



Overall Piling Objectives

1. Reduction of fire hazard accumulation.
2. Reduction of area adversely impacted for reforestation.
3. Retention/development of specific wildlife habitat.

Debris Disposal Associated with Bush Chipping (Crown Land Specific)

Although void of the large debris characteristics typical of conventional harvesting and delimiting, bush chipping does generate accumulations of debris. With specially designed grapples on the front of skidders, this debris is carried back to the block during return trips for wood and the piles randomly placed throughout the block.

Debris piles that are retained in the harvest area outside the Fire Smart Community Zone for wildlife or landscape biodiversity objectives must adhere to the following specifications (If the strategy involves random scattered piles made up of chip residue from chipping operations throughout the harvest area):

1. Piles should be circular in shape.
2. Height of piles must not exceed 2 metres.
3. Base diameter of the piles must be no greater than 3 metres.
4. Distance between piles must be no less than 15 metres.
5. Distance from treed block edge or delineated stand structure retention must be no less than 25 metres.

When it has been determined that the block will **not accompany** more piles due to spacing restrictions, or if the block has been scheduled for hog processing, chipping debris is to be piled to the following specifications: outlined in FR-G019- Crown Land Hog Processing..

NOTE: Any unprocessed piles will be **burnt within 24 months** as per Section 8(2) of The Forest and Prairie Protection Regulations (Part II).

Debris piles from chipping distributed throughout the block may be burned occasionally when it is determined that the amount and / or spacing will negatively affect deciduous suckering. This should be more "the exception than the rule"; otherwise debris piles generated through chipping will be left for natural decomposition.

Debris Disposal Associated with Incidental Coniferous Component

Where debris loading permits, "Round Piles" are the preferred goal as opposed to windrows:

- Diameter and height is not critical except for "Wildlife Retention Piles" discussed below.
- Along block roading, approximately every 7th pile should be created to the standard for "Wildlife Retention Piles" discussed below.
- Debris piling should occur such that landing debris is piled and placed **on** the block roading. Placing the piles on the roads minimizes the degree of impact to the rooting layers under the log decks.
- Placing debris piles on "existing" access for disposal is acceptable provided they **do not** totally block the access. Debris piles on existing line must be placed such that enough room (no wider than 3m) is left on the road for ATV and snowmobile access around the piles. It is important to ensure that piling quality (tight piling) promotes





as complete a burn as possible since these lines may be considered “traditional access” and should not be left with any significant residue that may inhibit access.

Note: If an existing line identified and approved for use on the AOP is found to have >2m of regrowth with no signs of being used (i.e. no obvious ATV or snowmobile trail), it **should not** be considered as traditional and left open at the end of operations. Lines such as these are to be considered new access and rolled back accordingly barring any silviculture requirements or discussions/agreements with the specific trapper(s) in the area.

- Tightly packed piles on “existing access” will ensure clean, residue free burns.
- Piling should occur progressively as blocks are “haul cleared” so that piling during soft spring ground conditions is avoided toward further minimizing impacts to reforestation. Some debris piling may be delayed to provide access where silviculture activities are planned.

Fire Prevention & Control

- Every effort must be made to not place debris piles intended for burning closer than **25m** to standing timber, however with variable block designs this may not always be possible. Where this cannot be avoided and damage to adjacent timber is a concern, one of the following options should be considered as an alternative:
 1. Pile the debris more toward the standards for “Wildlife Retention Piles” and leave it.
 2. Buck and spread the debris provided the 5m “Slash Free Zone” is maintained, and the level of debris accumulation does not impact reforestation / regeneration objectives.
 3. Leave the landing debris “as is” provided the 5m “Slash Free Zone” is maintained, and the level of debris accumulation does not impact reforestation / regeneration objectives.
- To minimize any potential for “hold over” or “ground fire”, creation of debris piles on areas of heavy organics, duff or peat should be avoided. This may not be achievable in “coniferous” dominant blocks.
- Burning should be conducted one year following completion of piling, preferably outside of the fire season but as soon as possible following the first appreciable snowfall. If however, ideal safe burning conditions exist prior to the end of the fire season, burning under permit should be considered.

Wildlife Retention Piles

Woody debris on the ground is an important component of wildlife habitat. Small piles of brush can provide hiding cover and denning sites for small mammals. Fur bearing animals such as marten and weasels use the brush piles for foraging sites as well as intermittent hiding cover while travelling across a cut block. Piles of courser material will provide more space within the pile and limbs or logs sticking out of the pile protruding through the snow will provide wildlife with access into the pile.

Debris piles left to meet wildlife objectives should be constructed within the specifications below to also achieve reforestation objectives and maintain land base productivity.

During clean up of top and limb debris in cut blocks, DMI will strive to leave debris piles consistent with the following guidelines:

- Any residual debris left from burning piles on new cut block roads is considered acceptable habitat.





- In areas of operations where debris accumulations may be negligible to warrant piling (“deciduous” dominant blocks), no “wildlife” piles will be created.
- As mentioned earlier, approximately every 7th pile along block roads should be created to the “Wildlife Retention Standard”.
- Piles should be “elongated” to a width of approximately 2 to 2.5m, 7m long and 1.5m high recognizing that a number of individual pieces may project beyond this width and height.

Liquidation Cuts

Piles will not be left on liquidation cuts where agricultural development is planned. In this case, piling on the deck area is acceptable.

REVISION HISTORY

Original issued:	Unknown	Author: Unknown
Revision 1:	May 9, 2005	Author: EMS Coordinator
Revision 1.1:	January 30, 2006	Author: EMS Coordinator
Revision 1.2:	January 30, 2006	Author: EMS Coordinator
Revision 1.3	September 30, 2006	Author: EMS Coordinator
Revision 1.4:	June 4, 2007	Author: EMS Coordinator
Revision 1.5	October 19, 2007	Author: EMS Coordinator
Revision 1.6	December 03, 2008	Author: EMS Coordinator
Revision 1.7	July 6, 2010	Author: EMS Coordinator

APPROVAL:

Approved:	S. ELKINS	EMS Coordinator – Forest Resources
Approved:	S. SZABO	Business Unit Leader - Forest Resources

