



## *Appalachian Sustainable Development*

*“Building Economy, Community and Environment  
in Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia”*

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### **Standards of Sustainable Forest Management**

Adopted by the ASD Board of Directors on September 21, 1999

Appalachian Sustainable Development’s Standards of Sustainable Forest Management is a body of principles that directs both the planning and the implementation of our practices. The standards are written as a living document, subject to continuous evaluation and adaptation. A formal expression of the Standards is the ASD Forest Management Plan. It signifies the landowner’s and ASD’s commitments to long-term forest stewardship by stating each party’s objectives and compiling the information needed in the decision making to achieve those objectives. Implementation of the plan is guided by the standards in which direct ASD’s forestry staff to discharge three obligations:

- 1. Foremost, to protect and enhance the ecological integrity and vitality of the forested communities under consideration.**
- 2. To meet the economic, social, aesthetic and other needs and requirements of the forest landowner, so far as possible, without abridging the first obligation.**
- 3. To provide useful, certified sustainably-produced wood products for processing and distribution by ASD and related institutions.**

## Key Elements of ASD's Silvicultural Standards:

- All harvesting must meet or exceed state Best Management Practices (BMP's).
- Harvesting should minimize new road construction or road widening. Where road construction or widening is necessary, it should meet the more stringent standards of either Tennessee or Virginia BMP's.
- Generally, uneven-aged stands within the forest are preferred.
- For regenerating shade-tolerant species (e.g. sugar maple, soft maple, beech, dogwood) single tree selection, shelterwood and small group selection harvest methods are likely to be used.
- Group selections (path clear cuts) will typically range from ½ - 1 acre in size, depending upon slope, aspect, present species composition and related factors. Canopy openings will not exceed 2 acres without special justification.
- Canopy openings of any size should be sufficiently spaced to prevent fragmentation of the forest.
- Any one harvest can not "open up" more than 10% of the total forest area (i.e. convert it to the stand initiation phase that follows a clear cut).
- Riparian zones are defined as lands within 100 horizontal feet of a perennial stream and 50 horizontal feet of an intermittent stream, ephemeral stream or vernal pool.
- There will be no removal of timber within 50 feet of a perennial stream or 25 feet of a intermittent stream, ephemeral stream or vernal pool.
- Removal of timber from Riparian zones beyond these 50 and 25 foot no-cut-zones must maintain 50 square feet of tree basal area/acre and cannot cause more than 50% reduction in the canopy of that area.
- When timber is removed from any portion of the riparian zone, it is preferable that it come from the outer edge.
- Heavy equipment is generally excluded from this area except for appropriate stream crossings as described in the BMP manual.