

## WOODLAND SUITABILITY GROUP 6

These soils have high to moderately high site index, severe equipment limitations, moderate pest and disease hazard, and moderate to severe windthrow hazard. They have a moderate to severe limitation for growing Christmas trees.

The soils in this group are suited to medium intensity management, but management practices are difficult to apply. Tree growth rates are moderate and economic returns from these soils cannot be expected to be as great or as early as the soils in groups 1, 2, and 3. Thinning should be done at an early age and trees should be pruned before they reach a diameter of 15 inches at breast height. Damage from pests and disease can be expected but should not be excessive, except during extremely dry years. Logging is difficult and is almost impossible to perform during wet weather. Logging during wet weather can cause compaction. Soil compaction affects germination and future stand densities.

Locating and building roads is difficult, but roads need to be graveled for year-round use only in some places. Roads and skid trails should be protected from runoff water. Main roads need bridges, ditches, and culverts. Temporary and minor roads should be out-sloped and grades should slope downward toward the watercourse for a short distance where they cross creeks or draws. Grades should not exceed those considered safe in existing design standards and construction practices. When constructing roads, adequate erosion-control measures are needed.

Fire is difficult to control because of the steep slopes. The soils in areas where trees have been removed by fire or other causes are difficult to prepare for planting. Planting is by machine on the gently sloping soils or when the soils are not adversely affected by use of machinery. Planting by machine is not feasible on cobbly or rocky soils.