OHLEC Complexity

	Complexity LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	
Objective	•Options available to fell tree to mulitiple lays to meet objective	•Options available to fell tree within 45 degrees of intended lay to meet objective	•Tree must be felled within 5 degrees of intended lay to meet objective	• No Safe Lay - STOP Reevaluate objective!
Hazards	•No hazards are present that will impact cutting operation	•Hazards are present but can be easily identified and understood	•Hazard(s) are present but may be mitigated by altering cut plan and technique.	• No Escape from Hazards STOP Reevaluate objective!
Leans	•Less than 3 ft. of side lean •Less than 3 ft. of head lean •Back lean does not exist with intended lay •Binds - Known low release of energy •Leans or binds do not require wedging or sequence of cuts	•Three to five ft. of side lean •Three to five ft. of head lean •1" of lift to overcome back lean required •Leans or binds may require wedging	•Greater than 5 ft. of side lean •Greater than 5 ft. of head lean •One to two inches of lift required to overcome back lean •Binds - High release of energy expected	More than 2" of lift required to overcome back lean - STOP Reevaluate objective!
Escape Plan	•Escape path is clear •Multiple escape paths - Easily accessed	•Access to escape path could be limited i.e., Only one escape path available	•Access of escape path(s) could be difficult and/or in steep terrain	No Escape Path - STOP Reevaluate objective!
Cutting Plan	•Single cut undercut •Green or Sound Hinge •Cuts can be made from 1 side of tree - escape to same side •Single backcut	•Compromised Fiber •Double Cut Undercut / Backcut •Requires moving from side to side of tree	•Cut plan requires more than Double Cut •Terrain makes cut plan implementation difficult •Cut plan requires an elaborate sequence of cuts and wedging plan •Tree fiber integrity has been significantly compromised i.e., rot, fire weakened etc. •Hung-up or limb-locked trees	Cutting plan does not meet sawyers ability and qualifications - STOP Reevaluate objective!
Qualification Level	A	B	C	

** The factors identified above are to be used as support when trying to determine the overall complexity of a cutting operation by going through each step of the OHLEC process. These different factors are not to be considered conclusive when determining complexity, but rather a tool that assists sawyers and instructors when trying to determine the complexity of a cutting operation and how it aligns with a sawyers experience, ability, and qualification level.*