

Notation 14-4

Common prerequisite conditions for overstory removal in conifer forest community types of North America.

Minimum Status of Regeneration before Overstory Removal

- For conifers in western United States and Canada, seedlings should grow to 1.5–2.0-ft (0.5–0.6-m) tall before overstory removal but not beyond 3.0–3.5-ft (0.9–1.1-m) tall (Schubert 1974; Tesch and Mann 1991)
- With loblolly, shortleaf, slash, and sand pines in southeastern United States, overstory removal can occur when stands have 1000 per acre (2470/ha) of seedlings at least 1-ft (0.3-m) tall. It takes 6000 per acre (1482/ha) with longleaf pine. Normally, this requires three to six years (Boyer and White 1990; Barnett and Baker 1991)
- With conifers of eastern United States and Canada, the removal cutting should occur after seedlings surpass 1 ft (0.3 m) for eastern spruce-fir (requiring as long as twenty-five years on some sites) and 2–5-ft (0.6–1.5-m) tall for eastern white pine (Hannah 1988). Smaller seedlings do not survive the release, and logging will destroy many larger ones

Losses during removal cutting range from 10–100 percent among conifer communities along the west coast of North America (Tesch and Mann 1991) and 35–70 percent among longleaf pine stands along the southeastern coastal plain of the United States (Boyer and White 1990).