

V. Lutter



Carroll County Forestry Board

328-A East Nicodemus Road
Westminster, MD 21157
410-848-9290

To: Carroll County Commissioners
C/o Tom Robertson, Jr., Registered Forester
Carroll County Maintenance Center
1250 Meadow Branch Road
Westminster, MD 21158

23 August 2007

The Forest Conservancy District Board for Carroll County is in receipt of the "Forest Stewardship Plan for Airport Papi Light Replacement" prepared for 6 acres of county owned woodland adjacent to Pinch Valley Road and Indian Valley Trail, located within the boundaries of the Jack Poage Westminster Airport.

In accordance with the provisions of the Forest Conservation Act (COMAR 08.19.05.02F), the Board is required to review the woodland slated for timber harvest because the targeted acreage is within a forest conservation ordinance easement drafted and initiated during the airport's first expansion phase. The Board's review is to ensure that the proposed timber harvest meets the requirements of the Carroll County Forest Conservation Ordinance (referencing Section 3.3.3, page 3-39, item 2 of the Carroll County Forest Conservation Manual- attached), and that the timber harvest plan incorporates applicable Sediment Control Best Management Practices (BMP's) for forest harvests. As is the case with any harvest, harvests proposed within a forest conservation easement area are required to obtain all of the permits and approvals necessary for any timber harvest within the county.

After reviewing the "Forest Stewardship Plan for Airport Papi Light Replacement" the Board has determined that the plan format incorporates all elements required in a Forest Stewardship Plan, and the associated Timber Harvest Plan incorporates applicable BMP's, as stated in the Custom Erosion and Sediment Control Plan for Forest Harvest Operations. However, the **timber harvest prescription** proposed in the Forest Stewardship Plan **does not** meet the requirements of the Carroll County Forest Conservation Ordinance. The conditions provided in the plan submitted indicate that the post-harvest basal area of the clearcut areas (1.91 acres) will be 25 square feet of basal area/acre. The county ordinance requires that the "post-harvest basal area, trees per acre, and stocking percent must be within 70 square feet of basal area". Therefore, the Board cannot approve the proposed timber harvest plan, as submitted, on the 1.91 acres in question within the forest conservation easement area on the Airport property.

According to guidelines in the State Code of Maryland Regulations for Forest Conservation, the applicant can apply for a variance to the ordinance. A letter requesting a variance must be submitted with documentation sufficient to show why the variance is necessary and appropriate.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the Board's decision, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Sies (ed)".

John Sies
Acting Chairman

Cc: C. Parr
V. Luther
T. Ericson
file