



PUTNAM COUNTY PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

117 Putnam Drive, Suite B ♦ Eatonton, GA 31024

Tel: 706-485-2776 ♦ 706-485-0552 fax ♦ www.putnamcountyga.us

ARTICLE III. - TIMBER HARVESTING

Sec. 46-81. - Driveways.

Although not required to obtain a permit, any person or firm engaged in the cutting, removing or harvesting of standing timber in any unincorporated area of the county for delivery as pulpwood, logs, poles, posts, or wood chips to any woodyard or processing plant located inside or outside this state shall create and/or maintain a driveway in compliance with the provisions of this chapter, pertaining to streets, sidewalks and other public property, so long as timber harvesting operations are ongoing.

DIVISION 2. - BOND OR LETTER OF CREDIT

Sec. 46-82. - Required.

Any person or firm engaged in the cutting, removing or harvesting of standing timber in any unincorporated area of the county for delivery as pulpwood, logs, poles, posts, or wood chips to any woodyard or processing plant located inside or outside this state shall deliver to the board of commissioners or its designated agent a valid surety bond, executed by a surety corporation authorized to transact business in this state, protecting the county against any damage caused by such person or firm in the amount of \$5,000.00 or, at the option of the person or firm harvesting timber, a valid irrevocable letter of credit issued by a bank or savings and loan association, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 7-1-4, in the amount of \$5,000.00 in lieu of such bond. The bond will remain in force with the condition of access sites and county roads being found satisfactory as described by this article.

- (1) Otherwise, a valid replacement bond must be obtained and delivered to the governing authority of such county or municipality or its designated agent no later than the close of business on the fifth business day following the day that such governing authority filed a claim to recover damages against the then-existing bond. Upon filing such claim, such governing authority shall immediately provide notice thereof, including the date such claim was filed, to the person or firm causing the damage. Such notice may be given in person, by transmission of an electronic record via tele facsimile, or by e-mail.
- (2) The surety bond shall be conditioned upon the faithful performance of all requirements of this article, the violation of which shall authorize the forfeiture of such amount of the bond as may be required to repair any damage caused to any county road or right-of-way. However, the posting of a suitable bond shall not relieve the principal for any liability for damages over and above the actual amount of any such damages.

Sec. 46-83. - Validity.

The surety bond and/or irrevocable letter of credit required under this division shall be valid only for the calendar year in which it is delivered.

DIVISION 3. - NOTICE

Sec. 46-106. - Required.

No person or firm shall begin to cut, remove or harvest standing timber in any unincorporated area of the county for delivery as pulpwood, logs, poles, posts, or wood chips to any woodyard or processing plant located inside or outside this state without first providing notice of such harvesting operations to the board of commissioners prior to cutting any such timber.

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State Law reference— Local governing authority may require notice of timber harvesting and bond or letter of credit from harvesting entity, O.C.G.A. § 12-6-24. Sec. 46-107. - Form of notice.

Prior written notice shall be required of any person or firm 48 hours in advance of harvesting such timber for each separate tract to be harvested thereby, shall be in such form as prescribed by rule or regulation of the director of the state forestry commission, and shall consist of the following:

- (1) A map of the area which identifies the location of the tract to be harvested and, as to those trucks which will be traveling to and from such tract for purposes of picking up and hauling loads of cut forest products, the main point of ingress to such tract from a public road and, if different, the main point of egress from such tract to a public road;
- (2) A statement as to whether the timber will be removed pursuant to a lump sum sale, per unit sale, or owner harvest for purposes of ad valorem taxation under O.C.G.A. § 48-5-7.5;
- (3) The name, address, and daytime telephone number of the timber seller if the harvest is pursuant to a lump sum or per unit sale or of the timber owner if the harvest is an owner harvest; and
- (4) The name, business address, business telephone number, and nighttime or emergency telephone number of the person or firm harvesting such timber.

Sec. 46-108. - Failure to provide bond.

The failure of any person or firm to provide the surety bond or irrevocable letter of credit required under division 2 of this article shall render the notice required in this division ineffective for any such harvesting operations unless and until the person or firm providing such notice has delivered to the board of commissioners a valid surety bond or irrevocable letter of credit.

Sec. 46-109. - Inspection.

- (a) An appointment for ingress/egress inspection shall be scheduled 24 hours in advance of the commencement of activity with the public works department to allow the public works director or his designated agent to inspect the site prior to any activity at the proposed ingress/egress location.
- (b) The following minimum standards shall be met unless directed otherwise by the public works director or his designated agent:
 - (1) When applicable a culvert is required along the right-of-way and the size and length of the culvert. If a culvert is required, it shall be installed as directed by the public works representative and at the expense of the business entity that paid the road access fee. Unless waived by the designee, access onto public roads shall have stone pads. The applicant shall be responsible for a stone pad at the access point to stop any dirt and mud from adhering to county roads. Any dirt brought onto county roads shall be removed immediately so as not to destroy improved surfaces or endanger passing vehicles.
 - (2) Use geotextile underliner minimum 20 feet wide under gravel pad.
 - (3) Minimum drive width shall be 20 feet.
 - (4) Minimum thickness of six inches constructed of one and one-half inches to three and one-half inches of coarse aggregate for a minimum drive length of 50 feet.
 - (5) The street or road, at each ingress/egress point, shall be posted with four 48-inch orange "Trucks Entering Highway" advance warning signs placed on the shoulder of the road at 500 feet and 1,000 feet intervals from both directions. Signs and posts shall conform to the current edition of the Manual for Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
- (c) At completion of harvest, contractors must restore the ditch line, back slopes and road shoulders to their original condition or better. Further, such persons shall give notice of cessation of cutting within 24 hours after the job is completed. The site will be inspected by the designee within 48 hours. If at this time, access sites are not in proper repair, operators will make the required repairs at his expense. Operators shall remove temporary culverts they installed by completion of the project.

Sec. 46-110. - Logging, chipping, and pulpwood specifics.

- (a) All log loading, chipping or pulpwood loading operations shall be conducted at a loading site off of the county road right-of-way and behind the established ditch line of the county roads.

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- (b) Loading or skidding of logs or pulpwood will not be permitted on the county roads or their rights-of-way.
- (c) County road ditches at the access site shall be kept clear of all debris or residue at all times to allow for proper drainage.
- (d) County roadways at the access site shall be kept clear of company, corporation or individually owned vehicles and the roadway must be kept in a clean and serviceable condition at all times so as not to restrict the passage of other vehicles using the roadway.
- (e) The access site of logging, chipping, and pulp wooding operations shall be clearly marked with signs in both directions with the name of the company, corporation or individual and "Trucks Entering Roadway" clearly visible to passing motorists.
- (f) During periods of inclement weather, no logging or timber cutting travel shall take place on county roads until passage can be made without damage to county roads.

Sec. 46-111. - Suspension of operations.

The public works department or designee shall have the authority to require any company, corporation or individual to cease operations when:

- (1) It is determined that access sites have not been properly installed or maintained;
- (2) It is determined that delivery or transport vehicles traveling over any county roads are causing damage to the road such that road conditions for the passage of smaller and lighter passenger vehicles has been substantially hampered, whether due to rain, inclement weather or otherwise;
- (3) It is determined that the use of county roads by delivery or transport vehicles is significantly damaging the roadways of such roads, whether due to rain, inclement weather, or otherwise;
- (4) The company, corporation or individual has not posted the required surety bond or irrevocable letter of credit;
or
- (5) The company, corporation or individual has not submitted a notice of timber harvesting activity form.
- (6) If any of the requirements of section 46-110 of this chapter are violated a stop work order shall be issued immediately.

Stop work order is a legal notice requiring immediate suspension of all work and timber harvesting, that will be issued when one or more of requirements of this section or section 46-110 is violated. A fee of \$400.00 must be paid to planning and development prior to removal of stop work order. In addition, a reinspection will be required prior to removal of stop work order.

Sec. 46-112. - Penalty.

Any individual, company or other business enterprise who shall violate a provision of this article, or fail to comply therewith, or with any of the requirements thereof, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, an offense punishable as provided in section 1-13. Each such person shall be deemed guilty of a separate offense for each and every day or portion thereof during which any violation of any of the provisions of this article is committed or continued, and upon conviction of any such violation such person shall be punished within the limits and as provided by state laws. The building inspector, code enforcement officer or the county sheriff or any of his deputies may issue a citation for a violation of this article.

Pursuant to the soil erosion, sedimentation and pollution control ordinance, subsection 42-67(c), a citation will be issued immediately upon proof of any sediment entering onto a public street or road or sedimentation entering any waters of the state or United States.

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NOTICE OF TIMBER HARVESTING ACTIVITY Official Code of Georgia Annotated, Section 12-6-24 Georgia Forestry Commission

County: _____ Timber Sale Acreage: _____ Date Submitted: _____

Check Appropriate: Landowner Timber Seller Legal Representative
Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip code: _____
Daytime Phone No.: _____

Timber Buyer Information

Name: _____
Business Name: _____
Business Address: _____
City: _____ State & Zip: _____
Business Phone No.: _____
Night/Emergency Phone No.: _____

Logger/Harvester Information

Name: _____
Business Name: _____
Business Address: _____
City: _____ State Zip: _____
Business Phone No.: _____
Night/Emergency Phone No.: _____

Timber Sale Type: Lump Sum Unit/Load Owner Harvest

Please attach/draw a map to identify (1) tract location, and (2) point(s) of ingress & egress from public road(s). Include identified points of reference, such as streams, public roads, right of ways, landmarks, map/parcel number, distances, etc., to ensure county acknowledgement and understanding of location.

Office Use Only:

T2020-_____

Map/Parcel: _____ Zoning Class: _____

Approved to start: _____ Date _____

Letter of Credit ___ Received: _____ Amount: \$ _____ Expires: _____

Notified of Completion _____ Inspected by: _____

Bond Company: _____ Bond #: _____

Bond Released: _____

Business License: County: _____ Expires: _____

Form 12-6-24
Georgia Forestry Commission
August 2002