



Agricultural
Preservation
Restriction
Program

MDAR APR Program Application for Certificate of Approval (COA) – Forestry

Certificate of Approval (COA) Application Requirements & Information

- Read your APR Document prior to applying, your APR may not require approval for forestry work.
- If your APR requires a COA, you must submit either:
 1. A forest management plan prepared by a licensed professional resource manager, approved by the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), which is less than 10 years old, if the harvest is exempt from the Forest Cutting Practices Act under M.G.L. Ch. 132 § 44, but Department approval is still required by the APR document, OR
 2. A Forest Cutting Plan approved by DCR and dated within 2 years of the COA request. Learn more: <https://www.mass.gov/guides/forest-cutting-practices-act>
- Upon review of this application, the APR Program reserves the right to request additional materials such as additional site plans.
- Work related to this application may not begin prior to receiving a recordable Certificate of Approval (COA) from the Department.

Landowner Contact (name, address, phone & email): _____

Name of Original Grantor of APR & Address of APR: _____

Is the APR Co-held by a municipality? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure ☐

The Co-holder is identified in the APR document or a separately recorded Co-holder Agreement. If yes, you may need to request additional approval from the Co-holder.

Does your APR contain USDA/NRCS federal language? Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Sure ☐

You may attach detailed responses separately to this application.

1. Describe the current use of the APR land:

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2. Describe the proposed forest management or timber harvesting activities. Be sure to include acreage of cutting, board feet or cords of timber being harvested, timeframe and other relevant details:

3. Describe how the proposed activity aligns with the goals and recommendations outlined in your Forest Management Plan or Forest Cutting Plan:

4. Describe access roads for work to be done and detail any new roads that will be created:

5. **You must include the following attachment to this application:**
 - ☐ A map/layout plan showing the location and scale of the forestry work to be done.
 - ☐ A forest management plan prepared by a licensed professional resource manager, approved by the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR), which is less than 10 years old, **OR**
 - ☐ A forest cutting plan approved by DCR and dated within 2 years of the COA request.

What is the Forest Cutting Practices Act?

The FCPA protects the benefits of forests through a permitting process. Applicable to timber harvesting on both public and private forestland, the FCPA regulates any commercial timber cutting of wood products greater than 25 thousand board feet or 50 cords on any parcel of land at any one time. Activities exempt under the FCPA include harvesting for:

- rights-of-way for public utilities and public highways
- cultivation, pasture or pasture maintenance
- non-commercial (domestic) use of the landowner or tenant
- changing land use, such as the creation of a house lot, a subdivision or for any other activity requiring town or city permits
- small commercial harvests (however, a cutting plan may be filed to gain exemption to M.G.L. Ch. 131, the Wetlands Protection Act, if wetland resources are involved).

If an activity is not exempt, the FCPA requires filing a Forest Cutting Plan with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the local conservation commission at least ten (10) days before the proposed start date.

Please see last page for required signatures...

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Landowner signature: _____ Date: _____

Landowner signature: _____ Date: _____

This space can be used for any additional comments or information (optional):