RI Forestry BMP’s for Water Quality Protection

SWAMP THINGS
March 11, 2016
Sturbridge, MA
The States Role in Your Timber Harvest

- RI DEM Division of Forest Environment requires that an Intent to Cut or Saw (ITC) is filed for any timber harvest exceeding a volume of 25 cords, 5 MBF, or 5 acres in size.

- The ITC application is filed by the woods operator/logger. Both the logger and landowner must sign the ITC and submit with a check for $25.
Intent To Cut (ITC)

- Filing an ITC eliminates the need for a wetlands permit for the harvesting operation as long as state recommended Best Management Practices (BMP’s) are implemented during the operation.

- Once the ITC has been filed, the states service forester will meet with the logger or forester to inspect the area to be harvested.

- The service forester will be looking for areas of concern such as wetlands, stream crossings, access into the harvest area, this inspection will help mitigate any foreseeable harvesting violations.
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
NOTIFICATION OF INTENT TO SAW OR CUT

In accordance with Chapter 2-15 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended, 1956; "Before any such person, firm, or corporation shall cut or saw... (she) shall at least five (5) days prior to such cutting or sawing notify the department of environmental management on forms prepared by [the Division of Forest Environment], of the location of the area and/or property. This law pertains to all holdings of five (5) or more acres, or if the annual cut exceeds five thousand (5,000) board feet or twenty-five (25) cords in any one year.

The undersigned operator hereby notifies the Department of Environmental Management that (she) will cut or saw forest products on or after ______________________________ Month / Day / Year.

Operator's name: ____________________________________________________________
Operator's signature: ________________________________________________________
Operator's telephone No: __________________________ Date of Application: _______
Registration No: __________________________________________________________

Area to be Cut or Sawn:
Location of Land (street address or pole number): _____________________________
________________________________ Town: _________________________________

Landowner's Name: ___________________________ Landowner's signature: ____________

I have read the brochure: "Be a Smart Consumer — Call Before you Cut" Yes____ No____
(NOTICE TO LANDOWNER: If you do not have a copy of the above brochure but would like to obtain one, contact the Division of Forest Environment at the address below, or telephone the office at 401-647-3307 and a free copy will be sent to you.)

Landowner's Address: _______________________________________________________
Landowner's phone: ________________________________________________________

NOTICE
Limited cutting or clearing of vegetation in freshwater wetlands must be done in accordance with Rules 6.01 and 6.02 of the State of Rhode Island, Department of Environmental Management Rules and Regulations Governing the Administration and Enforcement of the Freshwater Wetlands Act (Chapter 42-35 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, as amended 1996); adopted April 1998.

Are wetlands present on the property to be cut or sawn? (Yes) if yes, type: _________ (No) (Not Sure)

Approximate acreage to be cut or sawn: ________________ Approximate volume of wood product(s) to be removed in thousand board feet (MBF) or cords: ________________________

Mixed oaks: __________ White pine: __________ Mixed hardwoods: __________ Tops: __________
Red pine: __________ Red maple: __________ Other: __________

Instructions: Keep last copy for your records. Return completed form, along with a check or money order for twenty-five dollars ($25.00), payable to the Division of Forest Environment. Completed forms and payments may be left in any Division of Forest Environment office or mailed to:

Division of Forest Environment
1037 Hartford Pike
North Scituate, RI 02857

Incomplete, unclear, unsigned forms, or forms submitted without the twenty-five dollar ($25.00) fee will be returned.

OFFICE USE ONLY
Date received: __________________________ Date Inspected: ____________________
Date approved: ________________________ Copy to Compliance & Inspection: (Yes) (No)
$25.00 fee received: (Yes) (No) Received by: ________________________________
File Number: __________________________
Inspecting Officer's Signature: ________________________________

DRI-ITC 9/04
BMP’s

- Detrimental impacts to forest ecosystems can be averted when harvest preparation is carried out with Best Management Practices (BMP’s) in mind.
Wetland BMP’s

- By definition in the BMP pocket guide, freshwater wetlands are defined by the following:

- Any bog, marsh, swamp, area subject to flooding (flood plain), or flowing body of water.
- Wetlands are also defined by the type of vegetation.

- Emergent and submergent plant communities

- Special aquatic sites

- Forested wetlands (red maple swamp, blueberry/shrub covered wetlands)
Riverbank Wetlands

- Defined as that area of land within 200’ of a flowing body of water having a width of 10’ or more.

- 100’ for a flowing body less than 10’.

- These riverbank wetlands are also referred to as buffer zones.
Harvesting Within Buffers

- 50’ of a wetland
- 100’ of stream less than 10’ in width
- 200’ of stream greater than 10’ in width

Note: Harvesting is permitted within these buffer zones granted stocking remains above 60%
60% Residual

The stocking level of a stand is determined by two measurable variables.

• Trees per acre (TPA)
• Basal area per acre (BA/AC sq.ft.)
Special Sites

• 25’ undisturbed buffer from the edge of a vernal pool

• Additional 25’ buffer left mostly undisturbed with residual stocking of at least 60%

• Refrain from constructing skid trails within 200’
Last Resort

• Temporary wetland and stream crossings less than 10’ in width are permissible and to be reviewed during the ITC process.

• Stream crossings greater than 10’ in width require prior approval from Freshwater Permitting Program (FWPP).
Crossings cont…

- Must not restrict natural flow (storm flowage)
- Wildlife movements
- Temporary crossing must be removed immediately following harvest.
- All disturbed areas must be restored to natural stabilized condition.
- Try to use existing crossings if possible.
Filter Strips

- Runoff from skid roads should be prevented from directly entering wetlands and streams.

- Filter strips, an undisturbed zone separating a skid road from a stream or wetland, greatly mitigate sedimentation and slow water runoff velocity.

- Width of strip determined by slope and potential resource concern down slope.
Erosion Control During Harvest

• Plan to construct roads and harvest during suitable weather conditions.

• Hay bales and silt fencing should be placed in areas of concern.

• Monitor for erosion during and following harvesting operations.

• Harvesting equipment may effect soil compaction and ability for soils to drain.
Erosion Controls Following Harvest

• Water bars and broad based dips should be installed where needed to divert surface water away from streams and wetlands.

• Primary function is to slow water velocity.

• Intervals between water bars, culverts or broad based dips are determined by road grade. Keep in mind soil types and drainage.

• Seed landings and skid trails

• All erosion control measures should be installed in strict conformance with the standards outlined in the RI Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook.
Thanks For Listening