



Forestry Fact Sheet *for Landowners with a DEP* *Conservation Easement*



This fact sheet is being provided as a quick reference guide for activities that need Notice and Approval under a DEP Conservation Easement.

Where can I find Forestry information in my Conservation Easement Deed?

Forestry is addressed in Section 4.6B and defined in Section 2G.

When do I need Approval?

When you want to conduct Forestry activities that exceed the annual threshold of cutting trees and shrubs in excess of 10 standard cords of wood or 5,000 board feet of timber or cutting or disturbing* trees and shrubs on more than one acre of land.

* Cutting and disturbing trees does NOT include clearing and grubbing

What is needed when preparing a Forest Activity Plan?

DEP requires landowners wishing to conduct Forestry to complete a Forest Activity Plan. This plan primarily addresses:

- A statement of goals and objectives for the harvest,
- the layout of roads, skid trails, and landing areas and how they will be installed and maintained,
- identification of riparian areas, watercourses, wetlands, springs and seeps, and steep slopes,
- a plan for installing and maintaining Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce impacts.

When can I get my Forest Activity Plan reviewed by DEP?

- Once you have an idea of what your harvest activity will involve, you can submit a Forest Activity Plan to DEP. We encourage landowners to submit their plans for review well in advance of any scheduled harvest and/or treatment.

What does DEP want to see when it is considering Forestry activities?

Forestry activities should be managed so as to avoid impacts to wetlands, watercourses, and riparian areas and promote the long-term health of the forest by:

- keeping stream crossings to a minimum and designing them with the most appropriate type of Best Management Practice (BMP) for each crossing,
- identifying and avoiding areas of highly erodible soils,
- designing riparian buffer zones for specialized treatment when practical,
- planning the location of landings and skid trails before operations begin to avoid steep slopes, erodible soils, and proximity to watercourses as much as possible,
- obtaining and submitting to DEP, any required permits from New York State, Army Corp

- of Engineers, local governments, or other agencies,
- limiting harvesting operations to appropriate weather conditions,
- designating trees to be removed prior to the start of operations,
- using appropriate silvicultural treatments for current stocking level and stand type,
- using proper BMPs,
- DEP recommends landowners complete a management plan that addresses the long-term goals of the landowners and may address such things as wildlife goals, timber production, recreation, forest regeneration, and forest health and diversity.
- DEP recommends that a professional forester be retained to assist landowners in assessing forest resources on their property and completing plans. A list of consulting foresters is available at:
 - <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/df/privland/privassist/consulting.html>
 - <http://www.nycwatershed.org/>

Why do I need Approval?

To ensure that the risk of water pollution is minimized, and to maximize the long-term health of the forest to provide a benefit to water quality while at the same time, meeting the landowners land management goals.

How should I begin?

Proposals for Forestry activities should be reviewed in the following sequence:

- A good place to start is to contact Watershed Agricultural Council-Forestry Program or the Catskill Forest Association for help.
- If you need assistance with the planning phase, please contact your DEP Land Steward for a pre-application meeting and site walk. DEP Foresters are also available as a resource,
- Research, and obtain as necessary, the required permits from federal, state, and local agencies,
- Complete an application form along with required documents,
 - Additional copies of the baseline documentation map or other site maps and aerial photos are available from DEP,
- Obtain final CE activity review and approval or requests for modifications.

This Fact Sheet is subject to modification – Please refer to your Conservation Easement document for details!



Where do I send my application?

**Director of Land Management
City of New York
Department of Environmental Protection
71 Smith Ave, Kingston, NY 12401**

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