

ST. MARY'S SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL PLAN FOR FOREST HARVEST OPERATIONS

I. General Requirements

Maryland State law and regulations require that an erosion and sediment control plan (Plan) be developed and approved before undertaking any earth-disturbing activity in excess of 5,000 square feet or 100 cubic yards. This requirement applies to construction on residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional sites as well as on forest harvest projects.

This St. Mary's Soil Conservation District Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Forest Harvest Operations (Plan) can be used for forest harvest operations in St. Mary's County when **all** of the following standard plan requirements are met:

- A. Road cuts/fills are 3 feet or less.
- B. Grades for haul roads do not exceed 15 percent.
- C. Landings are located on slopes 10 percent or less.
- D. Grades for skid trails do not exceed 20 percent.
- E. The site has no stream crossings and an uncut and undisturbed SMZ.

If the above conditions or any other criteria cannot be met, a Custom Plan, based on the 2015 Maryland Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications for Forest Harvest Operations, is required. If harvesting is proposed within a Streamside Management Zone (SMZ), a SMZ PLAN must accompany this Plan.

II. Conditions

A. The forest harvest operators working on this site assume full responsibility for implementing this Plan on behalf of the landowner. An operator is defined as any individual or company which has contracted or subcontracted a portion of the harvest operation. This also applies to those operators conducting firewood cutting or separate forest harvest operations in conjunction with or subsequent to the initial harvest. Each operator must be identified on sheet 1 and must implement and maintain the required practices as indicated on the approved plan. A copy of the approved plan and any applicable SMZ Plan(s) shall be available on site during harvest operations.

B. The applicant, landowner or his/her operator shall notify the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) Erosion Control Inspector at 410-537-3510 at least 3 days prior to commencing forest harvest operations. The applicant, landowner or his/her operator shall notify the MDE Erosion Control Inspector at least 2 days prior to leaving the site to schedule and complete the post-harvest inspection.

Note: Outstanding site work or outstanding correction orders issued by inspector must be resolved before any other forest harvest operations can be reviewed and approved on behalf of the landowner, applicant and/or the operator.

C. A copy of this plan shall be available on site during harvest operations.

D. Each site will be periodically inspected by MDE inspectors or DNR Foresters for compliance with the approved plan. MDE inspectors, as well as St. Mary's Soil Conservation District (District) personnel, may require plan modifications as conditions dictate, to prevent movement of sediment from the site. Plan revisions require approval from the District.

E. Failure to properly implement or maintain the practices required by this plan, or failure to comply with written requirements for corrective action, may result in the operation being stopped (issuance of a stop work order) until the deficiencies have been corrected. Failure to take required corrective action may also result in legal action. Outstanding site work or outstanding correction orders issued by inspector must be resolved before other forest harvest operations can be reviewed and approved on behalf of the landowner applicant and/or the operator.

F. All erosion and sediment controls must be implemented in accordance with specifications contained in the document titled 2015 Maryland Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications for Forest Harvest Operations, available from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Forest Service, or the Maryland Department of the Environment.

G. The issuance of an approval by the MDE, a SCD, or a jurisdiction not within a SCD, does not relieve the applicant of the continuing responsibility to effectively abate sediment pollution, and to comply with all other applicable local and State laws.

III. PLAN REQUIREMENTS

A. Site Maps

1. Site maps shall be prepared for all forest harvests and submitted with the plan application to the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District. The map(s) shall identify the site location and provide directions and distances from the nearest major road intersection.
2. All access points, landings, haul roads, Waters of the State, SMZs, and existing and proposed stream crossings must be identified on the map or sketch. Map topography, scale, and text must be accurate and legible.
3. If harvesting is planned in a SMZ, a more detailed map of the SMZ areas is required. Additionally, a SMZ Plan must accompany the Standard or Custom Plan. The harvest area should also be delineated on a photocopy of the United States Geological Survey 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) quadrangle maps (USGS maps).

B. Site Access

1. Access points to the site shall be stabilized with wood chips, corduroy logs, a stone stabilized construction entrance or other methods approved in the 2015 Maryland Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications for Forest Harvest Operations (see specifications for stabilized harvest entrance). Any soil or debris which is tracked onto off-site paved roads shall be removed and deposited in a controlled area immediately.

2. A grading or entrance permit may be required for a new entrance onto county or state road. Details may be obtained from the appropriate county department or State Highway Administration.
3. Existing public road drainage shall not be blocked or damaged by access construction. Pipe culverts shall be installed to maintain existing drainage.

C. Waterway Protection

1. Any required SMZ shall be marked and properly maintained. (See Specifications for Streamside Management Zone section.)
2. The minimum SMZ width is 50 feet on land with no slope (less than 1%). Where sloping land is encountered, the following formula shall be applied:

$50 \text{ ft.} + (2\text{ft.} \times \% \text{ slope}) = \text{SMZ width (to a maximum of 150 ft.)}$

Example for 20% Slope: $50 \text{ ft.} + (2 \text{ ft.} \times 20\%) = 50 \text{ ft.} + 40 \text{ ft.} = 90 \text{ ft. SMZ}$

Table 2 – SMZ Width vs. Site Slope

Slope %	Width of SMZ (ft.) on each side of watercourse
0	50
5	60
10	70
15	80
20	90

3. Unless part of an approved SMZ Plan, new roads, trails, and harvesting equipment are not allowed in any SMZ except to provide access to authorized stream crossings.
4. Harvesting within the SMZ is not allowed unless a SMZ Plan, along with the Standard Plan, is submitted to and approved by the District. The SMZ Plan must be prepared by a LPF and include the harvest method, the square footage of basal area to be removed and retained, provisions for removing and restocking the cut trees, and other criteria for the harvest operation.
5. Although not all Waters of the State require the establishment of an SMZ, protecting water quality when harvesting within or near these areas is still required. At a minimum, the following criteria must be adhered to when a SMZ Plan is not required:
 - a. Locating log decks and landing at least 50 feet from any Waters of the State.
 - b. Locating truck haul roads at least 50 feet from any Waters of the State.
 - c. Limiting skidding operations to single-pass trails within 50 feet of any Waters of the State.
 - d. Fell trees away from Waters of the State and remove any slash that enters Waters of the State.
 - e. Avoid crossing Waters of the State. When crossing is unavoidable, required permits must be obtained.
 - f. Stabilize within three (3) days any disturbed areas (damage to the humus layer) within 50 feet of Waters of the State unless other sediment control practices have been installed.

D. Haul Roads and Skid Trails

1. Grading of existing roads and/or trails will be limited to that necessary to make them operable, provided that the requirements of Section D (2) and (5) below are met. If any of the conditions cannot be met, an approved Custom Plan will be required in order to utilize the existing roads and/or trails.
2. Haul roads and skid trails shall be laid out along natural land contours to avoid excessive cuts, fills, and grades. No road cut or fill shall exceed 3 feet unless said work is reflected on a Custom Plan approved by the St. Mary's Soil Conservation District. All new roads must be sketched on the plan map and must be flagged in advance of the harvest.
3. Drainage structures shall be provided at the time of construction of haul roads and skid trails according to requirements contained in the 2015 Maryland Erosion and Sediment Control Standards and Specifications for Forest Harvest Operations.
4. Crossing of perennial or intermittent streams should be avoided. Where it becomes necessary to cross either a perennial or intermittent stream, a bridge, culvert, or ford crossing shall be temporarily installed. A MDE-WMA Waterway Construction Permit may be required prior to crossing any stream.
5. Grades for haul roads shall not exceed 15 percent. Grades for skid trails shall not exceed 20 percent. If it is not feasible to maintain these grade limits, a Custom Plan that identifies the controls required to prevent erosion, must be approved by the District prior to road or trail construction.
6. No haul roads or skid trails other than those providing access to waterway crossings shall be constructed within the SMZ, unless a SMZ Plan has been prepared and approved. Drainage from approaches to waterway crossings shall be diverted to undisturbed areas.
7. Skid trails and earth disturbance on slopes with highly erodible soils (as mapped on the attached soils map) must be stabilized with seed and mulch within 3 days of the completion of the harvest. Immediate stabilization may be required if disturbance is in or adjacent to sensitive areas.

E. Landings and Log Decks:

Landings shall be located outside of the SMZ and at least 50 feet from any Waters of the State. Landings shall be located on reasonably level (between 3 and 10 percent slope), well-drained ground. If a harvest site does not meet the slope criteria and landings must be located on slopes exceeding 10 percent, a Custom Plan is required and landings shall be shown with appropriate BMP's.

F. Stabilization

1. Following completion of installation of all perimeter erosion and sediment controls, and all cut and fill slopes steeper than 3:1 (H:V), stabilization must be accomplished within three (3) calendar days.
2. Within seven (7) days of completion of the harvest, all roads, trails, and landings located on slopes 10 percent or greater shall be graded or back-dragged, seeded and mulched according to standards and specifications. The surface of roads, landings, and skid trails less than 10 percent should be back-dragged and left in a condition that permits successful natural regeneration of trees, shrubs, or other annual and perennial plants. Under certain circumstances, stabilization of these roads and landings with seed and/or mulch may be required. (e.g. Highly Erodible Soil Types & Steep Slopes.)

3. Temporary stabilization may be required to minimize the potential for erosion or if a forest harvest is halted prior to completion. In addition to the practices noted in item 2 above; mats, wood chips, and compacted wood slash may be used as temporary stabilization practices.

G. Maintenance

1. All practices installed shall be maintained at all times to function as intended.
2. Any practice that fails to function properly will be repaired or corrected immediately.