

## **NATURAL REGENERATION NOTES**

1. **In General:** The area(s) shown on the Final Forest Conservation Plan as "Natural Regeneration Area(s)" is identified as an area that is deemed to have a high success rate in establishing native, non-invasive/exotic, woody forest tree and shrub species within a three-year period.<sup>1</sup> These areas are either identified by areas that:
  - a) May have been recently plowed or are not currently supporting native seedling tree-growth, but that are within 50-75' of mature, native trees that can provide a seed source to provide for natural regeneration; or
  - b) Currently show native seedling tree and shrub species growth at a density of 400/seedlings per acre, or are judged to exhibit such a density within the three-year maintenance period.
2. **Goal and Purpose:** The purpose of establishing Natural Regeneration areas is to allow a natural growth to take the place of reforestation and afforestation in providing for the establishment of a native tree and shrub seedling base that is relatively free of invasive, exotic species infestation.
3. **Financial Guarantees and Minimum Requirements:** Financial guarantees/sureties shall be held and not released until the subject area meets the density thresholds indicated within this paragraph. Areas designated as "Natural Regeneration" shall meet one of two plant/seedling thresholds at the end of the three-year maintenance period:
  - a) 400 living native, non-invasive, non-exotic tree and/or shrub species per acre of Natural Regeneration Area; or
  - b) the area of Natural Regeneration meets the definition of 'forest', as defined in this Chapter.

*Forest - Areas that have at least 100 trees per acre with at least 50% of those trees having a 2 inch or greater diameter at 4.5 feet above the ground.*

4. **Control and Monitoring for Non-native, Invasive, Exotics:** Monitoring Natural Regeneration Areas by the Developer will be required to determine if non-native, invasive, exotic growth emerges. If invasive, exotics are identified, they shall be removed in accordance with the specifications outlined by the Department or contained within the Final Forest Conservation Plan herein, whichever is more stringent.
5. **Fencing/Signage and Flagging Required:** Fencing and/or signage of the Natural Regeneration Areas shall be required as shown on the approved Final Forest Conservation Plan herein. If any grading or disturbance within the natural Regeneration areas is proposed native, target vegetation within the Natural Regeneration Area(s) shall be clearly flagged with surveyor's ribbon or otherwise identified in a clear and recognized manner. Flagging or otherwise identifying target vegetation shall be done so as to prevent removal of desirable (native) species.
6. **Grading:** Natural Regeneration areas ordinarily shall not be graded or cleared, except by approval of the Department. Holes created by grading or the removal of roots of undesirable trees are to be filled with topsoil.

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<sup>1</sup> *The Department has encountered a long history of limited success with Natural Regeneration. Therefore, the Department will generally limit forest conservation plans to more than 0.5 acres of proposed natural regeneration unless the Applicant can successfully demonstrate that a proposed Natural Regeneration Area greater than 0.5 acres is likely to meet the stocking threshold standards within a three year period.*

7. **Stabilizing Bare Ground:** All bare ground areas resulting from mechanical control methods are to be immediately stabilized. Disturbed areas with sufficient light shall be seeded per the improvement plan specifications. Densely shaded areas shall be mulched with 2" of shredded hardwood mulch or wood chips. The use of heavy equipment within non-wetland floodplain areas is prohibited, unless the soil is dry enough for the equipment to be supported without excessive damage to the soil or desirable ground cover plants. Heavy equipment is not allowed in wetlands or streams.
8. **Protecting Living Root Mats:** Root mats of plants treated with herbicides are to remain in place to stabilize the soil.
9. **Debris Removal:** Brush, root mats, and debris resulting from the use of mechanical controls shall be removed from the site and properly disposed.
10. **Back-up Planting List:** In the event of Natural Regeneration failure in part or whole, the Back-Up Planting List shown on the Final Forest Conservation Plan herein shall be used to supplant or augment areas of Natural Regeneration failure.