



BEST ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES: MECHANICAL LAND PREPARATION

1. **Scope:** Timberlands Limited (TL) will monitor compliance with these best environmental practices (**BEP**).
2. **Application:** this BEP applies to all mechanical land preparation including ripping and mounding, root raking, crushing, windrowing, spot cultivation, and v-blading.
3. **General:** all operations (including post-operations clean up) must comply with the following:
 - (a). TL work prescription;
 - (b). National Environmental Standards for Plantation Forestry ((**NES**) see below);
 - (c). resource consent conditions;
 - (d). Heritage New Zealand authority (for archaeological sites);
 - (e). relevant forest practice guides; and
 - (f). any other relevant documents or instructions from TL.
4. **Operations to cease:** operations are to cease and TL contacted:
 - (a). if there is non-compliance with any of the above requirements, or this BEP, and operations must cease. Operations cannot recommence until approval from TL is given.
 - (b). when weather and site conditions will result in unmanageable risks to the environment.
5. **Archaeological sites:** no operations are to be undertaken within archaeological sites unless instructed in writing by TL. If a new archaeological site is discovered or suspected, work in the immediate area is to stop and the site reported to TL. Work cannot proceed until written approval from TL is given.
6. **New Zealand Forest Accord:** no indigenous forest clearance and conversion is permitted.
7. **Reporting:** all environmental incidents and hazards are to be reported to TL as soon as they are discovered.
8. **Endangered species:** sightings of endangered species (e.g. falcon) are to be reported to TL.
9. **Falcon nesting:** the TL Guidelines for Cultivating Around Nesting Falcons must be followed during the falcon breeding season between October and February. All newly discovered falcon nests are to be reported to TL.
10. **Set-backs:** vehicle/machine shall operate in the setback areas, unless crossing at a designated crossing.
11. **Reserves:** machinery entering into reserve areas, across boundaries, roads, powerlines and fences.
12. **Clean machinery:** machinery must be free of dirt and seeds as far as practical prior to moving from an area where there is pampas in either Rotoehu, Tarawera or Whakarewarewa forests to another forest or where required by regional pest management plans or consent conditions.
13. **Removal of materials and rubbish:** all machinery, vehicles, equipment, used parts, wire rope, paint spray cans, grease and oil containers, empty planting boxes, fertiliser bags, and rubbish must be removed from the area at the end of the operation, or sooner if required by TL, to leave the area in a tidy condition to the satisfaction of the TL.
14. **NES: the following paragraphs summarise the relevant parts of the NES as apply to mechanical land preparation. You must comply with the NES - non-compliance may result in fines, abatement or prosecution.**
15. **Permitted activity:** mechanical land preparation does not need a resource consent in any:
 - (a). green or yellow zone.
 - (b). orange or red zone where the land slope is less than 25 degrees.
 - (c). orange or red zone where the land slope is 25 degrees or more, if the subsoil is not affected.



(d). orange or red zone where the land slope is 25 degrees or more, and where the subsoil is affected, but the area covered by the mechanical land preparation activity is 2 ha or less in any calendar year.

16. **Parallel to contour:** mechanical land preparation must be carried out parallel to the contour of the land, except if:

- (a). it is roller crushing or downhill ripping; or
- (b). working parallel would be unsafe.

If mechanical land preparation is not carried out parallel to the contour of the land, sediment control measures must be used to minimise sediment discharges to water bodies.

17. **Downhill ripping:** continuous downhill ripping of soil must be less than 50 m and sufficient distance must be maintained between ripping so that entrained water from each ripping furrow does not reach another ripping furrow.

18. **Downhill ripping prohibited:** downhill ripping is not allowed on land with a gully or tunnel gully erosion risk identified in the erosion susceptibility classification as severe or greater.

19. **Exposed areas of soil:** exposed areas of soil that may result in sediment entering water must be stabilised as soon as practicable after the completion of the land preparation, but no later than 30 November or 31 May, whichever is sooner, after completion.

20. **Sediment:** sediment from mechanical land preparation must be managed to ensure that after reasonable mixing it does not:

- (a). cause any conspicuous change in colour or visual clarity to any stream or river.
- (b). make fresh water unsuitable for consumption by stock.
- (c). harm aquatic life.

21. **Sediment control measures:** all disturbed soil must be stabilised or contained to minimise sediment entering into any water and causing:

- (a). the diversion or damming of any water; or
- (b). damage to downstream infrastructure, property, or receiving environments.

22. **Fuel and oil:** fuel must not be stored, machinery must not be refuelled, and oil must not be changed in any location where fuel can enter water, including:

- (a). within 10 m of a river; wetland or lake.
- (b). on, over, within, or in the bed of a stream or river.

23. **Setbacks:** mechanical land preparation must not occur:

- (a). within 5 m of a river with a width less than 3 m or a wetland larger than 0.25 ha.
- (b). within 10 m of a river with a width of 3 m or more or a lake larger than 0.25 ha.

24. **Fuel discharges:** fuel must not be discharged into water, or onto or into the bed of a stream or river, or onto or into land in circumstances that may cause fuel to enter water.

25. **Waste oil:** dumping of fuels, oils, and grease (and their containers) in the forest is prohibited. All waste oil products are to be removed from the forest and disposed of at an approved landfill or waste disposal site.

26. **Spill kits:** spill kits (as appropriate) for fuels, oils and chemicals must be kept on site.

27. **Ask TL!** if there is any doubt about an environmental issue, or compliance with this BEP, contact TL for instructions.