

STANDARD EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN  
FOR  
FOREST HARVEST OPERATIONS

I. Site Information

- A. Location \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Include sketch map of property)
- B. Nature of Operation \_\_\_\_\_ Acres harvested \_\_\_\_\_  
(logging, woodchipping, firewood)

II. Landowner and Operator Information

- A. Landowner \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Operator \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Current F.P.O License # \_\_\_\_\_
1. List the names of other operators who will be involved in the harvest and the nature of their operations. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. If you are subcontracting to any of the operators listed above, do you assume responsibility for ensuring their compliance with this plan? \_\_\_\_\_ If you answered no, they must obtain a separate plan in advance of their operations.

III. Agreement

- A. I/We agree to adhere to the terms of the attached standard plan for forest harvest operations and to grant inspectors the right of entry to the site to monitor compliance.
- B. I am aware of the landowner's responsibility in preventing accelerated erosion and sedimentation during and subsequent to forest harvest operations as mandated by the rules and regulations adopted by the State of Maryland and local jurisdictions.
- C. I agree to require that all operators conducting forest harvest operations on my property adhere to the requirements of the standard plan.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner                      Date                      Operator                      Date

- D. Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Soil Conservation District                      Date

FORESTRY DECLARATION OF INTENT

District \_\_\_\_\_ Map \_\_\_\_\_ Grid \_\_\_\_\_ Parcel \_\_\_\_\_ Lot \_\_\_\_\_

Owner's Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Location: \_\_\_\_\_

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I (We), \_\_\_\_\_ the Owner(s) of the real property as identified above, hereby declare my (our) intention to continue and/or place into commercial forestry use the above property, in accordance with the provisions of the Cecil County Forest Conservation Regulations, Article III, Section 3.2C, for a period of at least five (5) consecutive full taxable years following this date.

This declaration grants an exemption for commercial forestry activities under the Cecil County Forest Conservation Program. If the land does not remain in commercial forestry use, the Owner must notify the Cecil County Office of Planning and Zoning. If the Owner makes the application for an activity regulated under the Forest Conservation Program, on all or part of the parcel within the five (5) year period, the Cecil County Office of Planning and Zoning may require the Owner to meet the forest conservation threshold established in the Forest Conservation Regulations, Articles VII and VIII, and may also assess a noncompliance fee for forested areas cut in violation of the forestry exemption.

I (We) declare, under the penalties of law, that this declaration, including any accompanying forms and statements, has been examined by me (us) and the information contained herein, to the best of my (our) knowledge, information and belief, is true, correct and complete.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

BUFFER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Landowner's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Site Conditions – (please attach map)

- 1. Area in buffer (acres) 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Average slope of land to watercourse (percent) 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Average width of buffer on each side of watercourse (feet) 3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Present stand density 4a. Average basal area/acre 4a. \_\_\_\_\_
4b. % stocking 4b. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Species composition 5a. % loblolly pine present 5a. \_\_\_\_\_
5b. % yellow poplar present 5b. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Is buffer even or uneven age? 6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. What is dominant size class? 7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. What species dominate the understory? 8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Is competition in the understory light, moderate, or severe? 9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. How large is the watershed drainage area? 10. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Is this a Habitat Protection Area? If so, show area on the attached map. 11. \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

Four horizontal lines for writing comments.

Specification of Harvest – No harvesting will occur within the first 50' from mean high water line or edge of tidal wetlands, except as permitted by the Buffer Management Guideline.

- 1. Cutting methods: intermediate thinning, single tree selection, group selection, shelterwood, seed tree, clearcut. (Clearcutting will only be allowed if the stand composition consists of 25% or greater with either loblolly pine or yellow poplar.) 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Amount of basal area being harvested (sq. ft./acre) 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Amount of basal area to remain (sq. ft/acre) 3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many stream crossings are planned or needed? 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Will the next stand be predominantly advanced reproduction, seed tree, or seedling stock? 5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Site preparation methods to be utilized? 6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. Will control of the understory or vegetation be necessary to successfully establish desirable regeneration?

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. Follow up work needed?

8. \_\_\_\_\_

Comments:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by:

  X    
Licensed Forester

\_\_\_\_\_  
License Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

NONTIDAL WETLANDS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES  
FOR  
FOREST HARVEST OPERATIONS

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Operation: \_\_\_\_\_

Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_

On and in areas that have been determined to be wetlands according to the "Federal Manual for Identifying and Delineating Jurisdictional Wetlands," 1989, or its amended versions, the applicant will adhere to and follow best management practices (BMPs) including, but not limited to, the following:

Check when appropriate:

- Major skid trails, wherever feasible, will be located on soils that resist compaction and ruts or other disturbances that adversely impact nontidal wetland hydrology.
- Appropriate equipment to skid logs will be selected based on slope and the ability of soil to resist erosion or other disturbances.
- Truck roads, wherever feasible, will be located on uplands or on the highest available ground so as to minimize impacts to nontidal wetlands.
- Truck roads will be of minimum dimensions necessary to accomplish their purpose and minimize impacts to nontidal wetlands.
- Truck roads will follow the natural contour of the land, wherever feasible, and shall be stabilized to minimize erosion.
- Wetland hydrology will be maintained by constructing diversion ditches at the minimum depth to maintain flow of water.
- Wooden mats, filter cloth, or similar temporary structures will be used to reduce compaction or creation of ruts.
- Fill material will be used only when absolutely necessary to maintain or construct a road. If needed, fill shall be excavated from uplands and shall be free from state or federally designated toxic pollutants.
- Intermittent and perennial streams, sloughs, or channels will not be crossed unless absolutely necessary. When necessary, crossing will be at the shortest distance feasible, be of appropriate design, and allow unrestricted movement of aquatic life in the stream.

NOTE: A WATERWAY CONSTRUCTION PERMIT MAY BE REQUIRED.

- Landings will be located prior to road layout, located in uplands as far from streams and/or nontidal wetlands as practicable or on the highest available ground if uplands are unavailable, and kept to minimum size and number necessary for the operation. Diversion ditches will be installed to direct water away from the deck during use.
- Trash, debris, and chemicals will be collected and disposed of outside wetland areas.
- Utilization of low ground pressure equipment (i.e. high flotation tires, wide tracks, etc.) will be used when nontidal wetland soils are unable to support conventional equipment.
- Scheduling of forest harvest operations will be during periods when wetlands soils are dry or frozen and are capable of supporting conventional equipment to prevent compaction, ruts, or other significant disturbances to nontidal wetland soils or hydrology.
- All forest harvest operations will be conducted so as to prevent impoundment of water or increased runoff in the nontidal wetland, unless the change is recommended in a sediment and erosion control plan.
- Harvesting will be conducted during dry periods or at times that enhance natural regeneration.
- Natural regeneration will be utilized where feasible and will be the preferred method of regeneration in wetland areas.
- Other (describe additional practices)

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Prepared by:

  X    
 Licensed Forester

\_\_\_\_\_  
 License Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

# STANDARD EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN FOR FOREST HARVEST OPERATIONS IN MARYLAND

## **I. General Requirements**

A Sediment Control Plan is required for all harvests exceeding 5,000 square feet of disturbed area, or which cross any perennial or intermittent watercourse with a drainage area exceeding 400 acres (100 acres for trout waters).

This Standard Erosion and Sediment Control Plan may be substituted for a custom plan for forest harvest operations when all of the following conditions are met:

1. Road cuts or fills are less than 3 feet (5 feet in Western Maryland\*).
2. Grades for roads are less than 15 percent.
3. Grades for skid trails are less than 15 percent (in Western Maryland\*, skid trails shall not normally exceed 15 percent, but may be extended to 20 percent for distances less than 200 feet).
4. Landings are located on slopes less than 10 percent.

If the above conditions or any other criteria of this plan cannot be met, a plan modification listing controls necessary to prevent erosion and ensure site stabilization will have to be prepared by a licensed professional forester and submitted along with this plan to the local Soil Conservation District for approval.

## **II. Conditions**

- A. Unless one operator assumes full responsibility for implementing this plan, all forest harvest operators working at a site must obtain an erosion and sediment control plan. An operator is defined as any individual or company which has contracted or subcontracted a portion of the harvest operation. This also applies to those operators conducting firewood cutting or separate forest harvest operations in conjunction with or subsequent to the initial harvest. Each operator must implement and maintain the required practices.
- B. The applicant shall notify the Maryland Dept. of the Environment, 1-410-901-4020, at least 48 hours prior to commencing forest harvest operations. The inspection agency must also be notified at least 48 hours prior to the completion of work.
- C. A copy of this plan and any approved plan modifications shall be available on site during harvest operations.
- D. Each site will be periodically inspected by local government and/or State inspectors for compliance with this plan. State and local inspectors may require Soil Conservation District approved plan modifications to this standard plan as conditions dictate or to prevent movement of sediment from the site.
- E. Failure to properly implement or maintain the practices required by this plan or to comply with written requirements for corrective action may result in the operation being stopped (issuance of a stop work order) until the deficiencies have been corrected. Failure to take required corrective action may also result in legal action.

F. All erosion and sediment controls must be implemented in accordance with specifications contained in the document entitled "Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Forest Harvest Operations in Maryland" (hereafter referred to as Guidelines for Forest Harvest Operations) available from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Forest Service, or the Maryland Dept. of the Environment.

### III. Standard Plan Requirements

#### A. Site Maps

Site maps or sketches shall be prepared for all harvests and submitted with the plan application to the Soil Conservation District. The map shall identify the site location and provide directions and distances from the nearest major road intersection. All access points, landings, haul roads, waterbodies, uncut buffer areas, and stream crossings must be identified on the map or sketch. A more detailed map of buffer areas is required when buffer management plans are submitted. The harvest area should also be delineated on a xerox copy of the U.S.G.S. topographic map.

#### B. Site Access

1. Access points to the site shall be stabilized with wood chips, corduroy logs, a stone construction entrance or other methods approved in the Guidelines for Forest Harvest Operations. Any soil or debris which is tracked onto off-site paved roads shall be removed and deposited in a controlled area by the end of each working day.
2. A grading or entrance permit may be required for a new entrance onto a county or State road. Details may be obtained from the local permitting agency.
3. Existing public road drainage shall not be blocked or damaged by access construction. Pipe culverts shall be installed to maintain existing drainage.

#### C. Waterway Protection

1. Uncut buffer zones shall be marked and maintained on all sides of perennial or intermittent streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, bogs or marshes. These features are identified on United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Series (topographic) quadrangle maps. The minimum buffer zone width shall be 50 feet. This applies to land with no slope. Where sloping land is encountered, the following table shall be adhered to:

Average Percent Slope to Watercourse	Width of Buffer (feet) on each side of Watercourse
1-10	75
11-20	100
21-30	150
31-40	200
41+	250

2. Roads, trails, and harvesting equipment shall not be allowed in any buffer area except to provide access to authorized stream crossings.

3. The restriction on harvesting within buffer zones may be waived providing that a buffer management plan is submitted to and approved by the local Soil Conservation District. The management plan shall be designed by a licensed professional forester and include harvest method, the square footage of basal area to be removed and retained, provisions for removing and restocking the cut trees, and other criteria established below and in the Guidelines for Forest Harvest Operations. All trees to be removed from the buffer shall be marked at the base of the stump (so the mark remains after harvesting) by the professional forester in advance of the harvest operation. The buffer management plan shall become a modification to this standard plan and be available on site during harvest operations.

Harvesting within buffer areas must adhere to the following criteria. Basal area may not be reduced below 60 square feet of evenly distributed trees which are 6 inches or greater in diameter, measured at breast height. Any slash which inadvertently falls into adjacent waterbodies must be pulled back to prevent waterway blockage. Roads, trails, and equipment will not be allowed within 50 feet of any waterbody except at approved stream crossings. Timber cut within this 50 foot area must be removed by cable.

#### D. Haul Roads and Skid Trails

1. Grading of existing roads and/or trails will be limited to that necessary to make them operable, provided that the requirements of Section D(2) are complied with.
2. Haul roads and skid trails shall be laid out along natural land contours to avoid excessive cuts, fills, and grades. No road cut or fill shall exceed 3 feet (5 feet in Western Maryland\*) without prior Soil Conservation District approval of the modification.
3. Crossing of perennial or intermittent streams should be avoided. Where it becomes necessary to cross either a perennial or intermittent stream, a bridge or culvert crossing shall be temporarily installed. A Maryland Dept. of the Environment waterway construction permit shall be obtained prior to crossing streams.
4. Grades for roads and trails shall not normally exceed 15 percent. If it is not feasible to limit road grades to 15 percent, a plan modification which identifies the erosion controls necessary to prevent excessive erosion, must be approved by the Soil Conservation District prior to road construction. (In Western Maryland\*, skid trails may be established on slopes up to 20 percent for distances not to exceed 200 feet, without modification).
5. No haul roads or skid trails other than those providing access to waterway crossings shall be constructed within buffer areas. Drainage from approaches to waterway crossings shall be diverted to undisturbed areas.
6. Drainage structures shall be provided at the time of construction of haul roads and skid trails according to specifications contained in the Guidelines for Forest Harvest Operations.

#### E. Landings

Landings shall be located on reasonably level (between 3 and 10 percent slope), well drained ground. If the harvest sites do not have any area with a slope of at least 3 percent, landings shall be located on the maximum slope of the site. Landings located on slopes exceeding 10 percent shall require prior approval of the local Soil Conservation District and may need erosion and sediment controls.

## F. Stabilization

1. All unstable material (exposed soil) resulting from the construction of roads, trails and landings, with slopes greater than 30 percent and all perimeter slopes which are not adjacent to a buffer shall be stabilized within 7 days of disturbance with seed and mulch.
2. Upon completion of the harvest, all roads, trails, and landings located on slopes greater than 10 percent shall be graded or back-dragged, seeded, and mulched according to specifications. The surface of roads, landings, and major skid trails less than 10 percent should be backdragged and left in a condition that permits successful natural regeneration of trees, shrubs, or other annual and perennial plants. Under certain circumstances stabilization of these roads and landings with seed and/or mulch may be required.

## G. Maintenance

1. All practices installed shall be maintained at all times to function as intended.
2. Any practice that fails to function properly will be repaired or corrected immediately.

\* Western Maryland conditions apply to Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Frederick Counties.

## FOREST HARVEST OPERATION PLAN CHECKLIST

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_

Acres harvested \_\_\_\_\_

Operator \_\_\_\_\_

Submittal Date \_\_\_\_\_

Site Location \_\_\_\_\_

Approval Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Requirements:

\_\_\_ Standard Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Forest Harvest Operations form (with original signatures)

\_\_\_ Forestry Declaration of Intent with tax map, parcel and lot completed (with original signatures)

\_\_\_ Site Map (must be reproducible) should identify and delineate:

\_\_\_ Location (note existing roads)

\_\_\_ Harvest area

\_\_\_ Access points

\_\_\_ Landings

\_\_\_ Haul roads and major skid trails

\_\_\_ Water bodies and wetlands

\_\_\_ Stream crossings

\_\_\_ Buffer areas (cut and no cut) with widths noted

\_\_\_ Critical Area

\_\_\_ Soils map with harvest area outlined. Hydric soils, poorly drained soils, and soils with severe erosion hazard are poor choices for log landing and road locations.

\_\_\_ Topographic map with harvest area outlined. If roads or trails are proposed on slopes 15% or greater, a custom plan with BMPs for preventing erosion must be prepared by a Maryland licensed forester.

\_\_\_ Buffer Management Plan (if applicable) signed and sealed by Maryland licensed forester

\_\_\_ BMPs for harvesting in wetlands (if applicable) signed and sealed by Maryland licensed forester

\_\_\_ Copy of operator's green card and forest product operator's license

\_\_\_ Copy of Maryland licensed forester's forestry license (if applicable)

\_\_\_ Copy of letter from Forestry Board or Town approving harvest in the Critical Area (if applicable)

\_\_\_ Copy of letter from Forestry Board approving harvest in Forest Retention Area (if applicable)

\_\_\_ Copy of general waterway construction permit for stream crossings (if applicable)

## SEQUENCE OF OPERATIONS

1. Obtain all necessary permits and approvals. \*
2. A Maryland licensed forester shall delineate wetlands and stream buffers. All trees proposed for harvest within stream buffer zones will be marked at eye level and at the base of the stump.
3. Mark limits of harvest area.
4. Contact Maryland Department of the Environment (410-901-4020) to arrange a pre-harvest meeting.
5. Hold pre-harvest meeting.
6. Install stabilized entrance. Install all best management practices (BMPs) as indicated on the plan.
7. Construct haul road, landings, and skid roads as delineated on the approved standard erosion and sediment control plan for forest harvest operations.
8. Maintain and repair BMPs and haul roads, landings, and skid roads to prevent erosion and sedimentation throughout harvest.
9. Fell trees away from streams, wetlands, and sensitive areas. Avoid damage to other trees in the area. Immediately remove any tops, slash, or other debris which fall into wetlands and water bodies.
10. When harvest has been completed, grade and backdrag roads and landings according to standard plan requirements. Remove any stream crossings. Install permanent BMPs as indicated on the plan. Seed and mulch disturbed areas.
11. Contact MDE to perform site visit, prepare close-out report, and ensure that site has been returned to an acceptable condition.

\* This may include, but is not limited to, the Standard Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Forest Harvest Operations, stream crossing permits, and approved timber harvest plans for harvests within the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area or Forest Retention Areas. When site conditions exceed the restrictions of the Standard Erosion and Sediment Control Plan, a Maryland licensed forester must prepare the appropriate plan modifications. Modifications include buffer management plans for harvests in stream buffers and best management practices for harvesting on steep slopes or in wetlands.

**+ Plan is valid for 2 years from date of approval.**