

# **PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY OWNER'S COMMITMENT / CERTIFICATION FOREST PLAN**



1. This OWNER certifies that the subject property remains in compliance with the Professional Forester plan, dated \_\_\_\_\_ and continues to meet the requirements for the Forest Classification for the Land Use Program as created by 58.1-3230, 58.1-3233 and 58.1-3240 of the Code of Virginia.

**-OR-**

2. This OWNER'S COMMITMENT FOREST PLAN was prepared by the undersigned property owner for the purpose of certifying that the subject property meets the requirements for the Forest Classification for the Land Use Program as created by 58.1-3230, 58.1-3233 and 58.1-3240 of the Code of Virginia.

This OWNER'S COMMITMENT FOREST PLAN, which was prepared **without** a Professional Forester, establishes a commitment to maintain and protect forest land by documenting land-use objectives to include methods of resource management and soil and water protection.

<b>Owner Name(s)</b>	<b>Parcel Number(s)</b>	
<b>Mailing Address/City/State/Zip Code</b>	<b>Qualifying Acres</b>	
<b>Signature(s)</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Daytime Phone Number(s)</b>

**PRINCE GEORGE COUNTY  
OWNER'S COMMITMENT FOREST PLAN**

The owner(s) agree that \_\_\_\_\_ acres of forest land will comply with the terms of this agreement listed below.

1. The property being applied for Forest Land Use shall be maintained and protected for FOREST LAND USE by adhering to a planned program of timber management and soil conservation practices:

A. LAND USE OBJECTIVES (List in order of priority (1-8) your land use objectives for this forest acreage)

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

B. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES (Check activities you have done in the past ten years or plan to do within the next ten years).

	Past 10 Years	Year	Future 10 Years
Timber Harvest	_____	_____	_____
Tree Planting	_____	_____	_____
Thinning (select cut)	_____	_____	_____
Wildlife Habitat Improvements	_____	_____	_____
Recreation Improvements	_____	_____	_____
Written Forest Management Plan	_____	_____	_____
Land Surveyed/Boundary Lines Marked	_____	_____	_____
Woodland Road Construction	_____	_____	_____
Soil Conservation Practices	_____	_____	_____
Wildfire Protection	_____	_____	_____
Road Improvements/Maintenance	_____	_____	_____
Access to Property/Controlled/Posted	_____	_____	_____
Woodland Protection from Grazing	_____	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____	_____

2. Owner shall implement "Best Management Practices" to reduce or prevent soil erosion on any harvesting activities on the property. Best Management Practices are defined as any practice which maintains land productivity and protects water quality.
3. Owner shall comply with the Virginia Seed Tree Law which applies to any acreage containing loblolly, shortleaf, pond or white pine. This law requires that any 8-cone bearing pine tree 14-inches or larger be left uncut and uninjured on each acre. If a seed tree of this size is not present on any particular acre, 2 of the largest diameter trees present must be left in its place.

4. Owner understands that improper activities that degrade or devalue the woodland such as non-compliance with Best Management Practices, grazing woodlands to the detriment of the forest, harvesting timber in a manner where no consideration is given to the future quality of the stand, and not following normally accepted good forest management practices may disqualify all or part of the forested area from forest land use.
5. Owner shall contact the Department of Forestry prior to conducting harvesting activities on properties with forest land use taxation.
6. If any provision of this agreement is determined to be invalid by a court a competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
7. The provisions of this agreement shall be binding upon the parties, their successors, assigns, personal representatives, and heirs as long as the land remains in the land use program.
8. **NOTICE:** When the forestry use or uses by which the property qualified for assessment and taxation on the basis of use changes to more intensive use at the request of the owner, the property or such portion of the property which no longer qualifies shall be subject to roll back taxes in accordance with §58.1-3237 of the Code of Virginia. The owner shall be subject to all of the obligations and liabilities of said code selection.

I(We), the owner(s), agree to conform to the terms of this agreement and do hereby make a commitment to conserve and protect the forest use of my property for the to be taxed on the basis of use assessment and I submit my signature(s) in this form as my written commitment for such taxation to the assessing officer of the County pursuant to §58.1-3234 of the Code of Virginia and Prince George County Land Use Ordinance

**Signature(s) of owner(s):**

**Printed names of owner(s):**

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## **Standards for classification of real estate as devoted to FOREST USE under the Virginia Land Use Assessment Law:**

Under the authority of § 58.1-3229 et seq. of the Code of Virginia, the State Forester adopts these Standards for Classification of Real Estate as Devoted to Forest Use Under the Special Assessment for Land Preservation to:

1. Encourage the preservation proper use of real estate in order to assure a readily available source of agricultural, horticultural, and forest products, and of open space within reach of concentrations of population.
2. Conserve natural resources in forms that will prevent erosion.
3. Protect adequate and safe water-supplies.
4. Preserve scenic natural beauty and open spaces.
5. Promote proper land-use planning and the orderly development of real estate for the accommodation of an expanding population.
6. Promote a balanced economy and ease/lessen the pressures which force the conversion of real estate to more intensive uses.

According to the specific authority and responsibility conveyed by §§ 58.1-3230, 58.1-3233 and 58.1-3240, the State Forester is directed to provide a statement of the standards which shall be applied uniformly throughout the state to determine if real estate is devoted to forest use. After holding public hearings, pursuant to the Administrative Process Act (§ 96.14:1 et. seq. of the Code of Virginia) the statement shall be sent to the Commissioner of the Revenue and the duly appointed assessor of each locality adopting an ordinance in compliance with Article 4 of Chapter 32 of Title 58.1 of the Code of Virginia.

### **§ 1. Technical Standards for Classification of Real Estate Devoted to Forest Use**

- A. The area must be a minimum of twenty acres and must meet the following standards to qualify for forestry use.
- B. **PRODUCTIVE FOREST LAND.** The real estate sought to be qualified shall be devoted to forest use which has existent on it, and well distributed, commercially valuable trees of any size sufficient to compose at least 40% normal stocking of forest trees, as shown in Table I. Land devoted to forest use that has been recently harvested of merchantable timber, is being regenerated into a new forest and not currently developed for nonforest use shall be eligible. To be qualified the land must be growing a commercial forest crop that is physically accessible for harvesting when mature.
- C. **NONPRODUCTIVE FOREST LAND.** The land sought to be qualified is land devoted to forest use but which is not capable of growing a crop of industrial wood because of inaccessibility or adverse site conditions such as steep outcrops of rock, shallow soil on steep mountain sides, excessive steepness, heavily eroded areas, coastal beach sand, tidal marsh and other conditions which prohibit the growth and harvesting of a crop of trees suitable for commercial use.
- D. **DEFINITIONS**
  1. **TREE.** A tree is a single woody stem of a species presently or prospectively suitable for commercial industrial wood products.
  2. **STOCKING.** Stocking is the number of trees three inches and larger in diameter breast high (d.b.h. - a point on the tree trunk outside bark 4.5 feet from ground level) required to equal a total basal area (b.a. is the area in square feet of a cross section of a tree at d.b.h.) of 75 square feet per acre, or where such trees are not present, there shall be present tree

seedlings, or tree seedlings and trees in any combination sufficient to meet the 40% stocking set forth in Table 1:

Minimum Number of Trees Required Per Acre to Determine 30 Square Feet  
of Tree Basal Area of 40% Stocking for Classification as Forest Land

D.B.H. Range	D.B.H. in 2" Classes	Basal Area Per Tree	Per Acre	Per 1/5 Acre	Per 1/10 Acre
up to 2.9"	Seedlings		400	80	40
3.0-4.9"	4	0.0873	400	80	40
5.0-6.9"	6	0.1964	153	31	15
7.0-8.9"	8	0.3491	86	17	9
9.0-10.9"	10	0.5454	55	11	6
11.0-12.9"	12	0.7854	38	8	4
13.0-14.9"	14	1.0690	28	6	3
15.0" +	16+	1.3963	21	4	2

Note: (a) Area 1/5 acre; circle, diameter 105'4"; square 93'4" per side.

(b) Area 1/10 acre; circle, diameter 74'6"; square 66'.

(c) Number of seedlings present may qualify on a percentage basis. Example: 100 seedlings would be equivalent of 7.5 square feet of basal area (25% x 30 = 7.5).

(d) Seedlings per acre are based on total pine and hardwood stems. Where intensive pine management is practiced a minimum of 250 well distributed loblolly or white pine seedlings will qualify.