



WORCESTER SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT

304 COMMERCE STREET • SNOW HILL, MD 21863 • PHONE 410-632-5439 (EXTENSION 3)

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, promulgated by the Federal Interagency Committee for Wetland Delineation. 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 construction 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.

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- 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.

- Log decks 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 operations, and (d) 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 wetland 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 increase 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) _____

I/We hereby certify that I/we are authorized by the above named applicant to execute the terms of this agreement. I am aware of the above mentioned conditions and requirements and certify they will be implemented.

Landowner Signature

Date

Operator Signature

Date

Forester Signature

Date

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