

Timber Theft/Trespass

Northumberland Forest Products Marketing Board

Many woodlot owners have heard of situations involving timber trespass or theft and unfortunately, there are landowners who have fallen victim of such actions. Timber trespass or theft can occur inadvertently or intentionally.

Prevention Advice

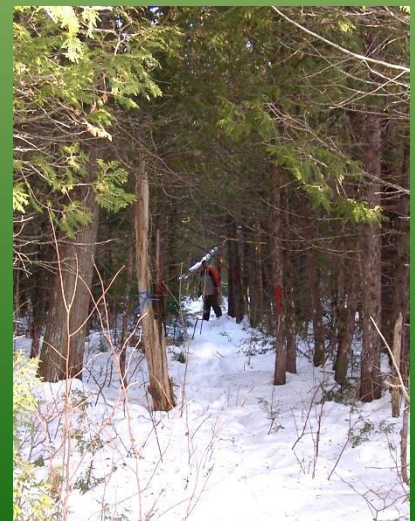
The following guardianships can aid as preventative measures towards timber trespass or theft:

- Boundary lines well marked and maintained
- If boundary lines are unclear, re-distinguish the lines jointly with your neighbor. If your property consists of merchantable mature timber, a survey by a licensed surveyor could be a wise investment
- Know who your adjacent neighbors are
- Be aware of harvesting and other activities near your property
- Inspect your boundaries regularly and frequently if neighboring activities are occurring
- If you are unable yourself, have someone you trust inspect your property
- Avoid oral permissions and “handshakes” only when your property is being harvested. Always have a written contract
- Consider posting signs and or gating access areas within your property

Regrettably, timber theft/trespass is rarely prosecuted and in many cases, when it is pursued, it usually results with the land owner being compensated for the stumpage value of the trees cut.



A clearly marked and well brushed boundary line is perhaps the first defense in avoiding timber theft/trespass.



If it happens to you

Unfortunately all of these preventative measures continuously employed will still not guarantee timber theft/trespass occurring on your property. If you suspect this has occurred recently or is occurring on your woodlot, consider the following measures:

- Contact your local RCMP office
- Contact your local Department of Energy and Resource Development office
- Do not try to deal with this situation by yourself if it is occurring
- Keep detailed records on everything occurring such as: who was involved, what was taken, where and when, meetings and discussions, etc....
- Consult with a lawyer
- Have all of your ownership documentation, such as your deed, available for the appropriate people to review
- Get advice on your options such as: criminal enforcement from Crown prosecutors, civil actions, and resolving matters privately between the parties involved
- Contact Northumberland Woodlot Owners Association and Forest Products Marketing Board for advice and guidance

Transportation Certificates (TCs) are part of a legislated and mandatory wood tracking system in New Brunswick requiring all primary forest products from private woodlots to show where the wood was harvested and where it was delivered.



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