

## Glossary of Forestry Terms

**ACRE** - An area of land measuring about 43,560 square feet. A square 1-acre plot measures about 209 feet by 209 feet; a circular acre has a radius of 117.75 feet.

**AESTHETICS** - (a) Sensitivity to or appreciation of the forest's beauty through recognition of its unique and varied components. (b) Beauty through an orderly appearance.

**ALL-AGED or UNEVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT** - The practice of managing a forest by periodically selecting and harvesting individual trees or groups of trees from the stand while preserving its natural appearance. Most common in hardwood forests.

**ALL-AGED or UNEVEN-AGED STAND** - A forest stand composed of trees of different ages and sizes.

**ANNUAL** - A plant that lives or grows for only one year or one growing season.

**ANNUAL WILDLIFE SEED MIXTURE** - A mixture of soybean, millet, cow pea, sorghum, lespedeza, buckwheat, and other seeds from which single-season plants are grown to serve as food or protective cover for wildlife. Some mixtures reseed naturally, while others require reseeding, light disking, and fertilization.

**BASAL AREA** - (a) The cross-sectional area (in square feet) of a tree trunk at breast height (4.5 feet above the ground). For example, the basal area of a tree that measures 14 inches in diameter at breast height is about 1 square foot. (b) The sum basal areas of the individual trees within 1 acre of forest. For example, a well-stocked pine stand might have a basal area of 80 to 120 square feet per acre.

**BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY aka BIODIVERSITY** - The variety of life forms in a given area. Diversity can be categorized in terms of the number of species, the variety in the area's plant and animal communities, the genetic variability of the animals, or a combination of these elements.

**BOARD FOOT** - A unit of wood measuring 144 cubic inches. A 1-inch by 12-inch shelving board that is 1 foot long is equal to 1 board foot. Board foot volume is determined by: length (feet) x width (inches) x thickness (inches)/divided by 12

**BUFFER STRIP** - A narrow zone or strip of land, trees, or vegetation bordering an area. Common examples include visual buffers, which screen the view along roads, and streamside buffers, which are used to protect water quality. Buffers may also be used to prevent the spread of forest pests.

**CANOPY** - A layer or multiple layers of branches and foliage at the top or crown of a forest's trees.

**CAPITAL GAINS** - Profit on the sale of an asset such as timber, land, or other property. Reporting timber sales as capital gains provides certain tax advantages over reporting revenues as ordinary income.

**CLEAR-CUT HARVEST** - A harvesting and regeneration method that removes all trees within a given area.

**CLIMAX COMMUNITY** - A relatively stable and undisturbed plant community that has evolved through stages and adapted to its environment.

**COMPETITION** - The struggle between trees to obtain sunlight, nutrients, water, and growing space. Every part of the tree - from the roots to the crown - competes for space and food.

**CONSERVATION** - The protection, improvement, and wise use of natural resources for present and future generations.

**CONTROLLED BURN** - (See Prescribed Burn.)

**CORD** - A stack of round or split wood consisting of 128 cubic feet of wood, bark, and air space. A standard cord measures 4 feet by 4 feet by 8 feet. A face cord or short cord is 4 feet by 8 feet by any length of wood under 4 feet.

**COST-SHARE ASSISTANCE** - An assistance program offered by various state and federal agencies that pays a fixed rate or percentage of the total cost necessary to implement some forestry or agricultural practice.

**COVER** - (a) Any plant that intercepts rain drops before they reach the soil or that holds soil in place. (b) A hiding place or vegetative shelter for wildlife from predators or inclement weather.

**CROP TREE** - Any tree selected to grow to final harvest or to a selected size. Crop trees are selected for quality, species, size, timber potential, or wildlife value.

**CROWN** - The branches and foliage at the top of a tree.

**CROWN-CLASS** - A tree classification system based on the tree's relative height, foliage density, and ability to intercept light. Crown-class measures past growth performance and calls attention to crop trees that could benefit from future thinning and harvest operations. There are four classifications:

- **Dominant Trees** - Larger-than-average trees with broad, well-developed crowns. These trees receive direct sunlight from all sides and above.
- **Codominant Trees** - Average-to-fairly large trees with medium-sized crowns that form the forest canopy. These trees receive full light from above but are crowded on the sides.
- **Intermediate Trees** - Medium-sized trees with small crowns below the general level of the canopy. Intermediate trees receive little direct light, are poor crop trees, and should be removed during thinning operations.
- **Suppressed or Overtopped Trees** - Small trees that grow below the tree canopy and receive no direct sunlight from any direction.

**CRUISE** - A survey of forestland to locate timber and estimate its quantity by species, products, size, quality, or other characteristics.

**CULL** - A tree or log of marketable size that is useless for all but firewood or pulpwood because of crookedness, rot, injuries, or damage from disease or insects.

**CUTTING CONTRACT** - A written, legally binding document used in the sale of standing timber. The contract specifies the provisions covering the expectations and desires of both buyer and seller.

**CUTTING CYCLE** - The planned time interval between major harvesting operations within the same stand - usually within uneven-aged stands. For example, on a 10-year cutting cycle in a hardwood stand, trees are harvested every 10 years.

**DAYLIGHTING** - A practice in which trees shading an access road are removed to increase the sunlight on the roadway and along its periphery. This relatively inexpensive practice maximizes forest edge and cover for wildlife and maintains passable roads year- round.

**DIAMETER AT BREAST HEIGHT (DBH)** - The diameter of a tree measured in inches at breast height - a standard 4.5 feet above the ground.

**DIAMETER-LIMIT CUTTING** - A selection method in which all marketable trees above a specified diameter are harvested. Diameter-limit cutting can lead to long-term degradation of the stand.

**DIRECT or BROADCAST SEEDING** - (a) Sowing seed for broad coverage from the air or on the ground. (b) Seeding of forest stands, roadways, or specified plots for wildlife.

**DRUM CHOPPING** - A site preparation technique in which logging debris is leveled by a bulldozer pulling a large drum filled with water. Chopped areas are often burned to further reduce debris and control sprouting before seedlings are planted.

**ECOLOGY** - The science or study of the relationships between organisms and their environment.

**ECOSYSTEM**- The components of a particular habitat, such as a pond or forest, together with the physical environment in which they live. Components of ecosystems are often interdependent. That is, what affects one plant or animal will likely impact the other.

**EDGE** - The transition between two different types or ages of vegetation.

**ENDANGERED or THREATENED SPECIES** - A species is endangered when the total number of remaining members may not be sufficient to reproduce enough offspring to ensure survival of the species. A threatened species exhibits declining or dangerously low populations but still has enough members to maintain or increase numbers.

**ENVIRONMENT** - The interaction of climate, soil, topography, and other plants and animals in any given area. An organism's environment influences its form, behavior, and survival.

**EPHEMERAL STREAMS** - Waterbodies that flow only during significant rainfall. They flow in natural channels, but the channel bottom of an ephemeral stream is usually below the water table.

**EROSION** - The wearing away of land or soil by the action of wind, water, or ice.

**EVAPOTRANSPIRATION** - The evaporation of water from the soil and the transpiration of water from the plants that live in that soil. Approximately one-quarter of a forest's annual rainfall returns to the air through evapotranspiration.

**EVEN-AGED MANAGEMENT** - A forest management method in which all trees in an area are harvested at one time or in several cuttings over a short time to produce stands that are all the same age or nearly so. This management method is commonly applied to shade-intolerant conifers and hardwoods.

**FIREBREAK** - Any nonflammable barrier used to slow or stop fires. Several types of firebreaks are mineral soil barriers; barriers of green, slow-burning vegetation; and mechanically cleared areas.

**FLAT or STRAIGHT PLANTING** - Planting trees directly into the ground without beds or, in some cases, without first moving logging debris.

**FORAGE** - Vegetation such as leaves, stems, buds, and some types of bark, that can be eaten for food and energy.

**FOREST MANAGEMENT** - (a) Proper care and control of wooded land to maintain health, vigor, product flow, and other values (soil condition, water quality, wildlife preservation, and beauty) in order to accomplish specific objectives. (b) The practical application of scientific, economic, and social principles to forest property.

**FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN** - Written guidelines for current and future management practices recommended to meet an owner's objectives.

**FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN** - A written document listing activities that enhance or improve forest resources (wildlife, timber, soil, water, recreation, and aesthetics) on private land over a 5-year period.

**FOREST STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM** - A cooperative, technical-assistance program designed to encourage multiple resource management on private forestland. Emphasis is placed on preharvest planning to enhance and protect forest-based resources. Authorized under the 1990 Farm Bill, the program is based on national guidelines but is set by individual states.

**FOREST TYPE** - Groups of tree species commonly growing in the same stand because their environmental requirements are similar.

**FORESTRY** - The science, art, and practice of managing and using trees, forests, and their associated resources for human benefit.

**FUEL LOADING** - A buildup of fuels, especially easily ignited, fast-burning fuels such as pinestraw.

**GEOTEXTILE or GEOWEB** - a synthetic material placed on the flat, under road fill. Its primary use is to keep layers separate, confine the road aggregate and to distribute the weight of the load.

**GIRDLING** - A physical cutting or disruption of the cambial sap flow within a tree. Girdling by humans, animals, or insects can often kill a tree.

**GROUP SELECTION** - (a) The removal of small groups of trees to regenerate shade-intolerant trees in the opening (usually at least 1/4 acre). (b) A specific type of selective cutting.

**HABITAT** - (a) An area in which a specific plant or animal can naturally live, grow, and reproduce. (b) For wildlife, habitat is the combination of food, water, cover, and space.

**HARDWOODS (DECIDUOUS TREES)** - Trees with broad, flat leaves as opposed to coniferous or needled trees. Wood hardness varies among the hardwood species, and some are actually softer than some softwoods.

**HIGH-GRADING** - A harvesting technique that removes only the biggest and most valuable trees from a stand and provides high returns at the expense of future growth potential. Poor quality, shade-loving trees tend to dominate in these continually high-graded sites.

**IMPROVEMENT CUT** - An intermediate cut made to improve the form, quality, health, or wildlife potential of the remaining stand.

**INCENTIVE** - A reward for improving forest management. Incentives include reimbursement of some expenses but can also take the form of an abatement of property or income tax.

**MARGINAL LAND** - Land that does not consistently produce a profitable crop because of infertility, drought, or other physical limitations such as shallow soils.

**MARKETING** - The selling of timber or other forest resources. Successful sellers seek a satisfactory price through competition, skillful negotiation, knowledge of timber markets, and the aid of a competent broker or consultant.

**MARKING** - (a) The physical process of selecting trees to be cut or left during a harvest. (b) Delineating a boundary. Marking is usually done by spraying a spot of bright paint on a prominent part of the tree.

**MAST** - Fruits or nuts used as a food source by wildlife. Soft mast include most fruits with fleshy coverings, such as persimmon, dogwood seed, or blackgum seed. Hard mast refers to nuts such as acorns and beech, pecan, and hickory nuts.

**MATURE TREE** - A tree that has reached a desired size or age for its intended use. Size, age, or economic maturity varies depending on the species and intended use.

**MBF** - Abbreviation denoting 1,000 board feet. MBF is a typical unit of trade for dimension lumber and sawtimber stumpage. (It takes 11 MBF of wood to build an average 1,900-square-foot house.)

**MENSURATION or BIOMETRICS** - (a) The measurement and calculation of volume, growth, and development of individual trees or stands and their timber products. (b) A measurement of forestlands.

**MERCHANTABLE HEIGHT** - The stem length, normally measured from the ground to a 10-, 6-, or 4-inch diameter top, above which no other saleable product can be cut. Diameter, local markets, limbs, knots, and other defects collectively influence merchantable height.

**MIXED STAND** - A timber stand in which less than 80 percent of the trees in the main canopy are of a single species.

**MULTIPLE USE** - The management of land or forest for more than one purpose, such as wood production, water quality, wildlife, recreation, aesthetics, or clean air. (See Stewardship.)

**NATURAL STAND (NATURAL REGENERATION)** - A stand of trees grown from natural seed fall or sprouting.

**NUTRIENTS** - Elements necessary for growth and reproduction. Primary plant nutrients are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

**ON THE STUMP** - Standing, uncut timber.

**PERENNIAL** - Plants that live or grow for more than one year. Some resprout from a root system or reseed themselves every year.

**PERENNIAL WILDLIFE MIXTURE** - A mixture of all or some of the following: shrub lespedeza, partridge pea, cowpea, annual lespedeza, reseeding soybeans, and other perennial plants that are beneficial to wildlife.

**PEST** - Any organism that is out of place or causes stress to a desired organism.

**PESTICIDE** - Any chemical used to kill or control pests.

**PHOSPHATE** - A chemical compound that aids root growth and is essential in energy transfer. It is commonly incorporated into beds as triple super phosphate (TSP) at time of planting.

**PLANT or HABITAT DIVERSITY** - A variety of food or cover for wildlife. Variation may occur at one point in time or over a period of time such as during the course of a season. Seasonal diversity of food and cover is often critical to the survival of a species.

**PLANTATION** - Planted pines or hardwoods, typically in an ordered configuration such as equally spaced rows.

**POLES or POLETIMBER** - Trees from 5 to 7 inches in diameter at breast height.

**PREDATOR** - An animal that preys on and devours other animals.

**PREDATOR GUARD** - A physical barrier used to keep one animal from eating another. Usually refers to protection devices on nest boxes.

**PRESCRIBED or CONTROLLED BURN** - The use of fire under specific environmental conditions to achieve forest management objectives. Used to reduce hazardous fuel levels, control unwanted vegetation, favor desired vegetation, and improve visibility and wildlife habitat.

**PRESENT USE VALUATION** - Property tax relief classification based on the land's productivity for agriculture, horticulture, or forestry production, rather than for market value. Can result in substantial tax savings in areas where land values are high. Some restrictions and penalties apply, including a 3-year roll back provision with interest. Consult your county tax supervisor for details.

**PRESERVATION** - An attempt to keep forests in an undisturbed state through the control of internal and external influences.

**PULPWOOD** - Wood used in the manufacture of paper, fiberboard, or other wood fiber products. Pulpwood-sized trees are usually a minimum of 4 inches in diameter.

**PURE STAND** - A timber stand in which at least 75 percent of the trees in the main crown canopy are of a single species.

**REFORESTATION** - Reestablishing a forest by planting or seeding an area from which forest vegetation has been removed.

**REGENERATION CUT** - A cutting strategy in which old trees are removed while favorable environmental conditions are maintained for the establishment of a new stand of seedlings.

**REGISTERED LANDS** - A permit-only hunting program in which land is registered with and patrolled by the Wildlife Resources Commission. Hunters without a permit issued by the landowner are cited for trespass and prosecuted without need for the landowner to appear in court or swear out a warrant.

**REPRODUCTION** - (a) The process by which young trees grow to become the older trees of the future forest. (b) The process of forest replacement or renewal through natural sprouting or seeding or by the planting of seedlings or direct seeding.

**RESIDUAL STAND** - Trees left in a stand to grow until the next harvest. This term can refer to crop trees or cull trees.

**ROOT COLLAR** - The transition zone between stem and root at the ground line of a tree or seedling.

**ROTATION** - The number of years required to establish and grow trees to a specified size, product, or condition of maturity. A pine rotation may range from as short as 20 years for pulpwood to more than 60 years for sawtimber.

**SALE, LUMP SUM (BOUNDARY)** - The sale of specified timber on a specified area. The volume may or may not be estimated and published. The buyer is responsible for determining correct volume. The seller guarantees ownership and boundaries.

**SALE UNIT** - A timber sales arrangement in which the buyer pays for forest products removed in units (measured in cords, MBF, or units of weight). Determination of units removed from the area is verified by mill tally, scale tickets, and buyer's or seller's tally.

**SALVAGE CUT** - The harvesting of dead or damaged trees or of trees in danger of being killed by insects, disease, flooding, or other factors in order to save their economic value.

**SAPLING** - A small tree, usually between 2 and 4 inches diameter at breast height.

**SAWLOG or SAWTIMBER** - A log or tree that is large enough (usually 10 to 12 inches in diameter) to be sawed into lumber. Minimum log length is typically 8 feet.

**SCARIFYING** - For soil: The removal of the top litter layer of an area (usually in strips) for site preparation. For seed: The abrasion or weakening of the seed coat to encourage germination.

**SEDIMENTATION** - The deposition or settling of soil particles suspended in water.

**SEEDLING** - (a) A tree, usually less than 2 inches diameter at breast height, that has grown from a seed rather than from a sprout. (b) A nursery-grown tree that has not been transplanted in the nursery.

**SEED TREE CUT** - A harvesting method in which a few scattered trees are left in the area to provide seed for a new forest stand. Selection of seed trees should be based upon growth rate, form, seeding ability, wind firmness, and future marketability. This harvesting method produces an even-aged forest.

**SEED YEAR** - A year in which a given species produces a large seed crop over a sizable area. Some species of trees produce seeds irregularly.

**SELECTIVE CUTTING** - The periodic removal of individual trees or groups of trees to improve or regenerate a stand.

**SHADE-INTOLERANT TREES** - Trees that cannot thrive in the shade of larger trees.

**SHEARING** - Slicing or cutting trees or stumps at the ground line. Shearing may be done at harvest or with a KG blade during site preparation.

**SHELTERWOOD CUT** - Removing trees on the harvest area in a series of two or more cuttings so new seedlings can grow from the seed of older trees. This method produces an even-aged forest.

**SILVICULTURE** - The art, science, and practice of establishing, tending, and reproducing forest stands of desired characteristics. It is based on knowledge of species characteristics and environmental requirements.

**STEWARDSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM (SIP)** - A cost-sharing program available to forest landowners who have a multi resource forest stewardship plan. Practices include cost-sharing assistance for the enhancement of forest recreation, fisheries, wildlife, and timber production and the protection of soil and water, wetlands, riparian zones, and rare and endangered species.

**SITE INDEX** - A relative measure of forest site quality based on the height (in feet) of the dominant trees at a specific age (usually 25 or 50 years, depending on rotation length). Site index information helps estimate future returns and land productivity for timber and wildlife.

**SITE PREPARATION** - Preparing an area of land for planting, direct seeding, or natural reproduction by burning, chemical vegetation control, or by mechanical operations such as disking, bedding, scarifying, windrowing, or raking.

**SLASH** - (a) Tree tops, branches, bark, or other residue left on the ground after logging or other forestry operations. (b) Tree debris left after a natural catastrophe.

**SOFTWOOD (CONIFER)** - A tree belonging to the order Coniferales. Softwood trees are usually evergreen, bear cones, and have needles or scalelike leaves. They include pine, spruces, firs, and cedars.

**SOIL TEXTURE** - The feel or composition of the soil (sand, silt, or clay) as determined by the size of the soil particles.

**SOIL TYPE** - Soils that are alike in all characteristics, including texture of the topsoil. Soil maps and information on site index, erodibility, and other limiting properties are available from your county Soil Conservation Service offices.

**SPECIES** - A group of related organisms having common characteristics capable of interbreeding. Loblolly and Virginia pine are common species that can be interbred.

**STAND** - An easily defined area of the forest that is relatively uniform in species composition or age and can be managed as a single unit.

**STEWARDSHIP FOREST** - A privately owned forest tract that exhibits integrated forest management to protect and enhance wildlife, timber, recreation, natural beauty, and soil and water quality.

**STOCKING** - A description of the number of trees, basal area, or volume per acre in a forest stand compared with a desired level for balanced health and growth. Most often used in comparative expressions, such as well-stocked, poorly stocked, or overstocked.

**STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONE (SMZ)** - An area adjacent to a stream in which vegetation is maintained or managed to protect water quality. See pages A-6 through A-8 for guidelines on the recommended size for your property. Also known as Forest Buffers.

**STUMPAGE** - The value or volume of a tree or group of trees as they stand uncut in the woods (on the stump).

**SUCCESSION** - The natural sequence of plant community replacement beginning with bare ground and resulting in a final, stable community in which a climax forest is reached. Foresters, wildlife biologists, and farmers constantly battle ecological succession to try to maintain a particular vegetative cover.

**SUCCESSIONAL DISKING or MOWING** - A wildlife enhancement practice in which a disk harrow or rotary mower is used to knock down existing vegetation every 1 to 3 years to promote the regrowth of annuals, legumes, forbes, and perennials.

**SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY** - an approach to forest management that focuses on the long term health and value of the forest and its inhabitants. Goals include: providing revenue from timber and non-timber forest products; maintaining and restoring biodiversity and a healthy ecosystem; protecting water quantity and quality; providing for aesthetic enrichment for future generations.

**SUSTAINED YIELD** - Management of forestland to produce a relatively constant amount of wood products, revenue or wildlife.

**THINNING** - A tree removal practice that reduces tree density and competition between trees in a stand. Thinning concentrates growth on fewer, high-quality trees, provides periodic income, and generally enhances

tree vigor. Heavy thinning can benefit wildlife through the increased growth of ground vegetation.

**TIMBER CRUISE** - A survey of forestland to locate timber and estimate its quantity by species, products, size, quality, or other characteristics.

**TIMBER STAND IMPROVEMENT (TSI)** - Improving the quality of a forest stand by removing or deadening undesirable species to achieve desired stocking and species composition. TSI practices include applying herbicides, burning, girdling, or cutting.

**TOLERANT SPECIES** - A species of tree that has the ability to grow in the shade of other trees and in competition with them.

**TREE FARM** - A privately owned forest or woodland in which timber crop production is a major management goal. Many tree farms are officially recognized by the American Tree Farm System, an organization sponsored by the American Forestry Foundation.

**TREE SPACING** - The distance between trees, which is most often regulated at the time of planting or during a harvest or thinning operation. Spacing, like stand density, affects understory vegetation, seed production, growth rate, and wildlife habitat.

**UNDERSTORY** - (a) The layer formed by the crowns of smaller trees in a forest. (b) The trees beneath the forest canopy.

**WATER BAR** - A diagonal ditch or hump in a trail that diverts surface water runoff to minimize soil erosion.

**WATER CONTROL** - Management of water (both surface and subsurface) to maintain plant growth, water quality, wildlife habitat, and fire control.

**WATERSHED**- an area where all water running off the land drains to a specific location. Sometimes called basin.

**WILDLIFE** - A broad term that includes non domesticated vertebrates, especially mammals, birds, and fish.

**WINDROW** - A long, narrow row of vegetation, debris, and some soil created during site preparation and clearing operations.

**WINDTHROW** - Trees uprooted by excessive wind. Shallow-rooted trees are almost always affected.

# Kentucky contacts

## Kentucky Division of Water

14 Reilly Road  
Frankfort, KY 40601  
(502) 564-3410  
[www.water.ky.gov](http://www.water.ky.gov)

## Kentucky Division of Conservation

663 Teton Trail  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
(502) 564-3080  
[www.conservation.ky.gov](http://www.conservation.ky.gov)

## District Conservation Offices

Butler Co. Cons. Dist., (270) 526-3784

Breckinridge, Butler, Daviess, Grayson, Hancock, Henderson, Logan (North & South), McLean, Ohio, Simpson, Warren

Green Co. Cons. Dist., (270) 932-4244

Adair, Allen, Barren, Clinton, Cumberland, Edmonson, Green, Hart, Metcalfe, Monroe, Russell

Caldwell Co. Cons. Dist., (270) 365-5533

Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Hopkins, Lyon, Muhlenburg, Todd, Trigg, Union, Webster

McCracken Co. Cons. Dist., (270) 554-7264

Ballard, Calloway, Carlisle, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Livingston, Marshall, McCracken

Gallatin Co. Cons. Dist., (859) 567-4441

Boone, Bracken, Campbell, Carroll, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, Mason, Owen, Pendleton, Robertson

Rowan Co. Cons. Dist., (606) 784-5375

Boyd, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Greenup, Johnson, Lawrence, Lewis, Martin, Menifee, Morgan, Rowan

Laurel Co. Cons. Dist., (606) 864-2180

Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, McCreary, Pulaski, Rockcastle, Wayne, Whitley

Mercer Co. Cons. Dist., (859) 734-6889

Anderson, Boyle, Casey, Garrard, Jessamine, Lincoln, Marion, Mercer, Nelson, Taylor, Washington

Div. of Conservation, (502) 564-3080

Bath, Bourbon, Clark, Estill, Fayette, Franklin, Harrison, Madison, Montgomery, Nicholas, Powell, Scott, Woodford

Perry Co. Cons. Dist., (606) 436-3731

Breathitt, Floyd, Knott, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Wolfe

Oldham Co. Cons. Dist., (502) 222-5123

Bullitt, Hardin, Henry, Jefferson, Larue, Meade, Oldham, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble

**Kentucky Division of Forestry**

627 Comanche Trail

Frankfort, KY 40601

(502)564-4496

Division Information Officer: [gwen.holt@mail.state.ky.us](mailto:gwen.holt@mail.state.ky.us)

[www.forestry.ky.gov](http://www.forestry.ky.gov)

**District Forestry Offices**

**BLUEGRASS DISTRICT**

Kentucky Division of Forestry

P. O. Box 516

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Phone (502) 573-1085 or 573-1086

Fax (502) 573-1088

Counties served:

Anderson, Gallatin, Oldham, Boone, Garrard, Owen, Bourbon, Grant, Pendleton, Bracken,  
Harrison, Scott, Campbell, Henry, Shelby, Carroll, Jessamine, Trimble, Fayette, Kenton,  
Woodford, Franklin and Madison

#### NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT

Kentucky Division of Forestry  
255 Rodburn Hollow  
Morehead, Kentucky 40351  
Phone (606) 784-7504  
Fax (606) 784-2686

#### Counties served:

Bath, Fleming, Montgomery, Boyd, Greenup, Morgan, Carter,  
Lewis, Nicholas, Clark, Mason, Robertson Elliott, Menifee and Rowan

#### EASTERN DISTRICT

Kentucky Division of Forestry  
P.O. Box 189  
Betsy Layne, Kentucky 41605  
Phone (606) 478-4495  
Fax (606) 478-4491

#### Counties Served:

Floyd, Lawrence, Martin, Johnson, Magoffin and Pike

#### KENTUCKY RIVER DISTRICT

Kentucky Division of Forestry  
P.O. Box 702  
Hazard, Kentucky 41702  
Phone (606) 435-6073  
Fax (606) 435-6075

#### Counties served:

Breathitt, Lee, Perry, Estill, Letcher, Powell, Knott, Owsley and Wolfe

SOUTHEASTERN DISTRICT

Kentucky Division of Forestry  
P O Box 130  
Pineville, KY 40977  
Phone (606) 337-3011  
Fax (606)337-1630

Counties served:

Bell, Clay, Harlan, Jackson, Knox, Laurel, Leslie, McCreary, Rockcastle and Whitley

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

Kentucky Division of Forestry  
120 Gaines Drive  
Campbellsville, KY 42718  
Phone (270) 465-5071  
Fax (270) 465-3575

Counties served:

Adair, Boyle, Casey, Clinton, Cumberland, Green, Lincoln, Marion,  
Mercer, Metcalfe, Monroe, Pulaski, Russell, Taylor, Washington and Wayne

CENTRAL DISTRICT

Kentucky Division of Forestry  
129 Howell Drive  
Elizabethtown, Kentucky 42701  
Phone (270) 766-5010  
Fax (270) 766-5013

Counties served:

Allen, Hancock, Meade, Barren, Hardin, Nelson, Breckinridge, Hart,  
Simpson, Bullitt, Jefferson, Spencer, Edmonson, Larue, Warren and Grayson

GREEN RIVER DISTRICT  
Kentucky Division of Forestry  
P.O. Box 465  
Madisonville, Kentucky 42431  
Phone (270) 824-7527  
Fax (270) 824-7593

Counties served:  
Butler, Hopkins, Ohio, Christian, Logan, Todd, Daviess,  
McLean, Union, Henderson, Muhlenberg and Webster

WESTERN DISTRICT  
Kentucky Division of Forestry  
P O Box 349  
Mayfield KY 42066  
Phone: (270) 247-3913  
Fax (270) 247-7593

Counties served:  
Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman,  
Livingston, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken and Trigg

#### **Kentucky Consulting Foresters**

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Wilson Forestry, LLC  
Gavin Wilson, CF  
112 Magnolia St  
Barbourville KY 40906  
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## Kentucky Woodland Owners Association

Traveling Kentucky highways we see farms producing prize-winning corn and soybeans. But the hills behind those fields are often covered by scrubby, non-productive forest trees. This is the result of harvest methods that take all the most valuable trees while leaving the weak ones and the non-merchantable species.

How long would a farmer be in business if he consistently sold all his best cattle and kept only the runts for breeding stock? But this is what has been going on in Kentucky woods for over 100 years!

Put simply, forest landowners too often have been manipulated and exploited by interests seeking their own quick profit. Non-landowners have been making the decisions for you about your timber taxes, erosion control and wildlife protection, freedom to harvest your timber, markets for woodland products, log prices, and legal liabilities for land use. There has been no organization speaking for the landowner!

KWOA is changing that. The Kentucky Woodland Owners Association meets routinely with key leaders to discuss issues and concerns facing landowners. The meetings are crucial because:

- Environmental regulations and land taxes are increasing
- Timber markets are limited and dominated by a few big buyers
- Few voters understand rural landowner concerns
- Government assistance programs for forestry are being cut dramatically
- Networks with woodland owners associations in 27 other states in order to inform landowners of important forestry issues.

Since 1994, the Kentucky Woodland Owners Association has worked hard so you could

- Protect your right to practice forestry
- Start earning a steady income from your forest
- Heal the trees in your forest for long term production
- Bring your forest and wildlife back to ecological health

For membership information contact:

**Kentucky Woodland Owners Association**  
**Hutton and Loyd Tree Farm**  
**1483 Big Run Road Wallingford, KY 41093**  
**606.876.3423**

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## Before you Harvest. . . protect your interests.

### **1. Seek the advice of a trusted attorney.**

It is important to seek the advice of the forestry professionals, either at state agencies or a private consulting firm who can help you plan for a harvest. Description of the services they provide is on the following page.

It is equally important for you to seek the advice of an attorney who can prepare for you a timber sale contract. Timber sale contracts are not complicated or lengthy and no fine print is necessary. A trusted local attorney can use the sample provided on the following page to draft a contract which meets your specific needs. Take the Landowner's Handbook with you to show the attorney exactly which management practices are to be referenced in your contract.

### **2. Don't be talked out of using a contract.**

Too many Kentucky landowner's have made the mistake of entering into a logging agreement on a verbal understanding and a firm handshake. The logger and the landowner are both well advised to have a clear written understanding of the terms of the logging project, including the timber harvest management practice standards to be used by the logger.

The prudent landowner will have no problem addressing both his financial and ecological concerns with the logger if a proper timber sale contract is prepared. Don't be persuaded to enter into a verbal logging agreement. Any ethical logger understands that you have a legal right to a signed written contract to avoid misunderstandings.

***If a logger is attempting to talk you out of using the timber sale contract, that is the first red flag letting you know that you may be talking with the wrong logger.***

### **3. Who should pay for the contract?**

First, the timber sale contract is not an expensive legal document. By reviewing the sample on the next page, you will notice that the contract is not lengthy or complicated. Read this sample contract thoroughly before visiting your attorney. Your advance preparation will likely limit his or her time to a couple of hours. This will be a minor cost of the overall timber harvesting project. By accepting the responsibility of paying for the binding timber sale contract, you get the comfort of knowing your interests are protected. The old saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" is applicable here.

The cost of a simple contract is only a fraction of the cost of property damage or a dispute over timber sales proceeds.

### **4. Can I just use the contract in the Handbook?**

The contract in the handbook is only an example. You are encouraged to use the sample contract as a basis for discussion and consultation with an attorney of your choosing. The drafting of a binding contract should be done by an attorney whom you trust. The sample is not intended to be used by you without first consulting with your attorney.

***The contract on the following page is a sample and is to be used as a guideline only. Consult your local attorney to add or amend this sample to meet your specific needs.***

***Content that is underlined or where options are listed (E.G.: a. or b. ) requires consideration for your specific circumstances.***

***Many thanks for Michael Campbell (Campbell, Rogers and Blair, Attorneys at Law) for drafting this sample contract.***

## SAMPLE TIMBER SALE CONTRACT

THIS TIMBER SALE CONTRACT is made and entered into this 4th day of July, 2005 by and between Joe and Edna Maple, husband and wife, hereafter referred to as “Landowners”, and Johnny Timberlake, hereafter referred to as “Logger.”

Landowners are owners of certain real property located on Troublesome Creek Rd. in Noe County, Kentucky, more particularly described by the attached copy of Landowner’s deed and hereafter referred to as the “property”. Landowners agree to sell, and Logger agrees to purchase, a certain boundary of timber marked and designated on the property under the terms and conditions set forth below:

1. **Price.** Logger and Landowners shall share equally, fifty percent to Logger and fifty percent to Landowners, the gross price received for each load of timber cut and sold hereunder. Logger shall provide to Landowner a true and accurate copy of any and all logging tickets/receipts, and shall immediately pay to the Landowners their share of the sale proceeds activities as set forth above.
2. **Operation Control.** Logger shall be responsible for the activities of their employees, agents, subcontractors and their employees and agents, acting in the course of their employment in operations under this contract. Logger represents that a Master Logger, as defined by Kentucky law, shall be present at the site to oversee the operations under this contract. Logger further represents that all vehicles and equipment used in the operation are in good safe working condition and are insured pursuant to Kentucky law, as applicable.
3. **Liability for Injury.** This is a sales contract and not a joint venture between Landowner and Logger. Logger assumes all liability for injury to employees, agents, subcontractors and their employees and agents, and represents to Landowner that Logger is in compliance with the worker’s compensation laws in the Commonwealth of Kentucky during the course of the activities under this contract. Furthermore, Logger shall indemnify and hold harmless Landowners from and against all claims and demands arising out of or in connection with work performed under this contract.
4. **Time.** Logger agrees to perform the task of cutting and removing all designated timber for sale on or before July 4th, 2006.
5. **Performance Bond.**
  - a. Logger shall obtain, at Logger’s sole cost, and maintain in effect during the term of this contract, including any extensions thereof, a general liability insurance bond with limits of not less than \$500,000.00 for personal injury and \$250,000.00 for property damage and shall produce to Landowners certificates evidencing the existence of such insurance bond.
  - OR
  - b. Logger shall remit directly to Landowner \$\_\_\_\_\_ in cash to be held as a performance bond in effect during the term of this contract, including any extensions thereof. Such bond shall be in effect to reimburse Landowner for any expenses or losses arising from the harvest activities conducted by the Logger, his employees, agents, subcontractors and their employees and agents.
6. **Assignment and Modification.** Neither party shall, without prior written consent of the other, assign or otherwise transfer any interest in this contract. Nor shall any amendment or modification of this contract be effective unless reduced to writing and signed by both parties. Landowner’s delay or failure to cancel or terminate this agreement upon the occurrence of any default shall not be deemed a waiver or release by Landowner of rights, claims or causes of action arising from this contract or by common or statutory law.
7. **Timber Harvest Management Practices.** Logger and Landowner specifically covenant, acknowledge and agree that The Kentucky Forest Landowner’s Handbook, 2004 edition, hereafter “Handbook”, shall control timber harvest management activities under this contract and are, therefore, of the essence of this contract. Logger agrees to conduct the activities under this contract in a manner so as to take all reasonable precautions to prevent pollution of

soil, water and air and to prevent fires and fire hazards. Upon Logger's failure to conduct timber harvest activities in accordance with the above-referenced Handbook or upon Logger's failure to keep or perform any of the covenants or agreements contained in this contract, the Logger shall be in default and the Landowners may, at their election, cancel this agreement and terminate all rights and privileges of the Logger hereunder. Upon such termination, Logger's right to enter any part of the property or to cut or remove logs shall immediately cease and terminate.

**A. Sinkholes.** Avoid harvesting near sinkholes according to pages A-2 and A-3 of the Handbook. Use the Forest Conservation Act (FCA)/Agriculture Water Quality Act (AWQA) and all legal requirements.

**B. Stream Management Zones.** Vegetation and soil should remain undisturbed in the stream management zone to protect stream and aquatic life from silt, sediment and disturbance from harvest activities. Use the Forest Conservation Act (FCA)/Agriculture Water Quality Act (AWQA), all legal requirements and pages A-6 through A-9 of the Handbook.

**C. Wetlands.** Avoid harvesting near wetlands. Wetlands will be flagged and identified by Landowners and shall be off limits to all forestry operations. Use the Forest Conservation Act (FCA)/Agriculture Water Quality Act (AWQA), all legal requirements and pages A-6 through A-9 of the Handbook, pages A-10 and A-12 of the Handbook.

**D. Forest Access Roads.** All access roads, whether permanent or temporary, shall be constructed to minimize erosion and maximize safety. Reference pages A-13 through A-18 of the Handbook for design and construction of all access roads, plus adhere to all state and federal laws that apply.

**E. Stream Crossings.** Avoid crossing streams if possible. Reference pages A-19 and A-20 of the Handbook if stream crossing is necessary to conduct forestry operations. Also adhere to all state and federal laws that apply.

**F. Skid Trails.** Skid trail pattern shall be designed to minimize environmental impact to the property.

Reference pages A-21 of the Handbook for the construction, maintenance and removal of skid trails, plus adhere to all state and federal laws that apply.

**G. Log Decks and Landings.** Any log deck or landing shall be constructed according to requirements of FCA/AWQA and all other regulatory requirements noted on page A-22 of the Handbook.

**H. Temporary Stabilization Measures.** Use temporary stabilization measures as noted and recommended on page A-24 of the Handbook.

**I. Harvest Operation Measures.** Follow all harvest operation measures recommended for stream management zones, access roads, stream crossings, skid trails, and log landings set forth in the Handbook as noted on pages A-24 through A-29, plus adhere to all state and federal laws that apply.

**J. PostHarvest Inspection.** The closeout phase shall be conducted according to the recommendations in the Handbook as noted on pages A-31 through A-37, plus adhere to all state and federal laws that apply. Logger agrees that no logging equipment shall be removed from the property until the Landowner conducts an inspection of the entire harvest area. Landowner reserves the right to conduct the PostHarvest inspection with the aid and consultation of a professional forester and/or members of appropriate state and federal regulatory agencies.

**K. Re-vegetation and Pesticides.** No pesticides shall be used by the logger in the forestry operations under this contract. Re-vegetation shall conform to the recommendations in the handbook as noted on page A-38, plus adhere to all state and federal laws that apply.

**8. Timber Boundary.** Landowner has designated the timber boundary within which the timber harvest shall take place. No trees other than those marked within the designated timber boundary shall be cut or removed, with the exception of those trees which must be removed to construct skid trails and access roads. The timber boundary is marked and designated by three bright orange stripes painted on the boundary trees. Trees designated for cutting, removal, and sale are marked with three blue stripes painted at approximately eye level. Logger shall compensate landowner three times the market rate for any trees cut or removed that are not marked as stated above.

Attached hereto is a copy of Landowner's deed with a description of the property upon which the timber boundary is located.

Each party hereto acknowledges that they possess or have access to a copy of The Kentucky Forest Landowner's Handbook.

Witness our hand this 4th day of July, 2005.

Landowners:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Logger:

\_\_\_\_\_