

## 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.

I certify that I have a Forest Management Plan, written by \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of Forester)

Signature of Owner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***To insure the integrity of the Land Use Program, the Commissioner of the Revenue requires proof of a certified, actively followed forest management plan in order for the owner 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.