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Howard Soil Conservation District  
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[www.mda.state.us/howard/howard.htm](http://www.mda.state.us/howard/howard.htm)

## SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREST HARVEST

Below are the items typically required for seeking a Forest Harvest Plan approval:

1. Vicinity Map.
2. Harvest Location Map (Show property boundary, harvest area, contours, buffers, streams, wetlands, etc.).
3. Compliance Agreement (completed and signed).
4. Standard Erosion & Sediment Control Plan for Forest Harvest Operations (available from our office).
5. Declaration of Intent (copy approved by county, if not otherwise covered by county approved forest conservation plan).

In addition the above, if the harvest is to occur within stream and/or wetland buffers, the following items are required:

6. Buffer Management Plan (if working in stream or wetland buffers) prepared and sealed by a professional forester.
7. Best Management Practice Agreement (completed and signed).

With the above items complete and submitted to our office, the standard review cycle is 5 working days from time of submittal. Upon notification, please submit 4 copies of the package for a final review and signature approval. Please feel free to call should you have any questions or concerns.

REV. 2/03

**Table 1**  
**Summary of Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Approval Options**

<b>Harvesting Specifications</b>	<b>Plans / Approvals</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road cuts/fills 3 feet or less (5 feet in Garrett, Allegany, Washington, and Fredrick Counties).</li> <li>• Haul road grades do not exceed 15%.</li> <li>• Landings on slopes of 10% or less.</li> <li>• Skid trail slopes do not exceed 20%.</li> <li>• Uncut and undisturbed SMZ.</li> </ul>	<p align="center">Standard Plan only</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvests involving a Nontidal Wetland.</li> <li>• Harvest involving a SMZ.</li> <li>• Harvests involving haul roads with slopes between 15% and 20% for a maximum of 200 feet, skid trails with slopes between 20% and 25% for a maximum of 200 feet, or road cuts/fills greater than 3 or 5 feet.</li> <li>• In general, any proposed activity that exceeds the limits set in the Standard Plan.</li> </ul>	<p align="center">Custom Plan (Must be prepared by a LPF)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvests involving haul roads with slopes greater than 20%, skid trails with slopes greater than 25% , and landings with slopes greater than 10%.</li> <li>• In general, any proposed activity that exceeds the limits set in the specifications.</li> </ul>	<p align="center">Custom Plan with specific BMP design as directed by the SCD (may require Certification)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harvesting involving silvicultural activities within a SMZ.</li> </ul>	<p align="center">Standard Plan with SMZ Plan OR Custom Plan (including SMZ issues)</p>

## Requirements of the Streamside Management Zone and SMZ Plan

The establishment of a SMZ is required, at a minimum, along all blue line streams. A SMZ is generally required in lieu of structural measures such as silt fence, diversion dikes, and sediment traps.

Harvesting is allowed within a SMZ provided that a SMZ Plan is prepared by a LPF and approved by the SCD. A SMZ Plan must be very specific when describing which trees are to be cut, what precautions for sediment control will be taken, and where the sediment controls will be located. The location of any harvesting within a SMZ must be identified on a sketch of the SMZ. The sediment controls to be used for waterway protection within the SMZ also must be identified on this sketch. If a SMZ Plan is required, it can be used in conjunction with a Standard Plan, providing all other Standard Plan criteria are met. If other conditions of the harvest necessitate a Custom Plan, requirements for harvesting within the SMZ will be made a part of that Plan<sup>3</sup>.

Each site must be evaluated on its own individual characteristics and limitations.

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<sup>3</sup> See Specifications for Streamside Management Zone and Appendix B.3 for a sample SMZ Plan.

COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT FOR THE  
STANDARD EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN  
FOR  
FOREST HARVEST OPERATIONS

I. Site Information

- A. Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Include site map or sketch of harvest area)
- B. Type of Operation(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
(i.e. logging, chipping, firewood)
- C. Total Acres Harvested: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Acres Loblolly Pine: \_\_\_\_\_

II. Landowner and Operator Information

- A. Landowner: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Address: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Operator: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current F.P.O. Lic. #: \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate of Training # \_\_\_\_\_  
(Green/Gold Card)
- D. Contract Dates: Contract Start \_\_\_\_\_ Contract End \_\_\_\_\_
- E. List other forest harvest operations responsible for ensuring compliance with this Compliance Agreement.
- | Name of Operation | Type of Operation |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1) _____          | _____             |
| 2) _____          | _____             |

NOTE: Unless one operator assumes full responsibility for implementing this plan, all forest harvest operations working at this site must obtain a Standard Erosion and Sediment Control Plan.

III. Agreement

- A. I/We agree to adhere to the terms of the attached Standard Plan for Forest Harvest Operations and to grant inspections the right of entry to the site to monitor compliance.
- B. I am aware of the landowner's responsibility of 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
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D. Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Soil Conservation District \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

STANDARD EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN  
FOR  
FOREST HARVEST OPERATIONS

I. General Requirements

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

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.
2. Grades for haul roads do not exceed 15 percent.
3. Landings are located on slopes less than 10 percent.
4. Grade for skid trails do not exceed 20 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 registered 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. 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 Sediment Control Inspection Agency at (410) 313-1855 at least 48 hours prior to commencing forest harvest operations. This 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. This shall remain on site until all logging or timber removal operations have been completed.
- 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, 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,

### III. Standard Plan Requirements

#### A. 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 adjoining off-site 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. If necessary, pipe culverts shall be installed.

#### B. 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. A perennial stream shall be defined as any watercourse shown as a solid blue line on United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) quadrangle maps. Intermittent streams are shown as dashed blue lines on the U.S.G.S. Topographic 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:

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

The restriction on harvesting within buffer zones may be waived providing a buffer management plan is submitted to and approved by the Soil Conservation District. The management plan shall be designed by a registered professional forester and include the 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 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 until operations have been completed.

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

3) Trees shall not be felled into the buffer zone or across streams, rivers, lakes, ponds, bogs, or marshes. Logging debris which inadvertently falls into these areas shall be removed immediately,

#### C. 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 Sec. C (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 without prior Soil Conservation District approval of the modification.

3) Crossing of perennial or intermittent streams shall be avoided. Where it becomes necessary to cross either a perennial or intermittent stream, a bridge or culvert crossing shall be temporarily installed. A Water Resources Administration temporary stream crossing permit shall be obtained prior to crossing streams draining 400 acres or more, or designated trout streams draining 100 acres or more.

4) Grades for roads and trails shall not normally exceed 15 percent. If it is not feasible to limit grades to 15 percent, a plan modification designed to prevent excessive erosion shall be approved by the local Soil Conservation District prior to road construction.

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.

#### D. Landings

Landings shall be located on reasonably level (between 3 and 10 percent slope) well drained ground. If 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 specific erosion and sediment controls.

#### E. 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 mulch and seed.

2) Upon completion of the harvest, all roads, trails and landings located on slopes greater than 15 percent shall be graded or backdragged and mulched according to specifications so that ruts and puddles are minimized and the surface is left in a condition that permits successful natural regenerations of trees, shrubs, or other annual and perennial plants.

F. Maintenance

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

NONTIDAL WETLANDS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE AGREEMENT  
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, I/we agree to adhere to and follow best management practices (BMP's) not limited to, but including 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 the soil to resist erosion or other disturbances.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Truck roads, wherever feasible, will be located on uplands or on the highest available ground available as to minimize impact 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 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 (a) located prior to road layout (b) located in uplands as far from streams and/or nontidal wetlands as practicable or on the highest available ground if uplands are unavailable, (c) kept to minimum size and number necessary for the operation, and (d) diversion ditches will be installed to direct water away from the deck during use.