Forest Biomass Retention and Harvesting Guidelines for the Southeast

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- During 2011, the Forest Guild convened 20 foresters from around the southeast and representing 15 organizations to discuss these topics among others:

- How many snags should be left on a site after a biomass harvest?
- What percent of dead woody debris should be left on a site?
- How does soil nutrient status, harvest intensity, and frequency of harvests affect the amount of biomass to be left on a site?
Objectives:

- To provide a complement to state BMPs, particularly for NIPFLs
- To focus on post-harvest conditions
- To provide information to land managers, private forest owners, policy makers, and the environmental community related to biomass retention on harvested sites

Note:

- the importance of professional judgment in practicing forestry and implementing these guidelines
- Specific numbers given in guidelines were not static targets to be maintained at all times in all places, but to be used as guideposts
General guidelines included:

- Retention of pre-existing DWM of all sizes on-site, including FWM, CWM, and large downed logs.

- Ideally, slash should be distributed more or less evenly across the site.

- Leave and protect roots, stumps, and large downed woody material.

- Leave and protect live cavity trees, den trees, other live decaying trees, and snags

- Importance of large woody debris as habitat in upland and riparian systems
Specific guidelines:

- Leave 3 tons per acre of downed woody material on site
- Leave 5-17 snags per acre > 4” DBH when available
- Adjust amounts of residual logging slash to be left behind according to prior land use and future management intensity
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by the Forest Guild Southeast Biomass Working Group

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