

Fact Sheet

Harvesting Firewood and Timber for Commercial Sales in Yukon

This fact sheet provides information on harvesting firewood or timber for commercial purposes in Yukon. If you require further information please contact your local Client Services & Inspections office or visit the Forest Management Branch online at www.forestry.gov.yk.ca

How do I harvest firewood or timber to sell in Yukon?

The Yukon Forest Management Branch authorizes the harvest of firewood or timber for commercial purposes through the issuance of harvesting licences and cutting permits to eligible businesses. Those wishing to harvest firewood to sell commercially can apply for a Fuel Wood Licence. Those who wish to harvest timber for milling, processing and sale can apply for a Timber Resources Licence. Application forms can be obtained and submitted to any of our Client Services & Inspections offices throughout the territory.

Are there eligibility requirements for commercial harvesting?

Yes, there are several requirements you must meet in order to be eligible to commercially harvest wood in Yukon. Harvesting must be done by registered businesses. As such, when you apply for a harvesting licence, you will be required to show a valid Yukon business registration number (or proof of exemption). The business applying must be in good financial standing with the Yukon Forest Management Branch, and not have any outstanding field obligations based on previous harvesting authorities. In addition, your operational goals must be consistent with the Timber Harvest Plan covering the area in which you are applying.

Contacts

Yukon Government Energy Mines and Resources Forest Management Branch

Physical Address:

Mile 918 Alaska Highway
Tel: (867) 456-3999
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408
local 3999
Fax: (867) 667-3138
Email: forestry@gov.yk.ca

Client Services & Inspections Branch Districts:

Dawson City Office

Tel: (867) 993-5468
Fax: (867) 993-6233

Haines Junction Office

Tel: (868) 634-2256
Fax: (867) 634-2675

Mayo Office:

Tel: (867) 996-2343
Fax: (867) 996-2856

Carmacks Sub District Office

Tel: (867) 863-5271
Fax: (867) 863-6604

Whitehorse Office

Tel: (867) 456-3877
Fax: (867) 393-7404

Teslin Sub District Office

Tel: (867) 390-2531
Fax: (867) 390-2682

Watson Lake Office

Tel: (867) 536-7335
Fax: (867) 536-7331

Ross River Sub District Office

Tel: (867) 969-2243
Fax: (867) 969-2610

Other Agencies

Community Services

Corporate Affairs

Tel: (867) 667-5314
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408
local 5314
Fax: (867) 393-6251
-Business Registration

Energy Mines & Resources

Land Management Branch

Land Use

Tel: (867) 667-5215
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408
local 5215
Fax: (867) 393-6340
-Land Use Permits

Highways & Public Works

Transportation Maintenance

Branch

Tel: (867) 667-5644
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0408
local 5644
-Access Permits to build roads
within the highway rights-of-way

Yukon Workers' Compensation

Health and Safety Board

Tel: (867) 667-5645
Toll Free: 1-800-661-0443

Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB)

Tel: (867) 668-6420
Toll Free: 1-866-322-4040

City of Whitehorse

Planning & Development Services

Tel: (867) 668-8346
-Business Licence Bylaw 99-04

Where can my business harvest firewood or timber for commercial purposes?

The *Forest Resources Act* requires all commercial harvesting to be done under a Timber Harvest Plan. To inquire about available wood in your area, please visit or call your local Client Services & Inspections office. The Forest Officer can help you find available wood under the local Timber Harvest Plans. In addition, all Timber Harvest Plans that are approved or are under review can be viewed on the web at www.forestry.gov.yk.ca

Once I have found a suitable area within a Timber Harvest Plan, how do I apply for a licence and cutting permit?

There are a variety of methods for awarding licences such as a competitive process or direct award. Businesses may submit applications in areas approved under Timber Harvest Plans. Should a business identify a potential area of interest outside of an approved Timber Harvest Plan, they are encouraged to work with Forest Management Branch staff to determine whether it is possible to develop a Timber Harvest Plan in that location.

Please note: The Timber Harvest Planning process must be completed prior to any harvesting approvals being issued.

Depending on the amount of interest in the Timber Harvest Plan area, the Forest Management Branch will give consideration to the use of a competitive process to issue licences. In this case, advertisements in the papers and on our website will give specific instructions on how to prepare and submit a bid or application. All applications can be completed with the assistance of a Natural Resources Officer at your local Client Services & Inspections office.

How long will it take to process my application?

There are many factors that contribute to the time involved in the application process, such as the availability of wood in the chosen Timber Harvest Plan area, the applicable environmental assessment (i.e. YESAB), and your own business' eligibility. Every licence application is also subject to a minimum 30-day period for public notification when those interested can submit comments relevant to your application. You can expect a letter from the Forest Management Branch shortly after you submit your application that will further outline the timelines involved.

What information will be included in my harvesting licence and cutting permit?

Your licence will establish the total allowable volume for harvesting, the annual maximum harvest limit, the timber harvest plan area and the timeframe associated with your operation. You will also be issued a cutting permit that will indicate specifics of your harvest site, including operational terms and conditions and stumpage rates. Maps which identify the permitted area(s) will accompany your licence and cutting permit documents. Harvesting within the designated area(s) is one condition of your harvesting authority along with a schedule for harvest volume reporting and stumpage payments.

Does the Fuel Wood Licence or Timber Resources Licence allow me to sell my wood within my municipality?

No, the licence and/or cutting permit only provide authority for harvesting. You may still require additional permits or licences to operate as a business within municipal boundaries. You should contact your local municipal office to inquire about additional bylaws, regulations or responsibilities.

What are the fees associated with obtaining a licence and commercial harvesting?

At the time of application, you will be required to submit a non-refundable application fee. Application fees are calculated based on the volume of timber you are applying for and are outlined below.

Application Fees

Harvesting Licences

under 100 m ³	\$ 10.00
100 m ³ to 1000 m ³	\$ 50.00
over 1000 m ³	\$ 100.00

In addition to your application fee, the stumpage rate for your specific cutting permit will be calculated based on a per cubic metre basis and may include timber, reforestation, road use, and development fees. Please refer to Fact Sheet #4 for information on fees that could apply.

You will be required to report your harvest volumes at regular intervals, for which you will then be invoiced. All dues payable are due 30 days after the harvest report is due. Late reporting and non-payment of dues is a contravention of your licence and may lead to compliance and enforcement measures.

What are the reporting requirements?

Timely and accurate reporting of timber harvest volumes is an essential element of sustainable forest management and will be enforced under the *Forest Resources Act*. Your cutting permit will specify the timing of submissions. Failure to report full harvest volumes may affect your eligibility for future licence applications.

A note on compliance and enforcement in Yukon's forests:

Compliance and enforcement are a significant part of managing our forests for their long term health and to ensure that we can continue to realize the many benefits they provide. As a forest user, it is your responsibility to ensure you are complying with applicable laws, regulations and any terms and conditions outlined in licences and/or permits. For more information about your responsibilities and possible penalties for non-compliance read Fact Sheet #5, contact your local Client Services & Inspections office, or visit the Forest Management Branch online at www.forestry.gov.yk.ca