



TIMBER HARVESTING OPERATIONS

This fact sheet has been prepared by the Washington County Conservation District in order to detail the erosion & sediment control requirements for a timber harvesting operation in Washington County. For even more information, the PA DEP offers the following publications:

“Timber Harvest Operations Field Guide for Waterways, Wetlands, and Erosion Control” and *“Professional Timber Harvesters Action Packet”*

Both are available at the Conservation District office or the DEP website (www.dep.state.pa.us)

In accordance with Title 25, Chapter 102 of PA Code, and PA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) rules and regulations, all earth disturbance activities within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, including timber harvesting, require the development of an Erosion & Sediment (E&S) Control Plan and the implementation and maintenance of E&S controls.

WHY DO TIMBER HARVESTING OPERATIONS NEED AN E&S PLAN?

It is not the felling of trees that necessitates the need for a plan, but the activities involved with getting the timber off the site. Haul roads, skid trails, and log landings all cause earth disturbance and create the potential for accelerated soil erosion.

WHAT MUST BE SUBMITTED?

Determine the size of the area that will be disturbed.

Sites under 5,000 sq. ft:

- No submittal required, but;
- Best Management Practices (BMP's) must be used

Sites over 5,000 sq. ft:

- Complete “Erosion & Sediment Pollution Control Plan for a Timber Harvesting Operation” form (3930-FM-WM0155)
 - Can be completed by landowner, forester, or engineer
 - Available at the Conservation District office or the DEP website
- Location map & Soils map
 - Photocopy of a portion of USGS topo map & soil survey map
 - Available for use at the District office

Sites disturbing over 25 acres:

**The earth disturbance for a timber harvesting operation is considered to be 10% of the total harvest area*

- Complete Erosion & Sediment Control Permit (ESCP) Application
 - Contact the Conservation District or PA DEP if ESCP is required

WHAT OTHER FACTORS MUST BE CONSIDERED?

Look at the existing conditions of the site. Ideally, the operation will not disturb streams, wetlands, or any other bodies of water.

Stream Crossings

- Streams may be crossed, but General Permits (GPs) issued by DEP are required

Wetlands

- Timber may be cut in wetlands, but if wetland soils are to be disturbed in any way, General Permits may be required

If any questions exist, concerning the presence of streams or wetlands, or what related permits are needed, contact the Conservation District or the PA Department of Environmental Protection.