

**NONTIDAL WETLANDS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES
FOR
FOREST HARVEST OPERATIONS**

The following is a checklist for your use in determining which best management practices may be appropriate for your project.

To meet the requirements of the Nontidal Wetlands Protection Act, please submit this checklist and the following information along with the Erosion and Sediment Control Plan:

- a wetland delineation
- an acknowledgment/approval of landowner
- name/address/RPF# of registered professional forester

Check when appropriate:

- Major skid trails, wherever feasible, will be located on soils that resist compaction and ruts, or other disturbances that adversely impact nontidal wetland hydrology.
- Appropriate equipment to skid logs will be selected based on slope and the ability of the soil to resist erosion or other disturbances.
- Truck roads, wherever feasible, will be located on uplands or on the highest available ground available as to minimize impact to nontidal wetlands.
- Truck roads will be of minimum dimensions necessary to accomplish their purpose and minimize impacts to nontidal wetlands.
- Truck roads will follow the natural contour of the land, wherever feasible, and shall be stabilized to minimize erosion.
- Wetland hydrology will be maintained by constructing diversion ditches at the minimum depth to maintain flow of water.
- Wooden mats, filter cloth, or similar temporary structures will be used to reduce compaction or creation of ruts.
- Fill material will be used only when absolutely necessary to maintain or construct a road. If needed, fill shall be excavated from uplands and shall be free from state or federally designated toxic pollutants.
- Intermittent and perennial streams, sloughs, or channels will not be crossed unless absolutely necessary. When necessary, crossing will at the shortest distance feasible, be of appropriate design, and allow unrestricted movement of aquatic life in the stream.

NOTE: A WATERWAY CONSTRUCTION PERMIT MAY BE REQUIRED

___ Log decks will be (a) located prior to road layout, (b) located in uplands as far from streams and/or nontidal wetlands as practicable or on the highest available ground if uplands are unavailable, (c) kept to minimum size and number necessary for the operation, and (d) diversion ditches will be installed to direct water away from the deck during use.

___ Trash, debris, and chemicals will be collected and disposed of outside wetlands areas.

___ Utilization of low ground pressure equipment (i.e. high flotation tires, wide tracts, etc.) will be used when nontidal wetland soils are unable to support conventional equipment.

___ Scheduling of forest harvest operations will be during periods when wetland soils are dry or frozen and are capable of supporting conventional equipment to prevent compaction, ruts, or other significant disturbances to nontidal wetland soils or hydrology.

___ All forest harvest operations will be conducted so as to prevent impoundment of water or increase runoff in the nontidal wetland, unless the change is recommended in a sediment and erosion control plan.

___ Harvesting will be conducted during dry periods or at times that enhance natural regeneration.

___ Natural regeneration will be utilized where feasible and will be the preferred method of regeneration in wetland areas.

___ Other (describe additional practices):
