



# County of Dinwiddie

## Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue

Lori K. Stevens

Commissioner of the Revenue

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Thank you for your interest in Forest Management through Dinwiddie's Land Use Taxation Plan. The requirement does not state that the plan has to be written by the Department of Forestry, only approved by the Department. Please contact the Department of Forestry in order to determine if the following template is appropriate for you to write your own management plan. Landowners that elect to write their own plan are required to submit the plan to the Virginia Department of Forestry for approval at the following address; [heather.dowling@dof.virginia.gov](mailto:heather.dowling@dof.virginia.gov)

Virginia Department of Forestry  
Attn. Heather Dowling  
13209 Courthouse Road  
Dinwiddie, VA 23841  
Phone: 804.895.4759  
Fax: 804.469.4221

The Department of Forestry will notify the Office of the Commissioner of the Revenue that you have a plan on file. *Additional qualifying conditions and paperwork is required to be filed with the Commissioner of the Revenue to finalize your enrollment in the Land Use Taxation Program.* If you have questions about your next step with the county, please contact Troy Taylor at the office of the Commissioner of the Revenue at 804-469-4500, option 4.

If you do not wish to write this yourself, you may request that the Department of Forestry write the plan for you (at a cost ) or you may hire a Consulting Forester to write a plan for you. The Department of Forestry can supply you with a list of Consulting Foresters working in this area.



# *Forest Management Plan for Land Use Taxation Program*

Date:

## CONTACT INFORMATION:

Landowner Name(s):

Address:

Phone Number and/or email address:

## PROPERTY INFORMATION:

Tax Map #(s):

Location:

Total Acreage of Tax Parcel:

Forested Acreage:

DOF tract number if known:

Plan Prepared by:

Landowner     Private Forester     DOF forester     Other (please explain)

Landowner Goals for property:

## TIMBER INFORMATION:

General Forest Types on Property:

Hardwood    Pine    Mixed Hardwood/Pine    Other (please explain)

Tree Species Present:

Age Range:

General Tree Size:

General Forest Health and Quality:

Forest Pests/Disease or Invasive Plant Concerns:

Historic/Cultural Resources:

Special Concerns:

Forest Management Plans:

# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

## General Conditions and Qualifications for Forest Land Use Taxation

1. Forest area must be at least 20 acres.
2. Area is devoted to forest use and is sufficiently stocked with commercially valuable trees of any size and is physically accessible for harvesting when mature.
3. Non-productive forest land may be eligible if adverse conditions such as excessive steepness, heavily eroded areas and other conditions prohibit the growth and harvesting of trees suitable for commercial uses.
4. The owner or operator must use Best Management Practices (BMP) to reduce or prevent soil erosion when any harvesting or silvicultural activities occur on the property.
5. The owner shall comply with the Virginia Seed Tree Law.
6. The owner understands that improper activities that degrade or devalue the woodland and that do not follow normally accepted good forest management practices may disqualify all or part of the forested area from forest land-use.
7. The logger or owner shall contact the Department of Forestry prior to conducting harvest activities on properties with forest land-use taxation.
8. If the Forestry use by which the Property qualified for assessment and taxation changes to non-qualifying use, or when the zoning for the Property changes to more intensive use, the Property, or portion shall be subject to roll-back taxes.

## **FIRE**

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Protection of your property from wildfire is essential. Wildfire rapidly destroys valuable timber, wildlife, and property. From February 15 through April 30, open air fires are not permitted within 300 feet of woodland, brushland, or field containing dry grass or other inflammable material between midnight and 4:00 p.m. Any uncontrolled fire should be immediately reported to your local fire dispatch (911).

## **FOREST HEALTH AND PROTECTION**

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A healthy forest is a forest that possesses the ability to sustain the unique species composition and processes that exist within it. Active management of the forest helps to maintain and improve its productive capacity. Silviculture harvest practices and the use of prescribed fire as a tool can reduce risk from wildfire, pests and invasive species, and ensure long-term forest health and vigor. Forest health protection issues are often directly related to the active management of insects and diseases, invasive plants and wildfire. Annual inspections for signs of insects, diseases or invasive plant infestations should be completed by the landowner.

Continued monitoring is the best preventative measure to ensuring forest health. If any unusual problems are found, please contact the Virginia Department of Forestry for an examination.

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

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The major detriments to water quality in the forest environment are the sediments carried by precipitation runoff. This has generally been labeled non-point source pollution (NPS) due to its diffuse nature. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are an extensive set of physical practices that have been developed to prevent sediment pollution from forestry activities. Research has shown that BMPs are very effective at preventing sediment pollution from silvicultural practices when they are implemented properly. Landowner should contact their local Department of Forestry office prior to conducting harvesting activities or other silvicultural practices.

## THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES

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Information concerning the presence of Threatened and Endangered (T&E) can be found through contact with natural resources agencies such as Department of Wildlife Resources, and/or Department of Conservation and Recreation Natural Heritage Program. This information does not substitute for a through exam completed by trained T&E specialists. For more information regarding threatened and endangered species or any regulations involved with them, please contact your local Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources office <https://dwr.virginia.gov/> or the Department of Conservation and Recreation, Natural Heritage office <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage/>

## CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

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Cultural resources refer to landscapes, structures, archeological artifacts and vegetation that represent a culture or society of historic value. Federal and state laws protect some archeological, cultural and historic sites from disturbances, destruction or removal. It is critical to understand where such sites may be located prior to ground-disturbing forest management activities.

Historic and cultural resources are a vital link to past land-use practices in Virginia the Department of Historic Resources offers programs which survey, catalog and encourage the preservation of historic resources. This Department maintains records of historic sites and these records are available to the general public. More information can be found at [www.dhr.virginia.gov](http://www.dhr.virginia.gov) or by calling their office at (804) 367-2323.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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There may be additional tax benefits and/or liabilities related to your timberland that you are not aware of. The U. S. Forest Service publishes a yearly document describing the tax situation for forest landowners. This publication can be found at <https://www.timbertax.org/>

Many agencies provide programs (either technical assistance and/or cost share) for the management of timberland. Contact your local Department of Forestry Office <https://dof.virginia.gov/> for information about current programs that may fit your goals.

## FOREST SOILS

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Forest soils are the foundation on which your timber is grown. Understanding the characteristics of your soils can help inform your forest management decisions. Soils information for your property can be obtained by contacting the Natural Resource Conservation Service <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/virginia> or by use of the Web Soil Survey <https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>

## TIMELINE FOR FOREST MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Year	Project I'd like to work on	Location on property