# ECH 8109.11 FOREST TAX LAW CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE HANDBOOK

Introduction: Section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law provides for a partial tax relief on forest land dedicated to forest crop production. It is the responsibility of the Department of Environmental Conservation to certify eligible tracts of land under the law. It is the purpose of this handbook to set forth the procedures that will insure the proper administration of the certification process.

### FOREST TAX LAW CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE HANDBOOK

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Zero Code

<u>010 Introduction</u> – The purpose of <u>Section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law</u>, known as the Forest Tax Law, is to ensure the management of an eligible tract for the continuing production of a merchantable forest crop selected by the owner. The tax law accomplishes this by providing a reduction of the assessment of the eligible portions of the forest land. In return for this reduction the land must be annually committed to continued forest crop production and managed according to a plan approved by this Department. Also, when commercial forest crops are harvested, six percent of the value of the stumpage is returned to the county treasurer.

<u>020 Policy</u> – It shall be the policy of this Department to administer the Forest Tax Law Program according to the intent of the law, the principles set forth in the rules and regulations, and the procedures set forth in this handbook.

#### 030 Responsibility

<u>031 Director of Lands and Forests</u> – The Director of Lands and Forests shall have the responsibility for the statewide coordination and administration of the Forest Tax Law Program. This will include developing and initiating amendments to the rules and regulations, maintaining up-to-date procedures, providing necessary forms, maintaining liaison with other agencies and assuming the overall responsibility for the technical aspects of the program.

<u>032 Regional Forester</u> – The Regional Forester (or Regional Forestry Manager) shall have the following responsibilities:

- 1. Processes the <u>form (81-20-2)</u>, <u>Application for Certificate of Approval</u> as Eligible Forest Land.
- 2. Reviews and approves or rejects completed management plans.
- 3. Initiates and issues <u>form (81-06-5)</u>, <u>Certificate of Approval</u> as Eligible Forest Land.
- 4. Serves notice, when necessary, on the owner of a certified eligible tract to make treatments in accordance with a management plan.
- 5. Certifies the stumpage value of commercial cuttings.
- 6. Revokes and amends the Certificate of Approval (81-06-5) when necessary.
- 7. Inspects the certified eligible tracts as required to determine compliance with the management plan using Forest Tax Law Field Inspection Report (81-15-47) to maintain a chronological file record.

8. Provides a copy of the location map to the Land and Waters Section, Wildlife Resources Center, Delmar, New York 12054, and to the Regional Wildlife Manager, for identification of existence of any endangered or threatened species as listed or any other significant habitats. Is also encouraged to draw upon any historical data available when reviewing the application for endangered or threatened species.

Upon positive response, the Regional Forester should investigate the ecological needs and implications of management activities on the species and habitat in question. The Regional Forester should seek management options that accommodate the habitat requirements and notify the owner of the findings.

9. Provides the owner of each certified eligible tract with the necessary number of copies of the <u>Annual Commitment Form (81-02-8)</u> prior to January 15 each year.

<u>033 Owner or Owners</u> – The owner or owners of an eligible tract bears the following responsibilities to comply with the requirements of the law:

- Submits to the Regional Forester a completed <u>Application for Certificate of Approval (form 81-20-2)</u> including two copies of a management plan and four type maps, as described in <u>Rules and Regulations</u> of this Handbook prior to January 1.
- 2. Identifies or permanently marks and maintains the boundary lines of eligible tracts, including the identification of exceptions.
- 3. Submits an <u>Application for Real Property Tax Exemption (EA-480-a)</u> to the assessor(s).
- 4. Submits the initial <u>Annual Commitment Form (81-02-8)</u> to the county clerk(s), assessor(s) and Regional Forester and subsequently submits annual commitment forms to only the assessor(s) and Regional Forester each year an exemption is applied for. Must be signed by all owners of record.
- 5. Submits a <u>Notice of Commercial Harvest Cutting (81-12-7)</u> to the Regional Forester no less than thirty days prior to the commencement of a commercial harvest cutting.
- 6. Complies with the work schedule for a ten-year period following each annual application for exemption.

7. Submits a revised management plan to reflect changes at least every five years following initial certification, or as necessary to keep the work schedule current in relation to the commitment period. The Department has sixty (60) days to review revised management plans. Five year updates must be submitted to the Regional Forester prior to January 1 of the year they are required so they can be filed with the assessor prior to the taxable status date.

# TAXATION OF FOREST LAND (Statutory Authority: Real Property Tax Law 480-a)

#### 199 Taxation of Forest Land

#### Section:

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#### 199.1 Definitions.

#### When used in this Part:

- (a) Approved management plan means a plan approved by the department for the management of an eligible tract which will ensure the continuing production of a merchantable forest crop selected by the owner. Every approved management plan must meet the standards and requirements of <a href="section 199.6">section 199.6</a> of this Part. Such plan must be prepared by or under the direct supervision of a forester who may be the owner or an agent of the owner, including an industrial forester or a cooperating consultant forester.
- (b) Assessor means an elected or appointed officer or body of officers charged by law with the duty of assessing real property for the purposes of taxation or special ad valorem levies, for county, city, town, village, school district or special district purposes.
- (c) Basal area means the total cross sectional area of all live tree stems expressed as square feet per acre and measured at a point 4 ½ feet above the ground.
- (d) Certificate of approval means the document issued by the department evidencing that the tract is an eligible tract for purposes of the real property tax exemption authorized by section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law (RPTL).
- (e) Commercial harvest cutting means the removal of a forest crop from an eligible tract of forest land for which the owner receives economic value either from a sale or through utilization. Commercial harvest cutting shall not include up to 10 standard cords which

may be cut annually for the owner's own use in accordance with sound forestry practices, or noncommercial cuttings prescribed in the approved management plan.

- (f) Commitment means a declaration to the department and the assessor, made on an annual basis by the owner of a certified eligible tract, in writing, on forms provided by the department, committing such tract to continued forest crop production for the next succeeding 10 years under the approved management plan.
- (g) Compatible or supportive use means any use of an eligible tract which is desired by the owner and compatible with or supportive of the continuing production of a merchantable forest crop. A use will be considered to be compatible or supportive unless it precludes forest crop production, involves permanent physical construction, or materially alters forest land with significant adverse impact upon the condition of forest crops. Compatible or supportive uses will be permissible but not mandatory components of approved management plans. The inclusion of a compatible or supportive use in an approved management plan does not represent the owner's undertaking to perform the use and does not imply that other compatible or supportive uses may not be undertaken on the eligible tract.
- (h) Contiguous acres shall refer to an eligible tract where forest lands are adjacent or near each other. These may be divided by nonforest land owned and controlled by the owner, or Federal, State, county or town roads, easements, rights-of-way, energy transmission corridors, or similar facilities, as long as vehicular access necessary for forest management purposes is not precluded.
- (i) Cooperating consultant forester means a forester who, or a forestry consultant firm which, has entered into an agreement with the department under the New York State cooperating consultant foresters program pursuant to section <u>9-0713 of the Environmental Conservation Law</u>.
- (j) Department means the Department of Environmental Conservation.
- (k) Diameter at breast height (DBH) means the diameter of a tree measured 4 ½ feet from the ground.
- (I) Diameter class means one of the following classifications of the stand:
  - (1) Seedling—sapling (SS)—the majority of dominant and codominant trees are less than 5.5 inches DBH.
  - (2) Pole timber (PT)—the majority of dominant and codominant trees are between 5.6 inches and 11.5 inches DBH.
  - (3) Saw timber (ST)—the majority of dominant and codominant trees are 11.6 inches DBH or larger.

- (m) Eligible tract means a tract of privately owned forest land of at least 50 contiguous acres, exclusive of any portion thereof not devoted to the production of merchantable forest crops, which has a certificate of approval issued by the department. No otherwise eligible tract, or portion thereof, shall be deemed to be ineligible solely on the ground that any general or special State law, or rule or regulation adopted thereunder, partially restricts or requires further approval for forest crop production practices or activities on such tract or portion.
- (n) Endangered and threatened species means those species of fish, shellfish, crustacea, wildlife and plants designated or listed as endangered species or threatened species under orders, rules or regulations issued by the department pursuant to section 11-0535 or section 9-1503 of the Environmental Conservation Law.
- (o) Forester means an individual who has graduated from a school of forestry recognized by the Society of American Foresters, or who possesses qualifications for the practice of forestry essentially equivalent to those possessed by a graduate of a school of forestry in a curriculum of forest management recognized by the Society of American Foresters.
- (p) Forest land means land primarily devoted to and suitable for forest crop production under accepted evenaged or unevenaged forest management systems through natural regeneration or through forestation and sufficiently stocked with forest trees to produce a merchantable forest crop within 30 years of time of original certification. Forest land shall consist of a stand or stands of commercial species of forest trees which contain at least either 500 stems per acre or 60 square feet of basal area per acre which shall be evenly distributed over the area of the stand. The department may approve a smaller number of planted trees per acre if the resulting spacing between trees is appropriate for satisfactory growth for the species being planted. For natural seedlings to be part of a stand, they must be at least one foot in height, and planted trees must be at least in their third growing season on the site.
- (q) Forest management area means a specific area of forest land to be managed under the approved management plan. A forest management area may be a planned sale area, anticipated commercial harvest cutting unit, or other defined operational area in which one or more stands, or portions of stands, will be managed collectively. A forest management area may contain any number of forest types, species, diameter classes, or site classes. Management systems and cutting prescriptions within a forest management area may be generic to all stands of the same forest type. Notwithstanding the foregoing, however, within every forest management area, stand prescriptions based upon individual stands shall be provided to the department pursuant to section 199.6(b) of this Part.
- (r) *Management system* means the silvicultural system to be employed on an eligible tract to assure the continued production of merchantable forest crops.

- (s) *Merchantable forest crop* means timber or pulpwood, including veneer bolts, sawlogs, poles, posts, chips and fuelwood, that is produced on forest land, has a value in the market and may be sold.
- (t) Noncommercial cutting means the elimination of those trees in a stand on an eligible tract which have no commercial net value in the marketplace because of size, condition or species and that are competing with crop trees.
- (u) Owner means the person or persons having legal title to the eligible tract.
- (v) *Person* means any individual, corporation, industry, partnership, association, firm, trust, estate or any other legal entity whatsoever, but shall not include the State, any municipality, or any governmental agency.
- (w) Site class means the classification of the stand in terms of the inherent capacity to grow crops for commercial harvest cuttings.
- (x) Stand means an aggregation of trees or other growth occupying a specific area and sufficiently uniform in species composition, arrangement or condition so as to be distinguishable from adjacent areas. Every stand shall be forest land, as defined in this section.
- (y) Stand prescription means the stand analysis documents specifying all of the work necessary to accomplish the management system in a stand and will be based upon an onsite inspection of the stand by a forester.
- (z) Stumpage value means the current fair market value of a merchantable forest crop as it stands prior to the time of sale, cutting, required cutting or removal. Stumpage value shall be determined by the department through one or more of the following methods: the sale price of the crop in an arm's-length sale, a review of solicited bids, the stumpage price report prepared by the department, comparison with like sales on State forests or private lands, or other appropriate means to assure that a fair market value is established within an acceptable range based on the appropriate geographic area.
- (aa) *Type* means the classification of the stand according to generally accepted forest procedures.

#### 199.2 Scope.

This Part shall be interpreted to carry out the policies of the State as set forth in section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law or any successor statute to provide a means by which present and future forest lands may be protected and enhanced as a viable segment of the State's economy and to assist in the protection of the environmental benefits of the State's forest resources.

#### 199.3 Confidentiality.

- (a) Information contained in applications for a certification or any supporting documents shall be considered not to be confidential unless the owner claims and substantiates to the satisfaction of the department pursuant to the procedures contained in <a href="Part 616.7">Part 616.7</a> of this Title that the information contained in the application is protected by <a href="Section 87">Section 87</a>, <a href="Subdivision 2">Subdivision 2</a>, <a href="paragraph">paragraph</a> (d) of the Public Officers Law.
- (b) Any information in the possession of the department may be offered and received in evidence, where otherwise admissible, in an adjudicatory or court proceeding authorized by law. Such information also must be provided to a government official whenever possession of the information is necessary to the performance of such official's duties. However, the department shall take such precautions as may be consistent with the nature of the information and the circumstances of its release necessary to protect the confidentiality of any information which is required to be held confidential pursuant to subdivision (a) of this section or under other applicable provisions of law.

#### 199.4 Access to eligible tracts.

The department, including its employees, agents, and representatives, and the assessor shall have the right at all reasonable times after proper notification of the owner and proper identification to the owner as department employees, agents or representatives or the assessor, to enter and inspect any eligible tract or any tract subject to application for the purpose of ascertaining compliance with <u>section 480-a of</u> the Real Property Tax Law or this Part.

#### 199.5 General certification provisions.

- (a) Separate applications must be made for each eligible tract.
- (b) A completed application shall consist of:
  - (1) a properly completed application on forms provided by the department;
  - (2) two copies of a management plan prepared by a forester in accordance with section 199.6 of this Part;
  - (3) a location map or aerial photograph which clearly identifies the tract that is subject to application.
- (c) The owner shall have the boundary lines and lines designating noncommitted acreage of eligible tracts submitted for certification permanently marked so as to be easily identified on the ground. Suitable marking is a blazed and painted or painted line. Fences, stonewalls, posters, and other constructed or natural features are acceptable

provided they can be easily recognized as the boundary and are approved by the regional forester of the department.

- (d) The department shall issue a certificate of approval for an eligible tract whenever the following requirements are met:
  - (1) the owner submits a completed application; and
  - (2) the owner's management plan meets the requirements of <u>section 199.6</u> of this Part.
- (e) Completed applications will be approved or rejected within 60 days of receipt. The department reserves the right to reject applications in whole or in part whenever the application is not in compliance with applicable provisions of law or of this Part. The notice of rejection will be accompanied by reasons. The owner shall have the opportunity to remedy the defects cited in the notice of rejection and resubmit the application for certification to the department within 90 days of the notice of rejection.
- (f) All certificates of approval issued by the department shall require compliance with the approved management plan. The department may also impose, as terms of the certificate of approval, such conditions as it may deem necessary or appropriate to satisfy the provisions of the law or this Part.

#### 199.6 General management plan provisions.

- (a) Each approved management plan shall contain the following:
  - (1) application number provided by the department;
  - (2) identification of the owner and the tract;
  - (3) a narrative listing of the merchantable forest crops to be continually produced upon the eligible tract as a result of the implementation of the approved management plan;
  - (4) a narrative listing of endangered and threatened species known to exist on the eligible tract;
  - (5) a type map drawn neatly in ink which shall include the following:
    - (i) boundaries of eligible forest land drawn at a scale acceptable to the department; ineligible land or lands not to be included under this Part must be clearly identified on the map and acreage(s) individually indicated;
    - (ii) stands or forest management areas within eligible tract delineated as to number and acreage;

- (iii) physical features such as buildings, roads, streams and power lines identified:
- (iv) north arrow;
- (v) name, address and title of person who prepared the map and the date prepared;
- (vi) name and address of owner of the tract; and
- (vii) application number provided by the department;
- (6) a listing of the stands, or forest management areas, that comprise all of the forest land to be committed pursuant to the management plan. The listing shall include the following information for each stand or forest management area:
  - (i) stand or forest management area number;
  - (ii) stand type or forest management area types;
  - (iii) diameter class or classes;
  - (iv) site class;
  - (v) acreage estimated to the nearest whole acre;
  - (vi) species composition expressed as a percentage;
  - (vii) basal area;
  - (viii) identification of every area more than an acre in size that is not eligible;

If the listing is by forest management area, the management plan shall also identify stand numbers and estimated stand acreages for each stand within each forest management area;

(7) a work schedule for each of the next 15 years, which shall contain all commercial and noncommercial cuttings, road construction and other treatments needed for continued certification. The approved management plan shall prescribe noncommercial treatments necessary to attain the production of the selected merchantable forest crops specified in <a href="mailto:paragraph">paragraph</a> (3) of this subdivision. Such noncommercial treatments shall be accomplished at not less than the greater of the following rates:

- (i) 10 acres per year; or
- (ii) five percent of the total acreage in the certified tract needing treatment;

stands which demonstrate a productive capacity of less than 50 cubic feet per acre per year may be exempted from the noncommercial treatment requirement where the selected merchantable forest crops specified in <u>paragraph (3)</u> of this subdivision do not economically justify such treatment;

- (8) a description of compatible or supportive uses that are desired by the owner;
- (9) a description of any cuttings or removals of merchantable forest crops during the past three years, including the date, location and cutting prescription of such cuttings or removals; lands from which a merchantable forest crop has been cut or removed within three years prior to the time of application will be ineligible for certification unless such cutting or removal was accomplished under a forest management program designed to provide for the continuing production of merchantable forest crops; and
- (10) the signature and typed or printed name of the forester who prepared or supervised the preparation of the management plan and the date prepared, together with certification by the forester that all land shown as eligible land on the type map is forest land as defined in <u>section 199.1</u> of this Part.
- (b) In addition to the information required by <u>subdivision (a)</u> of this section, the following information shall be provided at least 30 days prior to any commercial harvest cutting or noncommercial cutting. No commercial harvest cutting or noncommercial cutting may be commenced before approval of the department within 30 days of receipt of such information in a manner acceptable to the department:
  - (1) management system or systems on the portion of the tract to be cut;
  - (2) identification of the stands or forest management area(s) to be cut and approximate acreage to be cut within the stands or forest management area(s); cutting prescription with approximate average basal areas before and after the cut; merchantable forest crop or crops to be cut and volume by species; specifications to accommodate endangered or threatened species, if any;
  - (3) description of necessary road layout and erosion control and sediment control measures;
  - (4) description of noncommercial work, if any, to be undertaken on the area to be cut; and
  - (5) the name and address of the person under whose supervision the harvest will be conducted.

- (c) The owner shall have the right to select management systems and cutting prescriptions, provided they are consistent with the approved management plan and designed to assure the continuing production of merchantable forest crops identified in the approved management plan. Noncommercial cuttings scheduled for an eligible tract must be completed during the year in which they are scheduled.
- (d) Grazing by domestic animals is prohibited on all eligible tracts.

#### 199.7 Filing procedures.

- (a) It is the responsibility of the owner to comply with filing requirements of subdivision 3 of section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law by:
  - (1) filing the original certificate of approval with the clerk of the county in which the eligible tract is located;
  - (2) filing the original application for real property tax exemption with the appropriate assessor on forms prescribed by the State Board of Equalization and Assessment, together with the commitment certified by the department and recorded by the clerk of the county; and
  - (3) filing with the appropriate assessor a commitment certified by the department prior to the taxable status date in each year for which a real property tax exemption is sought.
- (b) Implementation of the requirements of subdivision 5 of <u>section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law</u> shall be according to the following schedule and procedures:
  - (1) At least 30 days prior to any commercial harvest pursuant to an approved management plan, the owner shall file with the department on forms provided by the department, a notice of commercial harvest cutting.
  - (2) The department, within 15 days of receipt of such notice, shall determine the compliance of the proposed harvest with the approved management plan and upon such determination, certify the stumpage value of such harvest to the owner and to the county treasurer of the county or counties in which the tract is situated.
  - (3) No later than 30 days after receipt of the certification of the value of such harvest, the owner shall pay a stumpage tax of six per centum of the certified value to such county treasurer.
- (c) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this section, if the stumpage value of a merchantable forest crop will be determined with reference to a scale to be conducted after the commencement of the proposed cutting, the owner may elect to be taxed in accordance with this subdivision. Such election shall be made not less than 30 days in

advance of commencement of the cutting, on a properly completed notice of commercial harvest cutting. Such notice shall include information as to the anticipated volume estimate, scaling method, and the schedule and length of the cutting period, not to exceed one year. If a proper election has been made in accordance with this subdivision, the department will notify the owner and the appropriate assessor or assessors before any cutting takes place on the eligible tract, and the department will certify the scaled stumpage value to the owner of the tract and to the county treasurer of the county or counties when the cutting has concluded. No later than 30 days after the receipt of such certification of value, the owner shall pay a six per centum tax on the stumpage value of the merchantable forest crop to such county treasurer.

#### 199.8 Required cuttings.

- (a) The department may serve notice upon the owner of a certified tract directing such owner to make a cutting as prescribed in the approved management plan for such tract. Should such cutting involve the sale or utilization of a merchantable forest crop, not less than 30 days in advance of cutting the owner shall give notice to the department of the stumpage value, amount and location of the cutting on a form prescribed by the department. The department shall, within 15 days after receipt of such notice from the owner, certify the stumpage value, if any, to the owner and to the county treasurer of the county or counties in which the tract is situated. No later than 30 days after receipt of such certification of value, the owner shall pay a six per centum tax on the certified stumpage value to such county treasurer.
- (b) Any cutting of a merchantable forest crop under this section must be conducted within two years from the date of notice. Upon failure of the owner within such period to conduct such cutting, the department shall certify to the owner and the county treasurer of the county or counties the stumpage value of such merchantable forest crop. No later than 30 days after receipt of such certification of value, the owner shall pay a six per centum tax on the real property certified stumpage value to such county treasurer.
- (c) Any noncommercial cutting under this section must be conducted within the tax year prescribed on the certificate of approval.
- (d) If the owner, within the period prescribed by this section, makes such cuttings as directed by the department, the tract shall continue to be certified as long as the owner shall continue to comply with the provisions of this Part and manage the tract in the manner prescribed in the approved management plan.

#### 199.9 Amendment.

An approved management plan may be extended or amended by filing a written request with the department indicating the nature and substance of the change. The department will determine the acceptability of the proposed change and shall inform the owner, in writing, of its determination within 10 days of receipt of the request. If the request for change is not approved by the regional forester of the department, the owner may

appeal, within 30 days of its receipt, the decision of the regional forester by filing a written appeal to the Director of the Division of Lands and Forests. When a request for change is approved, the department shall inform the owner of the necessary administrative and technical procedures to follow to effect the change in conformance with the rules and regulations.

- (a) The owner must submit amendments of the approved management plan whenever necessary to assure the management plan is for a period at least as long as the commitment.
- (b) If the owner continues to file the annual commitment form, an amendment to the management plan must be filed every five years to assure the management plan is for a period at least as long as the commitment. The owner also must submit amendments whenever required under <a href="section 199.10">section 199.10</a> of this Part, whenever there is a material change in the acreage or ownership or location of any stands or forest management area, and whenever a cutting changes or will be delayed or substantially altered because of destruction or damage to the forest crop by fire, infestation, disease, storm, flood or other natural disaster, act of God, accident, trespass or war.

#### 199.10 Revocation.

- (a) The department shall notify the owner in writing of its intention to issue a notice of violation to the owner at least 30 days prior to the issuance of such notice of violation to the county and shall offer the owner an opportunity to meet with the department representatives informally for the purpose of resolving alleged violations. If the parties can agree to a resolution of the alleged violations, then a written memorandum setting forth the terms of the agreement shall be prepared and signed by the parties. This memorandum shall become part of the approved management plan.
- (b) If the parties cannot agree, the owner has the right to request in writing a hearing within this initial 30-day period. If the owner does not request a hearing within 30 days of receipt of the notice provided for in this subdivision, then such failure will be deemed a waiver of the right to a hearing and the department may proceed to issue a notice of violation to the owner and to the county. If the owner does request a hearing, the matter will be referred to an Administrative Law Judge for scheduling a hearing in accordance with procedures of the <a href="State Administrative Procedure Act">State Administrative Procedure Act</a> and <a href="Part 622">Part 622</a> of this Title. The owner and assessor or assessors shall be given notice of such hearing and an opportunity to be heard.
- (c) A notice of violation may be issued for any of the following reasons:
  - (1) the certified eligible tract or portion thereof is converted to a use which precludes or is inconsistent with management of the land for forest crop production;

- (2) the owner fails to give notice of a proposed cutting on such tract or fails to timely pay the appropriate tax on the stumpage value of the merchantable forest crop determined pursuant to either subdivision (5) or (6) of <u>section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law</u>;
- (3) the owner fails to comply with the approved management plan for such tract at any time during the commitment period;
- (4) the owner fails to make a timely cutting in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (6) of <u>section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law</u>, after service of notice by the department to make such a cutting; or
- (5) the owner voluntarily requests immediate withdrawal for all of a portion of the certified eligible tract by submitting a notarized written request to the department and assumes obligation for appropriate penalties.
- (d) Notwithstanding the finding of an occurrence described in paragraph (2), (3) or (4) of subdivision (c) of this section, the department may determine that a violation has not occurred if the failure to comply was due to reasons beyond the control of the owner and such failure can be corrected forthwith without significant effect on the overall purpose of the management plan.
- (e) A notice of violation issued under this section shall be given by the department to the owner, to the appropriate assessor(s), and to the county treasurer of the county or counties in which such tract is located. Upon receipt of a county treasurer's tax search or other proof satisfactory to the department that penalties, stumpage taxes and interest imposed by section 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law have been fully paid or satisfied, the department shall revoke the certificate of approval for the tract, and notice of such revocation shall be given to the owner and to the county clerk of the county or counties in which the tract is located. In the event of a revocation for conversion of a portion of the certified eligible tract, the revocation shall apply only to the portion of the land so converted.
- (f) The certificate of approval of a certified tract for which no notice of violation has been issued shall be revoked without penalty upon receipt from the owner of receipted property tax bills or other proof satisfactory to the department that nine years have passed from the year of the last certified commitment filed with the assessor. Notice of such revocation shall be given to the owner and to the county clerk of the county or counties in which the tract is located.

### 199.11 Involuntary and partial conversions.

(a) The owner of a certified tract shall not be subject to any penalty that would otherwise apply because such tract or any portion thereof is converted to a use other than forest crop production by virtue of:

- (1) an involuntary taking by eminent domain or other involuntary proceeding, except a tax sale;
- (2) a voluntary proceeding, providing such proceeding involves the establishment of rights-of-way for public highway or energy transmission purposes wherein such corridors have been established subsequent to public hearing as needed in the public interest and are environmentally compatible;
- (3) oil, gas or mineral exploration, development or extraction activity undertaken by an independent grantee pursuant to a lease or other conveyance of subsurface rights recorded more than 10 years prior to the date of the original certificate of approval issued by the department for the tract; or
- (4) where all or a substantial portion of the certified tract is destroyed or irreparably damaged by reason of an act of God or a natural disaster.
- (b) In the event the land converted to a use other than forest crop production constitutes only a portion of such tract, the management plan shall be amended by the owner to exclude that portion so converted, and the certificate of approval shall be revoked with respect to the converted portion, after notice and opportunity for hearing, and notice of such partial revocation shall be given to the owner, to the appropriate assessor(s) and to the clerk of the appropriate county or counties. Remaining parcels not so converted will remain certified under this Part and subject to the management plan, regardless of size, except that should any remaining parcel be no longer accessible for continued forest crop production, the department shall, after notice and hearing, and after all relevant penalties, stumpage taxes, and interest are paid, revoke the certificate of approval for the inaccessible portion or portions, and notice of such partial revocation shall be given to the owner and to the clerk of the appropriate county or counties.
- (c) The owner of a certified tract shall not be subject to penalty under this section by reason of the fact that a forest crop on the certified tract or portion is, through no fault of the owner, damaged or destroyed by: fire, infestation, disease, storm, flood or other natural disaster, act of God, accident, trespass or war. The owner shall, as soon as practicable, provide the department with notice of such disaster and of the emergency steps taken to cope with the same. The management plan shall be amended as necessary. If a merchantable forest crop is to be cut or removed in connection with necessary salvage operations resulting from any such event, the owner shall give prior notice of cutting, and the department shall certify the stumpage value as provided in section 199.8 of this Part. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to subject any person to penalty for immediate action taken in good faith in the event of an emergency.

# Chapter 100 - Application Procedure

### **Contents**

110	Introduction
120	Management Plan
121	Application Number
122	Identification of the Owner
123	Listing of Merchantable Forest Crops
124	Type Map
125	Stand Listing
126	Work Schedule
127	Erosion and Sediment Control Measures
130	Management Plan Summary
140	Management Plan Narrative
190	Tables and Sample Forms
	Exhibit 1-1 Application for Certificate of Approval  Exhibit 1-2 County Code Numbers  Exhibit 1-3 Forest Type Map  Exhibit 1-4 Forest Land Classification and Treatment Report

- <u>110 Introduction</u> The owner has the responsibility for providing all of the materials necessary for a completed application. As enumerated in <u>Section 199.6 of the Rules and Regulations</u>, these shall consist of a properly completed application form and management plan, a location map or aerial photograph. The owner should submit two copies of the management plan one for the owner and one for the Regional Forester <u>plus</u> two additional type maps.
- <u>120 Management Plan</u> Minimal requirements for a completed management plan are stated in Section 199.6 of the Rules and Regulations.
- 121 Application Number A binary number will be assigned each Application for Certificate of Approval (81-20-2) by the Regional Forester. This number will consist of a county number (see Exhibit 1-2) and a second number consecutively assigned to applications as they are received for each county. For example, the application number in Exhibit 1-1 is 8-21. The number 8 is the designated number for Chenango County as listed in Exhibit 1-2 and number 21 indicates that there were 20 previous applications received for Chenango County. Where an eligible tract overlaps into another county, the county number for the larger portion of the tract will be used.
- <u>122 Identification of the Owner</u> The name and address of the owner as it appears on the <u>Application for Certificate of Approval (81-20-2)</u> will be included on the type map and within the text of the management plan. In the case of multiple owners each will be identified and required to sign documents such as Application Annual Commitment.
- <u>123 Listing of Merchantable Forest Crops</u> This requirement may be satisfied by the use of the <u>Forest Land Classification and Treatment Report (81-15-31)</u> found in Exhibit 1-4 or any similar tabulation or narration.
- 124 Type Map Minimal requirements for an acceptable type map are stated in Section 199.6 (a) (5) of the Rules and Regulations. An example of an acceptable type map is included as Exhibit 1-3. Political subdivision lines shall be indicated on the type map and tax parcel lines may be included if known and deemed useful by the owner and the Department.
- <u>125 Stand Listing</u> This requirement is defined in <u>Section 199.6 (a) (6) of the Rules and Regulations</u>.
- <u>126 Work Schedule</u> A fifteen-year work schedule, based upon the taxable status year, will be submitted with the application and will be updated at least every five years thereafter as long as the owner seeks exemption under the law. The work schedule shall include all prescribed commercial harvest cuttings, non-commercial treatments and such other treatments necessary to comply with the management plan and acreage of each and shall be listed on the <u>"Certificate of Approval"</u> (81-06-5) as illustrated in Exhibit 3-1. The 5 year update must be listed on the work schedule on the "Certificate of Approval" at each 5 year interval.

<u>127 Erosion and Sediment Control Measures</u> – The necessity for including specific measures to protect soil and water resources as a part of stand prescription shall be determined by the Regional Forester as documented in the <u>Timber Harvesting</u> <u>Guidelines (Exhibit 4-2)</u>.

130 Management Plan Summary – Either the "Forest Land Classification and Treatment Report (81-15-31)" illustrated in Exhibit 1-4 must be used to summarize the management plan or another summarization may be used as long as it contains all of the information contained in this form. Attached to the summary will be all of the supporting data such as the stand analysis tally sheets, stand diagnosis and prescription forms, and basal area and number of trees per acre computation sheets. The supporting information must be adequate to enable the Regional Forester to completely check the accuracy of the field work and computations. In some cases, field notes may be necessary to accomplish this.

140 Management Plan Narrative – The management plan shall contain brief statements describing the management objectives for each stand or forest type as well as the forest products to be grown and compatible uses where appropriate. It shall also contain a brief summation of the owner's overall forest management objectives which may set forth parameters of silvicultural systems desired by the owner. It should describe the silvicultural system (evenage vs. all aged) to be used in each stand to meet objectives.



# DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK

# EXHIBIT 1-1a

81-20-2 (5/87)70		700000000000000000000000000000000000000			APPLICATION NUMBER
<i>a</i>	NEW YORK STATE DEP	OR CERTIFICATE	OF ADDROVAL		-48-20 OATE RECEIVED
~ A	PPLICATION FO	for some	OF APPROVAL		12/27/88
Eligi	ble Forest Land Und	er Section 480-a of the	Real property Tax Law	'	CATE AMENDED
1. OWNER(S)	Randolf A.	Mary R. Smith			
2. ADDRESS	Swamp Road			-	1 %
	Monticello.	'NY	-	Zip	Code 12701
	TELEPHONE: (	914 )	1250	. :	2 2 - 2
			•	2	
		PROPERTY LOCAT	ON INFORMATION		
			7 V 4,		
2. COUNTY(S)	Sullivan		_ TOWN(S) _For	estburgh	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE
3. MUNICIPAL	. CODE	TAX MAP NU	MBER30-1-2	_ 4. ROL	L YEAR 1988
5. ROLL I.D.	21510 6	. I.D. CODE2	TAXABL	E STATUS	DATE 3/1/89
DEED-LIBE	ER AND PAGE	L 946 P 214			
7. TOTAL AGR	EAGE 89	ACF	EAGE TO BE COM	MITTED _	77
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Commissioner's Directive

Form 1100-4

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK



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#### EXHIBIT 1-1b

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS—Enter the names of all owners and the mailing addresses of the owner designated to receive all correspondence. If the owner is a private organization, or other organization, the designated responsible officer's name should also be included.
- COUNTY AND TOWN(S)—Enter all counties and towns in which the eligible portion of the property is located.
- 3. MUNICIPAL CODE AND TAX MAR NUMBER—Enter these numbers if applicable.
- 4. ROLL YEAR-Enter the year of the most recently completed assessment roll.
- 5. ROLL I.O.-Enter the assessment roll identification number.
- I.D. CODE—Enter the type of assessment roll identification. If book, page, line, enter 1. If account number, enter 2. If tax map number, enter 3.
- 7. ACREAGE-Enter acreage breakdown for each town and/or county.
- BOUNDARY LINES—Tracts without easily identifiable boundaries will not qualify for certification under the law.

SIGNATURE—All owners or the designated responsible officer must sign this form. NOTARIZATION—applications which are not notarized will be returned.

Send application form, location map and two copies of the management plan, including three type maps, to:

Regional Forester

Department of Environmental Conservation

at the address listed below which has jurisdiction for the county in which the tract is located.

#### . REGIONAL FORESTRY OFFICES

Region 1—Stony Brook · · · Building 40, SUNY, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790 -(516) 751-7900 Nassau, Suffork

Region 2—New York 1 Hunters Point Plaza, 47-40 21st Street Long Island City, N.Y. 11101 (718) 482-490 New York City

Region 3—New Paitz 21 South Puit Corners Road New Paitz, N.Y. 12561 (\$14) 255-5453 Orange, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster Region 3—Millbrook Box C. Millbrook, N.Y. 12545

191-0677-8268
Dischess, Pulnam, Westchester
Ragion 4—Stamford
Jefferson Road, Stamford, N.Y. 12167
(607) 652-7364
Delaware, Montgomery, Otsego, Schoharie

Region 4—Catskill Box 470, 439 Main Street, Catskill, N.Y. 12414 (518) 943-9430 Albany, Columbia, Greene, Rensselaer, Schenectady

Region 5 -- Northwile Northwite, N.Y. 12134 (518) 653-655 Futton, Hamilton Region 5 -- Ray Brook Ray Brook, N.Y. 12977 (518) 891-1370 Franklin, Clinton, Essex

Region 5—Warrensburg Box 220, Warrensburg, N.Y. 12685 (\$18) 623-3671 Saratoga, Warren, Washington Region 6—Lowville RO 3, Box 22-A, Lowville, N.Y. 13367 (315) 376-3521 Jefferson, Lewis

Region 5—Canton 30 Court Street, Canton, N.Y. 13617 (315) 386-4546 "St. Lawrence

Region 6—Herkimer 225 N. Main Street, Herkimer, N.Y. 13350 (315) 866-4330 Herkimer, Cheida

Region 7—Sherbourne Box 594, Sherburne, N.Y. 13460 (607) 674-651 Broome, Chenango, Madison Region 7—Contand

Region 7—Contland PO Box 5170, Contland, N.Y. 13045 (507) 753-305 Cayuga, Contland, Onondaga, Oswego, Tioga, Tempains

Region 8-Bath PO Box 251. Bath. N.Y. 14810 (507) 776-2165 Cheming, Genésee, Livingston, Monroe, Ontano, Orleans, Schwyler, Seneca, Steuben, Wayne, Yates

Region 9—Omen 128 South Street, Olean, N.Y. 14760 (716) 372-0885 Alloçany, Caltaraugus, Chautaudua, Ene, Niagara, Wyoming

Region 5—Fair uner 215 South Work Street, Faiconer, N.Y. 14733 (716) 665-6111 Atlegath, Cattaraugus, Ch.J. taucha, Erie, Niagara, Wyoming

Commissioner's Directive

Form-1100-5



# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDSOOK

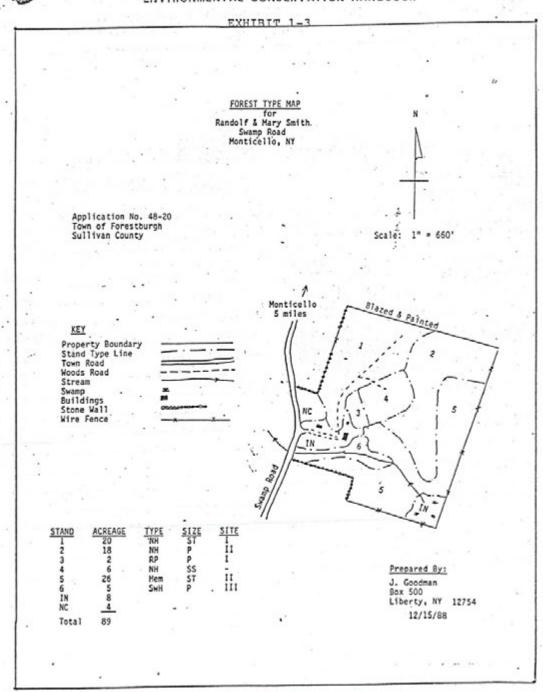
#### EXHIBIT 1-2

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7 - 400 - 400	u=1	Visit, 195 Suppose 27, 74, 7.	
	County Code Numbers		
1 - Albany	20 - Hamilton	39 - Rockland	
2 - Allegany	21 - Herkimer	40 - St. Lawrence	
3 - Broome	22 - Jefferson	41 - Saratoga	
	23 - Levis -	42 - Schenectady	
4 - Cattaraugus	24 - Livingston	43 - Schoharie	
5 - Cayuga		44 - Schuyler	
6 - Chatauqua	25 - Madison	45 - Seneca .	
7 - Chemung	26 - Monroe		
8 - Chenango	27 - Montgomery	46 - Steuben	
g = Clinton	28 - Nassau	47 - Suffolk	
10 - Columbia	29 - Niagara	48 - Sullivan	
11 - Cortland	30 - Oneida	49 - Tioga	
	31 - Onondaga	50 - Tompkins	
12 - Delaware	32 - Ontario	51 - Ulster	
13 - Dutchess		52 - Warren	
14 - Erie	33 - Orange	53 Washington	
. 15 - Essex	34 - Orleans		
16 - Franklin	35 - Osvego	54 - Wayne	
17 - Fulton	36 - Otsego	55 - Westchester	
18 - Genesee	. 37 - Putnam	.56 - Wyoming	
	38 - Rensselaer	57 - Yates '	
19 - Greene			

Commissioner's Directive

Form 1100-4

#### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK



Commissioner's Directive Form 1100-4



#### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK

#### EXHIBIT 1-4

81-15-21 (349-10d

#### NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

#### FOREST LAND CLASSIFICATION AND TREATMENT REPORT

APPLICATION NUMBER 48-20	R. & M. Smith			J. Goodman	12/12/88	
Swamp Road				CHECKED BY	DATE ONLY	_
Monticello		STATE NY	21P CODE 12701	D. Fox. Senior Forester	1/10/89	

The lands described in the owner's application for certificate of approval as eligible forest land have been examined and classified below. The stand treatments listed are required practices for continuing eligibility under Section 480-A of the Real Property Law.

							ENGINE YOURY		
MQ."	ACPENCE	FOREST TYPE	QUAMETER CLASS	SITE	BASAL AMBA	MO. TREES!	SPECIES COMPOSITION PERCENT (PREPERT 1976)	SELVICULTURAL TRESTMENT	+5:05)
1	zio	NH	ST .	í	133	175	HM 40, BC 20, 8e 20 Ash 10, Other 10	Sawtimber harvest	1989
2	18	NH	- р	ij.	120	711	SM 30, HM 20, 8e 20, BB 20, Other 10	Thin and cull removal	1989-90
3	2	RP	'p	1	150	905	RP 90, Other 10	Thin .	1989
4	6	NH	ss			1030	SM 40, HM 20, Be 20, 8C 10, Other 10	None	T
5	26	Hem	ST	11	110	335	Hem 70, 8e 20,.	Sawtimber Harvest	2000
6.	. 5	SwH	p	ini	96	782	RM 60, Elm 30, Ash 10	None	
Total	77								
	i						-1.		
									-

DESCRIPTION OF INELIGIBLE AND NON-COMMITTED LAND

Ineligible - House, barns & field - 5 acres; swamp - 3 acres

Non-committed - 4 acres wooded lot along Swamp Road

Commissioner's Directive Form 1100-4

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# Chapter 200 - Management Plan Preparation

# <u>Contents</u>

<u>210                                    </u>	Introduction
220	Acreage
221	Certified Eligible Acreage
222	Ineligible Acreage
223	Non-Committed Acreage
224	Fully Assessed Committed Acreage
230	Commercial Species
231	Forest Type
240	Seedling-Sapling Stands
241	Poletimber Stands
242	Sawtimber Stands
243	Site Class Determination
244	Basal Area
245	Number of Trees Per Acre
246	Silvicultural Treatment
247	Species Composition
248	Cutting Prescription
250	Forest Management Areas
260	Other Management Opportunities
261	Maple Syrup Production
262	Christmas Tree Production
263	Fuelwood Production
290	Tables and Sample Forms  Exhibit 2-1 Forest Site Class Table  Exhibit 2-2 Range-Mean Ratio Table  Exhibit 2-3 Stand Analysis Tally Sheet  Exhibit 2-4 Stand Diagnosis and Prescription

- <u>210 Introduction</u> The management plan shall contain the requirements and standards for the management of the eligible tract which are deemed necessary by the Department for the continuing production thereon of marketable forest crops. For minimum silvicultural standards, consult the technical references such as contained in the Timber Management Handbook (ECH 8409.12).
- <u>220 Acreage</u> The stand acreage shall be measured by standard forestry methods such as dot grid or planimeter and recorded to the nearest whole acre. If the measured acreage disagrees with the deed acreage or the assessor's records, the matter must be resolved between the owner and the assessor. DEC will use the tax role acreage or adjusted tax roll acreage for certification.
- <u>221 Certified Eligible Acreage</u> Each certified acre must, by legislative mandate, be capable of producing a forest crop in 30 years. Acreage which is forested, but not harvestable, shall not be certified.
- <u>222 Ineligible Acreage</u> Acreage which is typed as nonforested or is forested, but not harvestable, shall be excluded from the total eligible acreage. In cases where these types are less than one acre in size, they are not identified and are included in the adjoining forest stand. Camps, gravel banks and other permanent structures will be considered a one acre or greater area that are ineligible and are identified on the type map.
- <u>223 Non-Committed Acreage</u> Acreage which is eligible that the owner chooses not to commit to forest crop production must be indicated on the map and plan and the boundary delineated on the ground.
- <u>224 Fully Assessed Committed Acreage</u> Acreage which the owner wishes to remove from commitment and to avoid conversion penalties may be removed by amending the Certificate of Approval to have the acreage in question return to full value assessment. This acreage is still committed to the approved management plan for nine years following the last exempted year and ending on the taxable status date. This area must be indicated on the revised map and plan; and the boundary must be delineated on the ground.
- <u>230 Commercial Species</u> Any species capable of producing a merchantable forest crop may be considered a commercial species.
- <u>231 Forest Type</u> "Forest Cover Types of the United States and Canada" published by the Society of American Foresters or similar accepted type descriptions will be used.

<u>240 Seedling-Sapling Stands</u> – (See definition of seedling-sapling diameter class in <u>Rules and Regulations, Section 199.1 [I] [1]</u>). The minimum amount of information required for a seedling-sapling stand is as follows:

- 1. Species composition (ocular estimate).
- 2. Forest type.
- 3. Silvicultural recommendation and year (if needed).

Where there is any question that the stand will meet the minimum stocking requirements as stated in <u>Rules and Regulations</u>, <u>Section 199.1 (p)</u> a minimum of five 1/20th acre (plot radius 26.3') randomly distributed plots should be established in the stand. In each plot in natural stands, tally all stems of commercial species over one foot in height. In plantations, tally all planted trees that have been in the ground for three years or more from date of planting. The average number of tallied stems for the five plots should be at least 25 per plot.

Other mutually accepted sampling methods may be used.

<u>241 Poletimber Stands</u> – (See definition of poletimber diameter class in <u>Rules and Regulations</u>, <u>Section 199.1 [I] [2]</u>). The minimum amount of information for a pole timber stand is as follows:

- 1. Forest type.
- 2. Site.
- 3. Basal area (Total B.A. of all stems).
- 4. Number of trees per acre (Total # of all stems 2" dbh or larger).
- 5. Species composition (Any species that constitutes 10% of stand should be listed individually and not lumped in as "other").
- Silvicultural recommendation (if needed).
- 7. Year when silvicultural operation shall be accomplished.

<u>242 Sawtimber Stands</u> – (See definition of sawtimber diameter class in <u>Rules and Regulations</u>, <u>Section 199.1 [I] [3]</u>). The minimum amount of information required in sawtimber stands is the same as that required in poletimber stands (<u>par. 241</u>) and as noted in <u>Section 246-Silvicultural Treatments</u>.

<u>243 Site Class Determination</u> – Site information can be determined using site class tables, site index curves, or soil/site indicators. The site class factor used, should be specifically identified in narrative portion of management plan. Site Class II is the level at which noncommercial treatment can be prescribed.

<u>244 Basal Area</u> – Prism points shall be established in all Site I and Site II poletimber and sawtimber stands to obtain a sampling error of 15% or less. Consult the <u>rangemean ratio table and instructions (Exhibit 2-2)</u> for the correct number. Dot tally by species each tree the prism selects. When the cruise is completed, total the basal areas for all points and determine the average basal area for the stand.

Other mutually agreed upon statistically accepted sampling methods may be used.

<u>245 Number of Trees Per Acre</u> – Calculate the number of trees per acre by either: a total tree count at every other prism point using a 1/20 acre plot (radius of 26.3') or by acceptable tally forms based on number of trees by diameter included in each prism point.

<u>246 Silvicultural Treatment</u> – A silvicultural treatment will be scheduled for each stand to be worked during the fifteen year plan period. Prescriptions must be submitted at least 30 days prior to any anticipated noncommercial or commercial cutting. Prescriptions will be developed through stand analysis performed within 5 years of any scheduled silvicultural treatment. Noncommercial treatment will be required only in stands which are Site II or better and 50% of density is in acceptable growing stock. Treatments include release, cull removal, thinning and harvest. The first three may be either commercial or non-commercial with commercial treatment preferred. Each treatment listed in management plan shall be identified as either commercial or noncommercial in nature. The year of treatment will also be specified.

<u>247 Species Composition</u> – Record, in descending order, the percentage of each species by basal area represented in the stand to the nearest 10% at least. Ocular estimates may be used for seedling sapling stands.

<u>248 Cutting Prescription</u> – Use <u>form 81-14-8</u>, <u>Stand Diagnosis and Prescription (Exhibit 2-4)</u> or similar form which provides the required information for developing a cutting prescription. Use the information gathered during the stand analysis in conjunction with appropriate technical publications and/or stocking charts for the forest type to select a management system arid cutting prescription. The Silvicultural Handbook (ECH - 8409.12) or similar accepted technical guide should be used as a basis for prescription development. Application of prescriptions for commercial and noncommercial cuttings should be within 15% of the prescription.

<u>250 Forest Management Areas</u> – For some usually larger ownerships, it may be beneficial to the owner to manage on the basis of Forest Management Areas or compartments rather than individual stands. This can allow categorizing forest types over an entire property. It may utilize older inventory data where a schedule for updating is part of a plan. This concept is allowed in order to provide flexibility and reduce initial administrative costs on large tracts to facilitate the application process. As Forest Management Areas are scheduled for work, prescriptions are developed for the individual stands. The plan and map, however, must identify individual stands and assign them numbers and acreages.

<u>260 Other Management Opportunities</u> – The management recommendations shall also specify any use of the tract other than forest crop production, which would be permitted as being compatible with and/or supportive of such production. These recommendations could include recreational trails, forest roads, wildlife habitat management, etc. These recommendations shall contain requirements and standards for the conduct or establishment of any such use which requires construction or site alteration to assure compatibility with the approved Management Plan.

<u>261 Maple Sap Production</u> – Maple sap production could be considered as a compatible forest use when the stand being tapped is not yet mature and the tapping is incidental to the primary purpose of timber production. In such cases the stand prescription shall be directed toward the primary purpose of forest crop production and the tapping shall be described as a secondary use. Under no circumstances can an over mature sugar bush be retained as such and comply with the Rules and Regulations.

<u>262 Christmas Tree Production</u> – Christmas trees are not considered a forest crop in the statute. They may be considered as a compatible use whenever the primary purpose of forest crop production is not altered as in young plantations where Christmas trees are removed in a light thinning which would leave 500 evenly distributed stems and when the tops of mature conifers are removed during the course of either a scheduled non-commercial treatment or commercial harvest. In such cases the stand prescription shall be directed toward the primary purpose of forest crop production and the Christmas tree removal shall be described as a secondary purpose. There is no stumpage tax due on Christmas trees produced.

<u>263 Fuelwood Production</u> - Fuelwood is considered a forest crop. The owner is allowed to harvest ten standard cords per year for the owner's use, without Notice of Commercial Harvest Cutting and free of stumpage tax, but as prescribed in the approved management plan. Firewood for owner use as allowed in this concept shall be considered a supportive and compatible use as outlined in the management plan but not requiring listing on the work schedule. If standing trees are to be harvested a cutting prescription is required at least 30 days prior to cutting.

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK EXHIBIT 2-1

81-12-1 (6/75) Formerly (.F-4-9

#### NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

### FOREST SITE CLASS TABLES

	1000	10000	White		_			TREE HEIGH	T TO A 4"	TOP DIAMET	ER AND TOTA	L TREE ME	IGNT				
	DEH	INTERCEPT	Asa	Bass Tood	Breck	Tellow Birch	Black Cherry	Hemiock	Rapie .	Sugar Maple	Red Gala	White Pine	Red Spruce	Larch *	fed Fine *	Norway Spruce *	10red
	6	4"	24	24	20	23	23	14	22	23	22	19	20	24	24	23	20
	U	TOTAL	49	48	44	47	47	31	47	49	46	-	-	46	40	40	34
	7	4"	31	31	27	28	29 .	21	28	29	28		-	31	29	28	26
-	-	TOTAL	56	55	51	52	53	33	53	55	52	- 1	-	53	45	45	40
SITE	8	4	37	37	33	33	34	28	33	34	33	36	32	37	33	33	31
	U	TOTAL	62	61	57	57	58	45	58	60	57	- 1	-	. 59	49	50	45
	0	4"	42	42	37	37	39	34	38	38	37	-	- 1	43	36	37	35
	Ü	TOTAL	67	66	61	61	63	51	63	64	61	-	-	65	52	54	49
	111	4"	46	46	41	40	43	39	42	42	41	50	44	-	38	40	-
	10	TOTAL	71	70	65	64	67	56	67	68	65	-	-	-	54	57	-
	.6	4"	20	20	15	19	17	11	18	18	17	17	18 !	20	18	18 .	15
-	· U	TOTAL	45	46	39	'43	41	28 .	43	44	41	-		42	34	35	29
	7	4"	26	26	22	25	22	17	23	23	21	- ;	- 1	27	23	23	
	1	TOTAL	51	52	46	49	46	34	48	49	45 .	-		49	39	40	20
:	8	4"	31	31	27	28	27	23	28	27.	25 .	32	28	33	27	27	
	U	TOTAL	56	57	51	52	51	40	53	53	49	-	-	55	43	44	24
	9	4"	35	35	31	31	31	23	32	32	29 -	-	-	38	30	-	
L	IJ	TOTAL	60	61	55	55	55	45	57	58	53	-	-	60	46	48	27
1	10	4"	38	39	34	34	35	33	36	36	33	41	28	- 1	33		41
	10	TOTAL	63	65	58	58	59	50	61	62	57	_	-	-	49	51	

Commissioner's Directive Form 1100-4



# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK EXHIBIT 2-2

RANGE-MEAN RATIOS INDICATING THE NUMBER OF SAMPLE POINTS FOR VARIOUS SAMPLING ERRORS.

Range-Hean		Samp	ling Error	in Percen	IE.		
Ratio	5	10	15 .	20		25	
Ratio	Number	Number	Number	Number		Number	
0.00	48	12	6	3		2*	
0.05	50	13	6	3		2 .	
0.10	53	14	. 6	4		2 :	
0.15	57	15	. 6	4		20	
0.20	60	15	7	4		2 -	
0.25	63	16	7	4		3.	
0.30	65	17	8	4		3	
0.35	69	18	8	4		3	
0.40	72	19	8	5	0.	3	
0.45	75	19	9	5 5 5		3	
0.50	78	20	9			3 3	
0.55	81	21	9	:		3	
			10	3		4	
0.60	84	22	10	6		4	
0.65	. 88	23 .				4	
0.70	90	23	10	. 6		4	
0.75	94	24	. 11	6		4	
0.80	98	25	11	- 7 .		4	
0.85	101	26	12	7			
0.90	104	27	42	7 .		4	
0.95	108	28	12			2	
1.00	. 111	28	13 .	7		3	
1.05	115	29	13	.8		5 5 5 5 5 6	
1.10	118	30	14	8		5	
1.15	122	31	14	8		. 5	
1.20	126	32	. 14	8			
1.25	_ 130	33	15	9		6	
1.30	134	34	15	. 9		6	
1.35	139	35	16	9		6.	
1.40	144	36	16	9		6	
1.45	148	37	17	10		6	
1.50	153	38	17	10		7	
1.55	158	39	18	10		7	
1.60	163	41	18	11		7	
1.65	167	42	19	11		7	
1.70	172	43	19	11		7	
1.75	177	44	20	11		7	
1.80	182	46	20	12		8	
1.85	. 187	47	21	12	-	8	
1.90	191	48	22	12		8	
1.95	196	50.	22	13		8	
2.00	202	51	23	13		9	

\*Minimum number of sample units needed for statistical analysis.

Commissioner's Directive

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK EXHIBIT 2-3

# RANGE-MEAN RATIO OF BASAL AREA AS AN INDICATOR OF BITTERLICH SAMPLING INTENSITY\*

When sampling volume of forest stands, the number of samples to be drawn from the stand is of primary concern. The number of samples needed is fundamentally a function of variability within the stand and the degree of accuracy desired. The degree of accuracy is generally set by the requirements of the cruise, while the degree of variability must be determined from the stand itself. These requirements also hold true for the hitterlich method of plotless cruising.

The range-mean ratio of basal area is a simplified expression of the coefficient of variation of basal area. To find the number of sample points required for a predetermined sampling error the three steps listed below are followed.

- Obtsin five to ten randomly located basal area estimates with an angle guage from within the stand.
- 2. Using the highest and lowest estimates of basel area (ignoring the other estimates) devide the difference between the two by the mean of the highest and lowest estimates. The quotient is the range-mean ratio.
  - Using the range-mean ratio and the desired sampling error locate the number of Bitterlich sample points needed in Table 1.

The method has been field tested and it was found that the average prediction efficiency was 67.7 percent. The number of sample points required was always equal to or less than the number predicted. Consequently, the effectiveness was 100 percent.

\*Based on Research Note No. 13 by R. H. Allen and E. W. Morgren, College of Forestry and Range Management at Colorado State University.

Commissioner's Directive



# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK

### EXHIBIT 2-4

		BUREAU OF FOREST R	ESOURCE MANA	GEMENT		٠.
	STAND	DIAGNOSIS	AND F	RESCR	IPTION	
FOREST AREA			STAND		ACREAGE	DATE
DESCRIPTION:						-
Туре		14				
Site		-		100000000000000000000000000000000000000		
Diameter Class						
Species Composition .				-		
A CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH					- +	
STOCKING: (Per Acre					*	
Number of Trees			!	Required to	or even-aged ma	
Average Diameter				quired II	or even-aged ma	nagement only
Basal Area						
Current - AGS_		UGS		TOTAL		
Required -				_		
Surplus - (Stocking chart use	d			, –		
•						
MANAGEMENT OBJE						
(Even or Uneven-Aged)						
3.4						
		1				
						32
PRESCRIPTION:	*>					
		2000				
					-	
	-					

Commissioner's Directive

# Chapter 300 - Certification Procedure

# **Contents**

<u>310                                    </u>	Introduction
320	Rejected Applications
330	Certificate of Approval
331	Amended Certificates of Approval
332	Addition and Withdrawal of Forest Land
340	5 Year Updates
350	Revocation
390	Sample Forms  Exhibit 3-1 Certificate of Approval  Exhibit 3-2 Annual Commitment Form  Exhibit 3-3 Intent to File Notice of Violation
	Exhibit 3-4 Notice of Violation  Exhibit 3-5 Notice of Povecation

- <u>310 Introduction</u> The certification process begins when the owner submits a completed <u>Application for Certificate of Approval (81-20-2)</u> to the appropriate Environmental Conservation Regional Office. The Regional Forester must approve or disapprove the application within 60 days of receipt.
- <u>320 Rejected Applications</u> The Regional Forester may reject completed <u>Application for Certificate of Approval (81-20-2)</u> in whole or in part, whenever they are not in compliance with applicable provisions of the law or the rules and regulations. In either case, the owner will be notified of the reasons for rejection by separate written correspondence. At least one original copy of plan and map will be returned without alteration to the owner.
- <u>Application for Certificate of Approval (81-20-2)</u> is complete and meets the requirements of the law, a <u>Certificate of Approval (81-06-05)</u> will be completed as illustrated in Exhibit 3-1. The owner will be supplied at least three copies of the certificate with original signatures so that one copy may be provided to the assessor(s) with the initial <u>Application for Real Property Tax Exemption (EA-480-a)</u> and one copy may be provided to the county clerk with the first <u>Annual Commitment Form (81-02-8)</u>.
- <u>331 Amended Certificate of Approval</u> Whenever a management plan is amended in compliance with <u>Section 199.9 of the Rules and Regulations</u>, the Regional Forester will issue at least two amended certificates of approval to the owner to reflect the revised work schedule, one of which the owner must send to the assessor. If the amendment involves a substantive change of commitment (i.e. name or acreage) a copy is also provided for the county clerk.
- 332 Addition and Withdrawal of Forest Land Contiguous acreage may be added or subtracted from a certified eligible tract by an owner by submitting a notarized written request or application for certificate to the Regional Forester in accordance with Section 199.9 of the Rules and Regulations and including a revised management plan, type map and Forest Classification and Treatment Report. The Regional Forester shall notify the owner, county treasurer and county assessor (if applicable) of the acceptance of the request and shall issue an amended Certificate of Approval (81-06-5) in accordance with Section 331 of this Handbook. The owner shall file the amended certificate and annual commitment form reflecting the change with the assessor(s) and county clerk. The request to classify land as Fully Assessed Committed acreage must be in writing as outlined in paragraph 224 of this handbook.
- <u>340 5 Year Updates</u> The <u>Certificate of Approval (81-06-5)</u> contains the fifteen year work schedule that must be updated every five years so that it will always contain the

minimal ten year requirement needed for an annual exemption. The minimum information this update must contain is:

- 1. New Stand analysis or inventory for:
  - a. Any stand or forest management area that has been treated in the five year period;
  - a reinventory of any stands or forest management areas that have not been treated in fifteen years;
  - c. any stands that have been significantly altered by fire, insect, disease, or other natural forces;
  - d. at the owner's discretion, stand analysis for any stands to be treated in the next five years.
- 2. New type maps if changes occur in:
  - a. stand or management area boundaries;
  - b. committed area boundaries;
  - c. new physical features (i.e. roads, buildings, ponds, mining sites, etc.);
  - d. appropriate acreage changes.
- 3. A new proposed fifteen year work schedule.
- 4. Identification of the tract (i.e. tax map number, deed, identification codes, names[s], and/or address[es] of the owner[s]).

<u>350 Revocation</u> – Whenever cause for revocation is found, the Regional Forester shall follow the procedure outlined in Sections <u>199.10</u> and <u>199.11</u> of the Rules and Regulations.

In the event the owner wishes to voluntarily withdrawal, the Regional Forester should advise the owner to make a written request with a notarized signature to serve as evidence of the owner's desire to withdraw.

The revocation process applies to the property, not to an owner. In instances where less than 50 acres of certified eligible acreage is <u>sold</u>, the current owner is served the notice of violation (Forms #<u>81-12-14 [Exhibit 3-3]</u> and <u>81-06-2500 [Exhibit 3-4]</u>) and subsequent revocation (Form #<u>81-12-1700 [Exhibit 3-5]</u>).



# 

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDSOOK

### EXHIBIT 3-1

Origin	CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL  al   5-Year Update   Ame	endment	CERTIFICATION NUMBER 48-20 ORIGINAL CERTIFICATION DAT 1/15/89
MAILING ADDRESS:	Swamp Road		
CITY: Monticello	STAT	E: NY	ZIP CODE: 12701
TELEPHONE (Home)	: (914 <u>) 794-1250</u>	Office: ( 914	794-3827
COUNTY(S): Sul			
TOWN(S): For	restburgh		4
Municipal Code	ID Code2_ Roll Year1988	Certified Eligible	e Acreage
Roll ID21510		Ineligible Acrea	ge8
Tax Map Number _		Fully Assessed	Committed Acreage0
Deed (Liber Page) _	L 946 P 214	Date Ending	
		Non Committed	Eligible Acreage 4
has been approved to pliance with the work 1989 to 1990	pursuant to Section 480-a of the Real Pricertification by the Department of Enterthelia Schedule below.  Harvest stand 1 - 20 acres; the Thin stand 2 - 10 acres.	vironmental Conser	vation conditioned upon
has been approved for pilance with the work 1989 to 1990 1990 to 1991 1991 to 1992	r certification by the Department of En- schedule below.  Harvest stand 1 - 20 acres; the	vironmental Conser	vation conditioned upon
1989 to 1990 1990 to 1991	Harvest stand 1 - 20 acres; the Thin stand 2 - 10 acres.	vironmental Conser	vation conditioned upon
has been approved to pliance with the work 1989 to 1990 1990 to 1991 1991 to 1992	r certification by the Department of En- schedule below.  Harvest stand 1 - 20 acres; the Thin stand 2 - 10 acres.  No Treatment Necessary	nin stand 2 - 8 a	vation conditioned upon
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has been approved to pliance with the work 1989 to 1990 1990 to 1991 1991 to 1992 1992 to 1993 1993 to 1994	r certification by the Department of En- schedule below.  Harvest stand 1 - 20 acres: the Thin stand 2 - 10 acres.  No Treatment Necessary  No Treatment Necessary  5 year update of management p	nin stand 2 - 8 a	vation conditioned upon
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has been approved to pliance with the work 1989 to 1990 1990 to 1991 1991 to 1992 1992 to 1993 to 1993 to 1994 1994 to 1995 1995 to 1996	r certification by the Department of Endischedule below.  Harvest stand 1 - 20 acres: the Thin stand 2 - 10 acres.  No Treatment Necessary  No Treatment Necessary  5 year update of management purchased by the Treatment Necessary  No Treatment Necessary	nin stand 2 - 8 a	vation conditioned upon
has been approved to pliance with the work 1989 to 1990 1991 1991 to 1992 1992 to 1993 1993 to 1994 1994 to 1995 1995 to 1996 1996 to 1997	r certification by the Department of En- schedule below.  Harvest stand 1 - 20 acres; the Thin stand 2 - 10 acres.  No Treatment Necessary  No Treatment Necessary  5 year update of management purchased by the Standard Standard Standard Standard No Treatment Necessary  No Treatment Necessary  No Treatment Necessary	nin stand 2 - 8 a	vation conditioned upon
has been approved to pilance with the work 1989 to 1990 1990 to 1991 1991 to 1992 1992 to 1993 1993 to 1994 1994 to 1995 1995 to 1996 1996 to 1997 1997 to 1998	r certification by the Department of Enterest Stand 1 - 20 acres; the Thin stand 2 - 10 acres.  No Treatment Necessary  No Treatment Necessary  S year update of management properties of the Treatment Necessary  No Treatment Necessary	olan	vation conditioned upon
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#### EXHIBIT -3-2

81-02-6 (12/87)-94 .



# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION FOREST TAX LAW

#### Commitment of Land to Continued Forest Crop Production

Commitment must be filled with the County Clerk once and with the Assessor and Regional Forester each year on or before taxable status date if the owner of eligible tracts is to be eligible to apply for a forest tax law exemption. Upon filling this commitment with the County Clerk, the commitment shall be recorded in the same books kept for recording deeds and shall index it against the name of the owner. This recording shall remain in effect until a notice of revocation is filled then the County Clerk will record the word "Revoked" on the previously recorded document followed by a reference to the liber and page where the notice of revocation is recorded.

□ Ini	tlai Comn	nitment	Annu	al Comm	itment		Change in	Acr	eage				
		N BY THE					4. 3515			1100			
											_	_	_
the u	ndersigne make the	d, residing following	declaration	and con	nmitment	ello, l	1270	-		3		• ;	-
FIR	ST:	That I am	(we are) th	ne sole or	wner(s) or	respon	sible offic	cer(s)	of the	e eligib	le tract	desig	nated
	٠.`		gional For perty are fr ons.										
SEC	COND:	That the	ertified eli	gible trac	t is ident	tified as	follows:						
		County .	Sullivar				Town(s	E	prest	burgh.			
		Tax Map	Number _	30-1-2			Municip	pal (	Code .				
		Roll ID .	21510				ID Cod						
									214				
тні	RD:	That I (we tax exemp	ocommit the tion as pro- tork schedu 1/15/8	e eligible vided in S ale is liste	Subdivisio	on 4 of S	ar work s section 48	ched 0-a c	ule fo	llowing Real Pro	receipt	Tax La	w and
	RD: JRTH:	That I (we tax exemp that this won (Date) That I (we) eligible tra	commit the	ne eligible vided in 3 ale is liste 9 commitm omplianc	Subdivision on the second on t	on 4 of 5 certifica	ear work s section 48 ste of app	ched 10-a c roval	ule fo I the i Issue	llowing Real Pro d by the of any	receipt operty 1 a Regio	fax La nal Fo	w and rester
	ЈЯТН:	That I (we tax exempthat this won (Oate) That I (we) eligible transcriptions Subdivision	commit the tion as pro- rork schedu 1/15/8 make this act or nonc	e eligible wided in 3 ale is liste g commitm omplianc tion 480-a lied with t	Subdivision on the sent in full se with the sent in full se with the sent in full se with the provision of t	on 4 of S certifica I knowle e work a	ar work s section 48 ite of app adge that a schedule i	ched 0-a c roval conv	ule fo if the i issue ersion esuit i	llowing Real Prod d by the of any in a per	receipt operty 1 e Regio part of halty as	the ce	w and rester rtified ded in
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# EXHIBIT 3-3

BUREAU OF FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	ON		
INTENT TO FILE NOTICE OF VIOLATIO	IN		
Certificate Number	r	_	100
ISSUED TO IT-IE Names	TO.	EPHONE P	NUMBER
STREET ADDRESS		-	
The same and the same that the same	-	12-11	Teamer
OIT		STATE	ZIP COOL
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: The Department of Environmental Conservation has found that on your land	1.11		4
. Fraction or portional thereof by law map of	(Village I)	wa Coo	
County, may no longer be e	ligible for ta	e exemp	st status under
Section 480-a of the New York State Real Property Law due to:			
Conversion of the tract to a use which precludes management for forest crop pro	duction.		
Failure to give notice of a proposed cutting on such tract.			
Fallure to comply with the management plan approved by the Department.			
Reduction of the tract to less than 50 acres by voluntary conversion, rendering it	ineligible be	cause o	f size.
DFailure to amend the work schedule so that it is at least as long as the commitme	ent period of	the tra	ct.
Failure to maintain boundary lines.			
DOther:			
			e 6. New York
Therefore, pursuant to Section 480-a of the New York State Real Property Law Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations, the Department hereby inte	ends to revol	e your	
Therefore, pursuant to Section 480-a of the New York State Real Property Law Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations, the Department hereby inte Approval Number	ends to revol	e your	
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Commissioner's Directive



# EXHIBIT 3-4

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL	
BUREAU OF FOREST RESOURCE MANACEM	ORIGINAL CERTIFICATION DATE
NOTICE OF VIOLATION	
and the second of	
OWNER(5):	
MAILING ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
TELEPHONE NUMBER (Home) ( )	Office ( )
COUNTY(S)	
Municipal Code ID Code	
Roll ID	
Tax Map Number	
Deed (LiberiPage)	
Deed (civenrage)	Non Committed Eligible Acreage
is to be:  Revoked Partially Revoked by the Department of Environmental Conservation.	
In case of partial revocationacr	res will be revoked as described:
	Regional Forester
	Date
Detach on dotted line and o	
All penalties, stumpage taxes, and interest imposed by Section	n 480-a of the Real Property Tax Law are hereby paid in fu
	County Treasurer
	Date

Commissioner's Directive

# NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK

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The second secon	
81-12-17 (234) - 286 NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERV	VALUE CERTIFICATION NUMBER
BUREAU OF FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT	ORIGINAL CERTIFICATION DATE
NOTICE OF REVOCATION	
The state of the s	
OWNER(S):	
MAILING ADDRESS	
CITY	STATE ZIP CODE
TELEPHONE NUMBER (Home) ( )	Office ( )
COUNTY(S)	
TOWN(S)	
Municipal Code ID Code	Certified Eligible Acreage
Roll ID	Ineligible Acreage
Tax Map Number	Fully Assessed Committed Acreage
Deed (Liber/Page)	Date Ending: / /
Deed (Liber/Page)	
	Non Committed Eligible Acreage
This is to certify that, pursuant to Section 480-a of the Real	Property Tax Law, the certified tract described abo
has been:  Revoked Partially Revoked	
by the Department of Environmental Conservation.	
In case of partial revocation acres are	e revoked as described:
	1.5
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	Regional Forester
	regional forester

Commissioner's Directive

# Chapter 400 - Commercial Harvest Cutting

# **Contents**

<u>410</u>	<u>Introduction</u>
411	Harvesting Standards
<u>420</u>	Notification Procedure
430	Types of Products
440	Types of Sale
<u>441</u>	Bid Sale
442	Scale Sale
443	Owner Harvests
450	Economic Considerations (Note: text not found in any versions)
490	Sample Forms <u>Exhibit 4-1 Notice of Commercial Harvest Cutting</u> <u>Exhibit 4-2 Timber Harvesting Guidelines for New York</u> Exhibit 4-3 Certification Process

<u>410 Introduction</u> – The owner's management plan must specify the year in which commercial harvest cuttings are contemplated. This is enumerated in the work schedule which is listed on the certificate of approval. The diversity of economic conditions, types of crops, sale and harvests, necessitate specific guidelines to insure equitable administration of the law.

<u>411 Harvesting Standards</u> – All harvesting shall be conducted in accordance with a stand analysis and prescription prepared within five years of the harvest date, and as approved by the Regional Forester. <u>The Timber Harvesting Guidelines for New York</u> should be encouraged (Exhibit 4-2).

<u>420 Notification Procedure</u> – The following steps shall be followed when commercial harvest cuttings are contemplated.

- 1. Not less than 30 days prior to a contemplated cutting the owner will submit the Form 81-12-7, Notice of Commercial Harvest Cutting (Exhibit 4-1) to the Regional Forester. This is to be accompanied by an estimate of volume to be harvested. Prescription and marking must be approved before the sale is executed so that the Regional Forester has the opportunity to approve the silvicultural treatment. Bids can be received on prospective sales in order to help determine stumpage values, but execution of actual sale agreements should not take place until after the Regional Forester approves prescription and marking.
- 2. Based upon the information provided and any necessary additional information, the Regional Forester will certify the stumpage value of the harvest on the form and return it to the owner and an informational copy to the county treasurer.
- 3. Within 30 days of receipt of the certification of value the owner will forward the form to the county treasurer with a payment of 6% of the certified stumpage value.

<u>430 Types of Product</u> – The law defines a "forest crop" as timber or pulpwood including veneer bolts, sawlogs, chips, poles, posts and fuelwood. The rules and regulations define "commercial harvest cutting" as the removal of merchantable trees from an eligible tract of forest land for which the owner receives economic value either from a sale or utilization. It should, therefore, be assumed that only those products defined as forest crops which are removed by the owner for sale or utilization will constitute a commercial harvest cutting. For example, Christmas trees and maple sap would not be taxable because under the concept of this law they are not considered forest crops and land devoted solely to their production is ineligible for exemption.

#### 440 Types of Sale

<u>441 Lump Sum Sale</u> – This is a sale whereby an owner solicits bids from various contractors based upon an estimated volume of the product to be harvested. An owner should solicit a list of prospective contractors from the Regional Forester to insure that a least a minimal number were contacted. Before the sale is executed, a list of contractors solicited and the bids received will be supplied to the Regional forester.

When this type of sale is conducted, the owner will submit <u>form 81-12-7</u>, <u>Notice of Commercial Harvest Cutting (Exhibit 4-1)</u> to the Regional Forester. Also attached will be an estimated volume by species and indication of the length of the contract period.

Before the sale, if the Regional Forester is satisfied that a sufficient number of contractors were notified and that the sale was otherwise proposed in a fair manner, he will assess the stumpage value based upon the value of bids received.

In cases where a sale is conducted without competitive bidding or an insufficient number of contractors notified, the owner accepts the Regional Forester's authority to certify the stumpage value on the basis of the "Stumpage Price Report" or other appropriate means.

<u>442 Scale Sale</u> – In some cases it may be desirable for an owner to sell forest products based upon a scale conducted after the harvest. It would then be necessary for the owner to submit <u>form 81-12-7</u>, <u>Notice of Commercial Harvest Cutting</u>, not less than 30 days prior to the actual harvest. Included with the form should be an estimated volume by species, identification of scaling method and schedule, listing of contractors and their bids, identification of the successful bidder and the length of the contract period. The owner will provide the Regional Forester with copies of the scale slips at agreed upon intervals.

The Regional Forester will certify the value of the stumpage each year and when he is satisfied that the harvest has concluded. If the contractor inactivates a harvest and the Regional Forester submits a certification of value to the owner, a new <a href="form81-12-7">form 81-12-7</a>. <a href="Notice of Commercial Harvest Cutting">Notice of Commercial Harvest Cutting</a> will have to be submitted at least 30 days prior to reactivation of the harvest. It is therefore very important that the owner keep the Regional Forester appraised of the status of these harvests. The owner is required to notify the regional forester within 10 days after a sale has been inactivated for a period of 30 days.

None of the crop shall leave the eligible tract until authorized by the Regional Forester.

In cases where a sale is conducted without competitive bidding or an insufficient number of contractors notified, the owner accepts the Regional Forester's authority to certify the stumpage value on the basis of the "Stumpage Price Report" or other appropriate means.

<u>443 Owner Harvests</u> – Not less than 30 days prior. To the harvest of any forest product in excess of the ten standard cords of firewood for personal use as allowed in the law the owner must submit <u>form 81-12-7</u>, <u>Notice of Commercial Harvest Cutting</u>, to the Regional Forester. Attached to the form should be an estimate of the volume by species and an indication of the length of the harvest period.



# IPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

# EMVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDSOOK

### EXHIBIT 4-1

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TO: Walter A. O	'Srien					
	GIONAL FOREST	EA	•	*		
In compliance wi	th the work	schedule contain	ned in my ma	inagement pla	an for eligible tr	ract designed
the application numb	er48-2	O Town(s	· Forestbu	rgh_ , Sch	ool District(s)*	Monticello
I plan to harvest CES	wtimber,	☐ Pulpwood,	☐ Poles,	□ Posts,	☐ Fuelwood,	Other
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	œ.					
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To: Randolf & Mar	y Smith owner f Environme	NAME, ADDRES	s, TELEPHONE N	. 6/	DATE	
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EXHIBIT 4-2a

### FORESTS ARE RENEWABLE

Forest supply people with products they need. Forests provide wood, water, paper, wildlife habitat, recreation and much more. Without each, life would change greatly. People would suffer.

Forests are renewable. New crops follow each harvest. But harvesting must be planned properly to give continuing abundance of trees and animals. Soils must be protected to keep lands stable. And streams should remain natural and free flowing.

The New York Society of American Foresters recognizes the importance of natural resources and their use to satisfy people's needs. Foresters urge care in logging and continued use of methods that keep forest stable and productive. To help, the New York SAF has adopted timber harvesting guidelines for use in New York. The guidelines list ways to prevent problems from building up and for safely harvesting products from the land.

### TRY THEM...THEY WORK

Good stewardship of natural resources means wise use. Wise use provides a proper inheritance for future generations while caring for our need today.

The New York SAF calls upon landowners, timber harvesting contractors, forest managers and forest industries to harvest carefully. Everyone must work to keep our forests productive through safe and well planned logging. These guidelines list practices that prevent problems.

Use them. They are easy. Do your part. Help in wisely using our forest resources.

For more information contact:

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation
Division of Lands and Forests
50 Wolf Road, Albany, N.Y. 12233-0001

LF-P185 (6/85)

TIMBER
HARVESTING
GUIDELINES
FOR NEW YORK





New York State Department of Environmental Conservation



#### EXHIBIT 4-2b

#### WHAT IS INVOLVED

Good logging begins with good planning. First, identify potential problems. Work out solutions. Then use suitable methods.

Here are some things to look for and do in logging.

#### Streams and Water

Siltation comes from erosion when soil washes into streams and lakes. That reduces water quality and may harm fish spawning beds. With properly planned logging, erosion never starts. Streams can be protected from careless disturbance and water quality kept natural.

What practices will protect streams, lakes, ponds and marshes and maintain natural water quality?

RECOMMENDATION: Keep stream crossings to a minimum and plan them carefully.

- check with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation about special regulations that apply to logging along wild, scenic and recreation rivers
- check with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for advice and approval about crossing classified streams (New York's Water Resources Law requires that anyway)
- cross streams by the most direct route and avoid crossing at bends and through pools
- find crossing sites that have low, stable banks, a firm stream bottom, and gentle slopes along the approaches
- cross at a few carefully chosen places, rather than any place that seems convenient
- use temporary culverts, bridges or runways where stream bottoms or banks would be otherwise damaged, and remove them after

RECOMMENDATION: Protect stream banks by controlling skidding and felling close to the stream.

- avoid cutting trees growing within 10 feet of the stream bank (that helps keep the banks in place and maintains shade over the water)
- don't skid up and down the stream channel (and that is good rule for intermittent streams, too)
- keep skidders back at least 50 feet from the water and winch off any logs that lie closer to the bank (for slopes over 10 percent it is good to keep skidders back at least 100 feet so they don't stir up the soil and start erosion)
- directionally fell trees so the tops land away from stream (that keeps debris out of the water and keeps the skidders farther away from the banks)
- remove any logging debris that gets into the water so stream flow isn't affected
- when clearcutting, leave a 50-foot wide uncut strip along both sides of flowing streams, ponds and marshes (that keeps the water shaded and prevents heating up by direct exposure)

#### Road and Skid Trails

Soil uncovered by skidding and truck traffic can erode if water runs over it. Good design and proper maintenance make the best prevention. Poor drainage leads to mud holes. And erosion occurs if water is not diverted off the road surface. The steeper the slope, the greater the danger.

How can erosion be prevented from landings, logging roads, skid trails and off steep slopes?

RECOMMENDATION: Plan carefully the protection of slopes exceeding 30 percent.

- on steep slopes set back roads and trails at least 150 feet from streams, ponds and
   marshes
- winch logs off steep slopes where possible and minimize the number of skid trails and the amount of skidder traffic
- · log steep slopes during dry weather when

. Commissioner's Directive

#### EXHIBIT 4-2c

soils are dry, or-log when the ground is frozen and snow covered

 after logging, regrade roads and primary skid trails and install diversion devices as needed

RECOMMENDATION: Properly locate, design and build all roads and skid trails.

- keep roads and skid trails out of wet and poorly drained spots, and off tops and toes of banks and slopes (that should keep machines from getting stuck, too, and make skidding and hauling more economical)
- provide ways to divert running water off roads and primary skid trails when slopes exceed 10 percent (figure out where streams of water will run off during a rain or snow melt, and put in diversion devices to channel surface water off the road or trail)
- keep roads back from streams, ponds and marshes (set them back 100 feet on slopes less than 30 percent, and 150 feet for steeper ones)
- don't run ditch water directly into a stream (stop roadside ditches before a stream crossing and divert the water into the woods)

#### Roadsides Along Major Travel Corridors

Some people object to logging slash, hungup trees, poor utilization, deeply rutted roads and landings and the like. Plan ahead to avoid buildup of these things. Be aware of the landscape. Logging just a little differently usually keeps the roadside area looking good.

What will help to make logging jobs look better along major travel corridors?

RECOMMENDATION: Comply with New York's fire laws.

- keep logging debris off the right-of-way of public roads and back at least 20 feet from the right-of-way
- · lop all conifer tops
- keep log piles back at least 20 feet from the right-of-way

RECOMMENDATION: If logging along major travel corridors isn't screened by a hill, high bank or other topography, maintain a 100-foot wide scenic buffer strip along the roadside.

- directionally fell trees so the tops land away from the road (that puts the slash further out of sight and reduces needs for top lopping)
- use all merchantable products in each tree (people don't like to see unused logs and bolts left lying in the woods, and if you cut them out if automatically lops off many of the large branches, too
- pull down hung-up or partly fallen trees, fell bent over and broken off trees and use merchantable material in them
- use care in skidding to protect understory vegetation (shrubs and saplings make a good natural screen)
- keep skidders back in the woods and off the right-of-way (that keeps the road banks from getting rutted and helps keep skid trails out of sight)
- cut lightly within 100 feet of the forest edge by keeping at least 50 square feet per acre of basal area in residual trees, including some big ones (that keeps a forest-like appearance along the road)
- keep in mind that trees standing directly at the edge of the woods provide the best screening
- · keep stumps low

RECOMMENDATION: Wherever possible, keep landings out of sight and dress up landings and access roads after use.

- put landings behind a hill, bank or land form that hides them from the road, or set landings back into the woods as far as practical (use a set-back of at least 200 feet whenever possible)
- build access roads somewhat curved (it is harder to see around a curve than up a straight road)



EXHIBIT 4-2d



- lay out landings so the long axis lies perpendicular to the road
- keep entrances from the road narrow to reduce visibility from the roadside (widen the road once back in the woods but keep the entrance narrow to restrict visibility)
- clear landings after use by burying debris or dragging waste material back into the forest (actually, if you skid out only usable parts of the tree, there won't be much waste at the landing)
- back blade landings and access roads so they are smooth and level and free of ruts' and mud holes (then they look better and should rapidly seed into new vegetation)
- put in diversion devices at places where water might run down the roads and wash off soil into roadside ditches
- regrade and clean ditches along the roadside and close temporary roads
- where needed, seed access roads, landings and ditches (especially where they come close to the highway)
- pick up oil cans, lunch wrappers, broken cable and other junk



Commissioner's Directive

#### DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

# ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK

### CERTIFICATION PROCESS

CWNER ---- REGIONAL PORESTER
Application for Certificate Approval Management Plan (2)
Type Map (4 or more)
Location Map or Photo
Other Information as needed

(Within 60 Days)

REGIONAL PORESTER ---- OWNER

Approved
Certificate of Approval
(3 or more)
Forest Tax Law Annual Commitment
Form (4 or more)
Management Plan
Type Map (2)

Disapproved
Written Reasons
Management Plan (2)
Type Map (3)
Location Map or Photo

#### EXEMPTION PROCESS

OWNER ---- COUNTY CLERK

Certificate of Approval

Annual Commitment Form (2 or more)

Records one copy

Certifies Additional Copies

COUNTY CLERK ---- CWNER

Certified Annual Commitment Form

OWNER ---- ASSESSOR(S)

Certified Annual Commitment Form Application for Real Property

Tax Exemption
Type Map
Certificate of Approval

OWNER ---- REGIONAL PORESTER
Certified Annual Commitment Form

#### ANNUAL COMMITMENT

OWNER ---- ASSESSOR(S)/REGIONAL PORESTER
Annual Commitment Form

#### AMENDMENT PROCESS

OWNER ---- REGIONAL FORESTER
Written Request (notorized when needed)

(Within 10 Days)

REGIONAL PORESTER --- OWNER

Approval

Revised Certificates of Approval (3)

Disapproved

Written Reasons

(If approved) OWNER --- ASSESSOR(S)

Revised Certificate of Approval

County Clerk (For Acreage Change)

missioner's Directive Form 1100-4

#### NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



### ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION HANDBOOK

EXHIBIT 4-3

#### 5 YEAR UPDATES

(At Least 60 Days Prior to

OWNER ---- REGIONAL PORESTER
Revised Management Plan (2) Revised Type Map (4 or more)

(Within 60 Days)

REGIONAL FORESTER ---- OWNER
Revised Certificate of Approval (3 or more)

Management Plan Type Map ( 2 or more)

Revised Certificate of Approval County Clerk (For Acreage Change)

#### COMMERCIAL HARVEST CUTTING

#### LUMP SUM SALE

(At Least 30 Days Prior to Harvest) OWNER ---- REGIONAL FORESTER
Notice of Commercial Cutting

Supporting Information As Required

(Prior to Initiating Harvest) OMNER ---- REGIONAL FORESTER
Summary of Bid Results

(Within 15 Days) OWNER ---- COUNTY TREASURER Determination of Stumpage Value Payment - 6% Tax on stumpage

OWNER COUNTY TREASURER
Informational Copy of Determination Regional Forester

SCALE SALE

(At Least 30 Days Prior to Harvest)

OWNER ---- REGIONAL PORESTER
Notice of Commercial Cutting Supporting Information As Required

(Prior To Initiating Harvest) OWNER ---- REGIONAL PORESTER

Summary of Bid Results

(Annually and/or at Completion of Sale) OWNER ---- REGIONAL PORESTER
Summary of Volumes Harvested

Owner Determination of Stumpage Value 1.44 County Treasurer

OWNER ---- COUNTY TREASURER
Payment - 6% Tax on stumpage

CMNER HARVEST

Informational Copy of Determination

Can be treated using either lump sum or scale sale method.

mmissioner's Directive Form-1100-5