



A Guide to the Watershed Forest Management Plan Process

STEP #1

The landowner completes the Application for Watershed Forestry Program Funds for a **Watershed Forest Management Plan** and returns the completed form to the Watershed Forestry Program for review.

STEP #2

A WAC Forester, using computer based Geographic Information Systems, checks county tax parcel information to confirm that the property under review is within the New York City Watershed.

STEP #3

After confirming the property under review is within the watershed, the application is forwarded to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Watershed Forester. The NYS DEC Watershed Forester then checks to see if the property under review is currently enrolled in SIP (Stewardship Incentive Program) or the 480A (Timber Tax Program). The SIP and 480A programs require written management plans. The Watershed Forestry Program has additional cost share programs that will aid the landowner in upgrading existing SIP or 480A management plans so they meet Watershed Management Plan specifications. Now available to watershed landowners enrolled in 480A, WAC has incentive funding available to help offset the cost of NYS DEC required plan updates once landowners have a plan on file with the Watershed Forestry Program.

STEP #4

The Application for a **Watershed Forest Management Plan** is then returned to the Watershed Forestry Program where it is presented at the Watershed Forestry Program Committee for approval.

STEP #5

Upon approval, a letter is sent to the applicants notifying them that they have one year from the date of committee approval to complete their **Watershed Forest Management Plan**. A list of Watershed Qualified Foresters accompanies this letter, unless the landowner has indicated a forester has already been selected.

Watershed Qualified Foresters are individuals who have completed additional classes in erosion control and watershed forestry practices. The Watershed Forestry Program encourages landowners to call at least three Watershed Qualified Foresters before selecting one to write the management plan. Foresters

represent landowners during future timber sales and they can tailor management plans to inform landowners about previously unknown uses for their forestland. Be aware that many of the options for the Management Assistance Program require that the project be detailed in the content of the plan. Watershed Management Plans are intended to reflect the goals and objectives of the landowner and it is important that the landowner select a forester they feel comfortable working with.

STEP #6

The Watershed Qualified Forester selected by the landowner has one year from the date of committee approval to complete the **Watershed Forest Management Plan**. When the plan is completed, the Forester sends two copies to the Watershed Forestry Program.

STEP #7

The plan is then reviewed by Watershed Forestry Program staff. Forestry Program staff visit the property to review the plan submitted and ensure that it meets the Watershed Forestry Program's management plan specifications.

STEP #8

The Watershed Qualified Forester addresses any issues raised during the Watershed Forest Management Plan review. After approval is given, the Watershed Qualified Forester must submit a bill and the landowner signature clause (if not already provided) to the Watershed Forestry Program. The forester will be paid directly by WAC and the landowner receives a copy of the Watershed Forest Management Plan. Landowners will receive a participant survey from WAC to evaluate the Forest Management Planning program.