

**Essex County, Virginia Land Use Program
Forest Use Agreement**

This agreement is made this day _____ of _____, 20__ between
_____(owner's name) and Essex County, VA.

The owner hereby makes a written commitment that the forest area of _____ acres which is contained in Tax Map Parcel # _____ will be maintained in a planned program of timber management, soil conservation and water protection practices. The owner also certifies that the subject forest land for which acceptance into the Land Use Program is requested comprises a well-managed forest stand and is a forest area under standards prescribed by the State Forester.

- If you have a current forest management plan, who wrote it for you?

- If you do not have a forest management plan written by a professional forester, please call Essex County Forester, Warren Coburn, at 804-443-2211 by to schedule his, or another professional forester's, preparation of a plan for your forest land.

Signature of Owner _____

To insure the integrity of the Land Use Program, the Commissioner of the Revenue may audit for proof of a certified, actively followed forest management plan in order for the owner to continue to qualify for the program.

Definition of Forest Use and Requirements for the Land Use Program

Real estate dedicated to forest use is devoted to tree health and growth in such quantity and so spaced and maintained as to constitute a forest area under standards prescribed by the State Forester. Such forest land also provides clean water and air, wildlife habitat, recreational opportunities, aesthetic value and serve as a carbon sink. This can include land that has been recently cleared and is being regenerated into a new forest, as well as land deemed non-productive forest due to location and soil conditions or other conditions which prohibit adequate timber growth. The owner shall certify that the forest land is managed according to a planned program of forest management. Forest Use Classification requires 20 acres minimum in forest use per parcel, unless contiguous parcels owned by the exact same owners together contain enough forest to meet the minimum.

From Appendix D Code of Virginia Section 58.1-3230-3241

"Real estate devoted to forest use" shall mean land including the standing timber and trees thereon, devoted to tree growth in such quantity and so spaced and maintained as to constitute a forest area under standards prescribed by the State Forester pursuant to the authority set out in § 58.1-3240 and in accordance with the Administrative Process Act (§2.2-4000 et seq.). Real estate upon which recreational activities are conducted for profit, or otherwise, shall still be considered real estate devoted to forest use as long as the recreational activities conducted on such real estate do not change the character of the real estate so that it no longer constitutes a forest area under standards prescribed by the State Forester pursuant to the authority set out in § 58.1-3240.