

		Revised 480-a "3-options" spreadsheet - PROPOSED - FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES		October, 2015
		Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Title	Current 480-a	"Revised 480-a"	480-b: Forest Certification	480-b: Sustainable Forest Management Program
Acres	50 acres of qualifying forestland minimum	50 acres and up, as is now	25 acre minimum, qualifications as specified by DEC-recognized program. If allowed by the certification program this may include open space lands (i.e., wetlands.)	25 acre minimum, with at least 10 acres or 25% of total acreage being forested land
What DEC issues:	Certificate of Eligibility	Certificate of Eligibility	Certificate of Eligibility	Certificate of Eligibility
Entry Requirements	Approved Management Plan with 15-year work schedule	No new entries to 480-a program after passage of revised law.	Forest Certification Program (DEC-recognized, per regulations) participation confirmation	DEC verification of completion of Qualifying Forest Management Practice, on 10 acres or more, as per DEC-approved plan
			Possible inclusion of group certification options to be considered in development of implementing regulations	Qualifying Forest Management Practices will be: 1. Commercial timber harvest; 2. Precommercial stand improvement cutting; 3. Invasive or competing vegetation control; 4. Tree planting with or without site preparation, as necessary; 5. Riparian forest buffer establishment or enhancement
Term	10-year rolling	10-year rolling	10-year rolling	10-year rolling
Assessment reduction	80% assessment reduction for year of annual commitment, unless eligibility revoked for non-compliance	80% reduction - as is now - for year of annual commitment, unless eligibility revoked for non-compliance, for 10-year phase-in period. After 10-yrs, go to 60% reduction	70% reduction for year of annual commitment, unless eligibility revoked for non-compliance	40% reduction for year of annual commitment, unless eligibility revoked for non-compliance

Annual req.	Submit annual commitment for next 10-years to local assessor, must be notarized.	Submit annual commitment for next 10-years to local assessor, not notarized, with copy to DEC	Maintain forest certification, per program requirements	Submit annual <u>Verification of Continued Eligibility</u> Form to DEC and Assessor
	Submit Harvest Plans to DEC for approval on any harvest planned according to work schedule	Submit Harvest Plans to DEC for approval on any harvest planned in work schedule within 10-year "work window" (amended requirement)	Submit annual Commitment for next 10-year term, which includes <u>Verification of Continued Eligibility</u> to DEC and Assessor, with copy of annual audit report to DEC (not notarized)	Submit annual commitment for next 10-years to local assessor (not notarized)
	Conduct all scheduled pre-commercial work according to work schedule	Conduct all scheduled pre-commercial work within 10-year work schedule window (amended requirement)		Future Qualifying Forest Management Practices, identified in regulations, within 10-year commitment term, may only be done under another DEC-approved plan
	5-year management plan updates required	10-year management plan updates required (instead of 5-year cycle, amended requirement)		
Stumpage tax	6% Stumpage tax required on all commercial timber sales	Stumpage tax eliminated, upon passage	No stumpage tax	No stumpage tax
Required management activities	As prescribed by forester in DEC-approved management plan. Work must be completed in year specified in approved work schedule . DEC can mandate if not completed.	Same as 480-a: as prescribed by forester in DEC-approved management plan. Work must be completed within work schedule window (amended requirement). DEC could mandate if not completed.	None required	None required beyond initial Q ualifying Forest Management Practice, under approved plan. Additional management practices encouraged, and allowed, subject to DEC-approved Forest Management Practice Plan, prepared by DEC-approved Forester.
Penalties	2.5 times taxes that would have been levied, up to 10 years, plus interest	Same as current 480-a	Same as current 480-a	Same as current 480-a