

# LANDOWNERS FOREST LAND USE COMMITMENT

Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. #: \_\_\_\_\_

The owner(s) agree that \_\_\_\_\_ acres of forest land will comply with the term of this agreement listed below.

1) The property being applied for forest land-use shall be maintained and protected for forest land use by adhering to a planned program of timber management and soil conservation practices:

**A) LAND USE OBJECTIVES** (List in order of priority (1-7) your land use objectives for this forest acreage)

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| _____ Timber Production       | _____ Wind break  |
| _____ Soil/Water Conservation | _____ Hunting     |
| _____ Recreation              | _____ Wildlife    |
| _____ Aesthetics/Beauty       | _____ Other _____ |

**B) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES** (Check activities you have done in the past ten years or plan to do within the next ten years)

	<u>Past 10 Years</u>	<u>Future 10 Years</u>
Timber Harvest	_____	_____
Tree Planting	_____	_____
Thinning (select cut)	_____	_____
Wildlife Habitat Improvements	_____	_____
Recreation Improvements	_____	_____
Written Forest Management Plan	_____	_____
Land Surveyed/Boundary Lines Marked	_____	_____
Woodland Road Construction	_____	_____
Soil Conservation Practices	_____	_____
Wildfire Protection	_____	_____
Road Improvements/Maintenance	_____	_____
Access to Property/Controlled/Posted	_____	_____
Woodland Protection from Grazing	_____	_____
Other _____	_____	_____

- 2) Owner shall implement “Best Management Practices” to reduce or prevent soil erosion on any harvesting activities on the property. Best Management Practices are defined as any practice which maintains land productivity and protects water quality.
- 3) Owner shall comply with the Virginia Seed Tree Law which applies to any acreage containing loblolly, shortleaf, pond or white pine. This law requires that any 8 cone-bearing pine trees 14 inches or larger be left uncut and uninjured on each acre. If a seed tree of this size is not present on any particular acre, 2 of the largest diameter trees present must be left in its place.
- 4) Owner understands that improper activities that degrade or devalue the woodland such as non-compliance with Best Management Practices, grazing woodlands to the detriment of the forest, harvesting timber in a manner where no consideration is given to the future quality of the stand, and not following normally accepted good forest management practices may disqualify all or part of the forested area from forest land use.
- 5) Owner shall contact the Department of Forestry prior to conducting harvesting activities on properties with forest land use taxation.
- 6) If any provision of this agreement is determined to be invalid by a court a competent jurisdiction, the remainder of the agreement shall remain in full force and effect.
- 7) The provisions of this agreement shall be binding upon the parties, their successors, assigns, personal representatives, and heirs as long as the land remains in the land use program.
- 8) NOTICE: When the forestry use or uses by which the property qualified for assessment and taxation on the basis of use changes to more intensive use at the request of the owner, the property or such portion of the property which no longer qualifies shall be subject to roll back taxes in accordance with §58.1-3237 of the Code of Virginia. The owner shall be subject to all the obligations and liabilities of said code section.

I (We), \_\_\_\_\_, owner(s), agree to conform to the terms of this agreement and do hereby make a commitment to conserve and protect the forest use of my property for the to be taxed on the basis of use assessment and I submit my signature(s) in this form as my written commitment for such taxation to the assessing officer of the County pursuant to §58.1-3234 of the Code of Virginia and Goochland County’s Land Use Ordinance.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner’s Signature (s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Owner(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tax Map ID: \_\_\_\_\_ Acct. #: \_\_\_\_\_

This Land Use Program Forestry section will require some information from your Forester.

The Standards for Classification require the real estate sought to be qualified, to meet the Standards for Productive and/or Non-productive forest land.

Productive Forest Land must be growing a commercial forest crop that is physically accessible for harvesting when mature. The land must have existed on it, and well distributed, commercially valuable trees as stated in the Standards for Production. Recently harvested land will qualify if it is to be regenerated and is not developed into a non-forest use.

Non-productive Forest Land is land devoted to forest use but which is not capable of growing a commercial crop of industrial wood due to inaccessibility or adverse site conditions.

To qualify, the property owner must submit a Forest Management Plan prepared by a professional forester or a signed commitment documenting land use objectives. The plan must state or provide the following:

1. Methods of Resource Management
2. Methods of Water and Soil Protection
3. How Fire Land and/or Access Roads are Maintained
4. Document Clearing of Brush or Removal of Dead or Diseased Trees
5. Controlling Noxious Species and Weeds to Promote Growth of Commercially Desirable Tree Species

I/We hereby certify that the property sought to be qualified meets the Standards for Forest Use. I/We further certify that an acceptable Forest Management Plan or Commitment will be supplied outlining the objectives necessary to qualify for Land Use Assessment by the following date: \_\_\_\_\_.  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner (s) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Owner (s) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## PROFESSIONAL FORESTER INFORMATION

Total Qualifying Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_ Productive Forestry Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_ Non-Productive Forestry Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_

I have prepared a forest management plan for the property listed above which meets County/State requirements for land use assessment.

The property listed above does not meet the criteria for land use assessment for the following reason:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Forester's Name (Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_