

INFORMATION BRIEF FOR FOREST OWNERS

Reduced-Impact Logging for Improved Forest Management



Implementing RIL helps to sustain all of the economic, environmental, and social values of the forest for current and future generations.

Reduced-Impact Logging (RIL) is a form of timber harvesting that reduces the harmful impacts of logging on forest soils, hydrology, forest growth, and biodiversity. Implementation of RIL can also substantially reduce the emission of CO₂ from selective logging operations.

RIL is implemented through codes of practice and guidelines that include activities such as improved forest management planning, road construction, tree felling, bucking, and log yarding.

Use of RIL enhances worker safety and improves forest management by providing good information about tree volumes and locations, ensuring that roads and skid trails are efficiently located, reducing forest waste, and enhancing post-logging regeneration and growth.

RIL increases harvesting efficiency and provides substantial long-term economic benefits as a result of better planning, worker training in felling and bucking techniques, and from the careful design and use of logging roads and skid trails.

Implementation of RIL is a fundamental component of sustainable forest management and a critical step towards forest certification.



Reduced Impact Logging provides a sustainable source of forest products and economic returns that help to sustain the livelihood of rural communities.

RECOGNIZING SOUND LOGGING PRACTICES

Poor Practice



Good felling techniques will minimize waste and damage to logs, improve timber yields, cause the release of less carbon and avoid injury to fellers.



Good road design and construction minimise erosion, sedimentation and ponding.



Good roads and bridges provide more reliable and longer term forest access and lower maintenance and repair costs than poorly constructed roads.



Reduced-Impact Logging maintains a productive forest and higher future timber yields.

Sound Practice

