

# **APPENDIX 5A**

## Checklist for Forestland Protection

Characteristics to be considered when evaluating impacts on forestland

## Checklist for Forestland Protection

	Yes	No	Source and Date of Information
1. <b>Have the Land Capability Classes (LCC) of the soils present in the impacted forest been identified?</b> (The NRCS Web Soil Survey can be used to determine this information ( <a href="http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm">http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm</a> ))			
2. <b>Does the forestland possess a combination of physical characteristics important to the production of forest products with minimal inputs of fuel, fertilizers, pesticides, and labor and not be subject to intolerable erosion?</b> (Contact the Agricultural Extension Agent for the county, city, or town)**			
3. <b>Is the forestland valuable for the production of forest products and have a special combination of soil quality, slope, aspect, moisture supply, and species composition needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of forest products when managed according to accepted silvicultural principles?</b> (Contact the Agricultural Extension Agent for the county, city, or town)**			
4. <b>Is the forestland of statewide or local importance in the production of forest products?</b> (Contact the Department of Forestry Forestland Conservation Division at (434) 977-6555)			
5. <b>Has the forestland been recognized under any state award or forestry recognition programs?</b> (Contact VDACS (804-786-2373) about Century Farms, DCR (804-786-9333) about Clean Water Farm Award, Department of Forestry Forest Management Division for other forestry recognition programs at (434) 977-6555)			
6. <b>Is the property part of an agricultural or forestal district or participating in use value assessment and taxation for real estate devoted to forest use?</b> (Contact local county government)			
7. <b>Does the forestland make a significant contribution to the local economy or the rural character of the area where the land is located?</b> (Contact the Department of			

Forestry Forestland Conservation Division at (434) 977-6555)			
8. <b>Does the preferred route or project site minimize the permanent loss of forestland?</b>			
9. <b>Is the impacted forestland found in a watershed that is important to a municipal water supply or is adjacent to waterways with TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) limits?</b> (Contact DCR at 804-786-3999 or county, city or town planners)			
10. <b>Has the importance of the forestland in providing ecosystem services and benefits (for example, water quality, water supply, air quality, biodiversity) been evaluated?</b> (Use the InFOREST ecosystem service calculators to assist with this ( <a href="http://inforest.frec.vt.edu/">http://inforest.frec.vt.edu/</a> ))			
11. <b>Is the impacted forestland covered under a conservation easement?</b> (Use the InFOREST application mapping tool to locate conserved properties ( <a href="http://inforest.frec.vt.edu/">http://inforest.frec.vt.edu/</a> ))			
12. <b>Does the project impact Virginia Department of Forestry properties designated as State Forests?</b> (Use the InFOREST application mapping tool to locate State Forests ( <a href="http://inforest.frec.vt.edu/">http://inforest.frec.vt.edu/</a> ))			
13. <b>Do local and state ordinances, county comprehensive plans, local watershed management plans, etc. support forestland conservation in the geographical area impacted by the major project?</b> (Contact county, city or town planners)			
14. <b>What is the Forest Conservation Value of the impacted forest?</b> (Use the InFOREST application mapping tool to identify Forest Conservation Values ( <a href="http://inforest.frec.vt.edu/">http://inforest.frec.vt.edu/</a> ))			
15. <b>Does the major project impact any unique natural areas or species of interest?</b> (Contact the Department of Forestry Forest Management Division at (434-977-6555) and Department of Conservation and Recreation Division of Natural Heritage (804-786-4554))			

## **Characteristics to be considered when evaluating impacts on forestland**

In preparing environmental impact reports, state agencies shall consider the following questions about the forestland being impacted by a major project.

1. What are the Land Capability Classes (LCC) of the soils present in the impacted forest? The capability class, which is influenced by slope, can be a major factor in evaluating forest productivity and identifying sensitive sites. For example, it is important to retain forest cover on steep slopes which often have a LCC of V or VI.
2. Does the forestland possess a combination of physical characteristics important to the production of forest products with minimal inputs of fuel, fertilizers, pesticides, and labor and not be subject to intolerable erosion?
3. Is the forestland valuable for the production of forest products and have a special combination of soil quality, slope, aspect, moisture supply, and species composition needed to economically produce sustained high quality or high yields of forest products when managed according to accepted silvicultural principles?
4. Is the forestland of statewide or local importance in the production of forest products?
5. Has the forestland been recognized under state award or forest recognition programs? These could include Clean Water Farm Award, Century Farm Program, Soil and Water Conservation District Forestry Award, Certified Stewardship Forest, or a forest certification program such as Tree Farm, Sustainable Forestry Initiative, or Forest Stewardship Council?
6. Is the forestland part of an agricultural or forestal district or participating in use value assessment and taxation for real estate devoted to agricultural, horticultural, or forest use? The eligibility criteria for this can be found in VAC Article 4 (§ 58.1-3229 et seq.) of Chapter 32 of Title 58.1.
7. Does the forestland make a significant contribution to the local economy or the rural character of the area where the land is located?
8. Does the preferred route or project site minimize the permanent loss of forestland? Has forest fragmentation and the permanent loss of forestland been considered in the project site selection process and was a priority given to limiting forestland loss as much as possible?
9. Is the impacted forestland found in a watershed that is important to a municipal water supply or is adjacent to waterways with TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) limits? The focus here is on how forestland loss in a municipal water supply watershed impacts a localities water supply and water quality. Also, how does forestland loss and associated changes to nutrient and sediment loading impact any existing TMDL?

10. What is the importance of the impacted forestland in providing forest ecosystem services and benefits such as water quality and water supply, air quality, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity?
11. Is the impacted forestland covered under a conservation easement? This information will help determine the value of the property in meeting long-term state conservation priorities.
12. Does the project impact Virginia Department of Forestry properties designated as State Forests? The focus here is how land use change in the proximity of a State Forest impacts forest management and forest recreational opportunities.
13. Do local and state ordinances, county comprehensive plans, local watershed management plans, etc. support forestland conservation in the geographical area impacted by the major project? This information again will help determine the value of the property in meeting long-term state conservation priorities.
14. What is the Forest Conservation Value (FCV) of the impacted forest? See the InFOREST User Manual for a full explanation of the importance of determining the FCV of the impacted forest.
15. Does the project impact any unique natural areas or species of interest? An example would be Longleaf pine or other forest types the Commonwealth is endeavoring to save or propagate.