



AEM Tier 2 Worksheet

Forest Management

Glossary

Erosion Hazard: The probability that erosion will occur from timber harvesting activities if the soil is exposed.

Forest Road: A road passable to log trucks, between a publicly-maintained road and the log landing, to which harvested forest products are brought from the woods. Also known as a haul road, logging road, or access road.

Forest Tax Law: Under Section 480(a) of the Real Property Tax Law, some tax relief is provided to private forest owners enrolling 50 or more contiguous acres. The goal of this program is to encourage long-term ownership and healthy forests.

Landing (also referred to as a processing area): Loading area where logs are gathered, cut to length, sorted and loaded on trucks for transport to a mill.

Skid Trail: Roads or trails upon which logs are dragged from the stump to a landing or processing area. Trail surfaces are rough and may be subject to erosion.

Background

Well-planned, productive uses of healthy forests can provide multiple benefits to the farm and community. These benefits go beyond the trees and include the total forest resource. In addition to timber harvest, forestland can be used in a variety of ways. Some of these include:

- the production of crops (agroforestry) such as mushrooms, berries, nuts and maple products
- silvopasture (practices of grazing animals within a forest area)
- recreation such as hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, horse and all-terrain vehicle trails
- fish and wildlife habitat
- harvest of fire wood
- carbon sequestration

Timber harvesting is the primary revenue for most forest lots. Recent studies show that landowners who use a professional forester in their forest management activities gain 40% more in revenue than those who do not. Poorly planned timber harvesting practices can lead to undesirable impacts on the environment, such as increased soil erosion, surface water pollution, and increased stream flows, to name a few. The planning and use of Best Management Practices can prevent and minimize water quality problems resulting from timber harvesting operations. These simple, often low-cost practices and techniques are described in the pocket guide *New York State Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality/ BMP Field Guide*, which is available from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC).

AEM Principle: Healthy, well-managed forests help to protect soil and water resources, reduce the impacts of exotic species and can provide valuable economic benefit to a farm operation.

Glossary Continued...

Slope Percent: The angle of a hill expressed in terms of percent. A vertical rise of one foot and a horizontal distance of three feet equal a 33 percent or 18-degree slope.

Streamside Management Zone: Areas next to streams, ponds, lakes, wetlands and other water bodies where forest harvesting activities are modified to protect water quality, fish, and other aquatic resources.

Background Continued...

A professional forester will assist a farmer in developing a plan that, when implemented, will achieve the farmer's goal for forest utilization. These plans take into consideration such things as timber sales, species-specific and exotic species management for plants and wildlife, locations and management of roads and other disturbed areas to protect forests' soil and water resources.

AEM Tier 2 Worksheet: Forest Management		Potential Concern			
Factors Needing Assessment:	Lower 1	2	3	4	Higher
Does the landowner have a forest management plan?	Forest management plan prepared by professional forester is being followed and is less than 10 years old.	Forest management plan prepared by a professional forester is being followed and is more than 10 years old.			No forest management plan has been prepared. OR Plan is no longer followed.
How is the forest <u>currently</u> being used? <input type="checkbox"/> Timber harvest <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood <input type="checkbox"/> Agro forestry/ Maple Products <input type="checkbox"/> Silvopasture <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Recreation		How will the forest be used in the <u>future</u>? <input type="checkbox"/> Timber harvest <input type="checkbox"/> Firewood <input type="checkbox"/> Agro forestry/ Maple Products <input type="checkbox"/> Silvopasture <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife/Recreation			
What is the average slope of the woodlot?	0-8%	8-25%	25-35%	Greater than 35%	
List the locations where steep slopes exist:					
What is the primary soil drainage class for the woodlot?	Well drained and excessively drained.	Moderately well drained.	Somewhat poorly drained.	Poorly drained and very poorly drained.	
What is the erosion hazard for the woodlot?	Slight		Moderate	Severe	

AEM Tier 2 Worksheet: Forest Management		Potential Concern		
Factors Needing Assessment:	Lower 1	2	3	Higher 4
Are there any limiting factors to forest use? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Steep slopes <input type="checkbox"/> Rock Outcrops <input type="checkbox"/> Streams <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ 				
Are there any known exotic or invasive species within the woodlot?				
Are there any existing roads (skid trails, truck roads or landings) in the woodlot? If so, what is their use?				
What is the condition of existing roads and landings?	All roads are well planned and stable.		Roads are actively eroding.	Roads are actively eroding AND Sediment is reaching a stream or waterbody.
If stream crossings exist, are they properly located, stable and maintained?	Stream crossings are kept to a minimum. They are at grade and streambed is stable. No skidding across permanent streams unless permanent or temporary stream crossing structures are utilized. Stream flow is not impacted.			Stream crossings are poorly planned, with high potential for major damage at crossing sites. OR Skidding is done in stream channels.

AEM Tier 2 Worksheet: Forest Management		Potential Concern		
Factors Needing Assessment:	Lower 1	2	3	Higher 4
How are riparian areas managed during timber harvesting?	Streamside management zones are marked. Timber and tops that accidentally fall into streams are removed by winching above the high water mark. Equipment is kept at least 50 ft. away from streams. AND Any additional, more restrictive regional or local regulations are met.		Streamside management zones are unmarked. Only limited tree removal is done within 15 feet of streambanks.	Logging slash is left in streams. No buffer is maintained along stream banks.
What is the date of the last timber harvest?				
Do you plan on harvesting timber in the next 5 years?				
Are livestock allowed free access to the woodlot? *If so, complete Pasture Management Worksheet				
Is the woodlot enrolled under Forest Tax Law?				
Benefits to other resources can also be possible while working toward improved water quality. Taking stock of how existing and future management affect soil, water, air, plants, animals, energy, greenhouse gases, people, and economics can result in more effective plans and additional benefits to farms and communities both now and into the future. Additional Comments:				