "Standards for Placing wood into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat". All treatments proposed must be consistent with standards in Chapter 25.

Stream Name: Twichell Brook Town: Greenwood Date: 12-09-2013

GPS Coordinates of upstream end of treatment:

N 44.34263 W 70.67955

GPS Coordinates of downstream end of treatment:

N 44.33640 W 70.67208

Average stream bankfull width in feet: 20

Total number of pieces of wood to add: Trees are marked w/ Orange Paint arrows and black and yellow striped flagging. Arrow indicates preferred felling direction. Forester and logger have final discretion on which marked trees to fell.

By signing below I certify that I have reviewed this plan and that the proposed treatment is acceptable.

Signature _____ Date 12-16-13

Print Name Francis Brautigam
IFW or DMR Fisheries Biologist

Signature Stephen D. Gettle Date 5/12/14

Print Name Stephen D. Gettle License# 3033
Licensed Forester

Note: Include this plan and a copy of a map of the treatment location with the Forest Operations Notification.

Fish Habitat Improvement Project Area

The downed trees in this section of stream were placed as part of a collaborative effort between this landowner and Maine's state fisheries agencies.

Wood in streams improves habitat for cold water fish, including brook trout and Atlantic salmon, by:

- Creating pools for fish cover and overwintering habitat
- Holding gravel beds for spawning
- Narrowing and deepening the stream channel, providing cool water during low summer flows

For more information about this project please contact:

_____

_____

_____

_____

This work was accomplished under Maine Forest Service Rule Chapter 25
"Standards for Placing Wood Into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat"

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