

CLARKE COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE (FORESTRY USES)

- 3-C-2-1
(8/16/94) (6/21/05) **Forestry Uses and Structures:** The cutting or logging of any trees for profit that exceeds one acre of harvested area, shall not be conducted without a Pre-Harvest Plan, which shall include Virginia Department of Forestry Best Management Practices, that is reviewed by the County Zoning Administrator and a consulting forester or certified arborist for compliance with County ordinance. The Pre-Harvest Plan shall be submitted to the Zoning Administrator at least 10 business days before the start of a harvest operation.
- 3-C-2-1(1) Intent
The standards for the Pre-Harvest Plan are Best Management Practices (BMPs) specifically established to reduce logging costs, reduce erosion, and prevent water quality problems.
- 3-C-2-1(2)
(6/21/05) Pre-Harvest Plan
The Pre-Harvest Plan shall include a map identifying:
- a) property boundaries,
 - b) streams and drainages,
 - c) vegetated buffers as described in Section 3-A-2-f,
 - d) road and trail locations,
 - e) stream and drainage crossings,
 - f) log landings, and mill seats,
 - g) streamside Management Zones (SMZs), and
 - h) other environmental concerns,
- As appropriate, written notes shall address:
- a) road and trail specifications,
 - b) harvesting equipment to be used,
 - c) timing of harvest,
 - d) logging contract specifications,
 - e) special Planning for wet areas,
 - f) obstructions such as rock outcroppings, and
 - g) when and where BMPs will be installed.
- 3-C-2-1(3)
(6/21/05) The guidelines in the “Virginia’s Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality, BMP Field Guide” July 2002 (and as amended) shall be the minimum standards and criteria for the Pre-Harvest Plan and shall be understood and applied as the minimum requirements for:
- a. haul Roads
 - b. skid Trails
 - c. haul Road and Skid Trail Drainage
 - d. log decks, Landings, and Mill Seats
 - e. stream side management zone (SMZ); however, in no instance shall a SMZ be less than 100 feet for a perennial stream or 50 feet for an intermittent stream as identified on the 7.5 USGS topographic maps,
 - f. buffer area as described in section 3-C-2-1-(6),
 - g. clearcuts for forest regeneration and wildlife habitat should be laid out with an undulating perimeter instead of squares or rectangles. This is to increase the “edge” effect between adjacent forested areas so vital to wildlife, and to help them blend into the surrounding forest, and
 - h. seeding bare soil.
- 3-C-2-1(4)
(6/21/05) No subdivision application accepted for three years before or after timber harvest operation.
- 3-C-2-1(5)
(6/21/05) No Pre-Harvest Plan would be accepted for a property within three years of an approved subdivision.
- 3-C-2-1(6)
(6/21/05) A buffer shall be maintained, for commercial forestry activities with a Pre-Harvest Plan, of 25 feet along public rights of way and 25 feet along property lines, allowing for the thinning of trees not to exceed 50% of the crown cover (50% crown cover retained at all times).
- a. no skid trails shall be located within buffer areas,

- b. tree removal in buffers shall be with directional felling and winching,
- c. within this managed area up to 50% of the basal area or up to 50% of the forest canopy can be harvested,
- d. salvage shall be conducted in accord with recommendations outlined in the BMP manual,
- e. removal of harvested timber in the buffer shall be done so that the forest floor remains virtually undisturbed. If disturbance does occur, a permanent vegetative cover shall be established on exposed soil within the buffer area,
- f. equipment shall not be operated in or adjacent to the buffer area for salvage and sanitation purposes when soils are saturated, and
- g. areas of damage of less than 1 acre may be completely harvested.

3-C-2-1-(7)

Revegetation, as described in Section 3-A-2-f-(7), shall be required for all areas where any clearing occurs in excess of the standards for required vegetative buffers.