

Tree Harvest Policy on CREP Easements

- 1) All sites must follow NCFS best management practices for the protection of water quality and must comply with all state and federal water quality laws.
- 2) All harvest plans (clearcut or thinning . . . sawtimber or pulpwood) must be prepared by a NC Registered Forester.
To be considered for approval, thinning plans must document that the unthinned stand has at least 120 sqft/ac of basal area. Thinning plans must require that the stand be thinned no lower than 70 sqft/ac. This condition only applies to stands that are to be thinned and not to stands where clearcutting is recommended.
- 3) All CREP harvest plans must be submitted to the CREP Manager at least 30 days prior to any signed timber sale agreement.
- 4) The CREP Manager must approve harvest plans and may require foresters to modify plans.
- 5) A buffer zone encompassing the fifty feet (50') immediately adjacent to the qualifying water source (stream, ditch, or wetland) must remain intact. No trees are to be harvested within this buffer area unless dead or diseased and their harvest approved by the CREP Manager.
- 6) The buffer area must be depicted on the harvest site map.
- 7) No clearcutting will be allowed before 35 years of age for pine or 65 years of age for hardwoods.
- 8) The greater of one-acre or 10% of the easement area must be left unharvested as a wildlife refuge and travel corridor. The 50' buffer zone described in 5) above can satisfy all or part of this requirement.
- 9) Successful reforestation (100tr/ac of native, desirable, overstory species that are appropriate to the site) is required within three (3) years after the harvest. Natural regeneration (coppice, root sprout, seedling sprout, or seedling) is allowed but replanting may be required if natural regeneration fails. Owner is responsible for all costs associated with site preparation and replanting. Bedding is not allowed.
- 10) After harvest, a qualified forester or biologist must monitor and document the trees' growth for 5 years and the landowner must protect the CREP easement from destructive fire (prescribed fire may be allowed per Conservation Plan) and noxious weeds (example: privet, kudzu, wisteria). When treatment is needed to ensure successful regeneration, the owner must provide annual receipts for treatment to the CREP Manager. If

invasives have not hindered regeneration, a statement to this effect must be sent to the CREP manager at the end of year 5.

11) When possible, locate loading decks outside of CREP easement.

SWCC Approved May 19, 2021