

**APPENDIX VIII- DEC Division of Lands and Forests Management Rules for Establishment of Special Management Zones on State Lands**

<b>Streams, Wetlands, Ponds &amp; Lakes</b>	
Streams include naturally occurring perennial and intermittent drainages having defined channels. Special management zone widths are from the edge of high water channels or, for wetlands, the edge of seasonally saturated soils. Distances are in horizontal feet.	
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Guidelines</b>
<b>Gas Drilling Surface Disturbance</b>	Surface disturbance prohibited within 250'.
<b>Silviculture</b>	<p><b>DEC Classified Wetlands:</b> No timber harvesting equipment allowed in DEC classified wetlands. Any trees cut within DEC classified wetlands must be winched out. Maintain at least 75% of pre-harvest basal area evenly spread throughout both the DEC classified wetlands and a 100' special management zone<sup>4</sup> surrounding DEC classified wetlands.</p> <p><b>Unclassified Wetlands:</b> Harvesting equipment may operate only during frozen or dry times of year to avoid rutting and cutting of root mat. Maintain at least 75% of pre-harvest basal area throughout both the wetland and a 100' special management zone surrounding the wetland.</p> <p><b>Ponds &amp; Lakes:</b> 100' protection buffer<sup>3</sup> next to water body &amp; additional 150' special management zone retaining at least 50% of pre-harvest basal area.</p> <p><b>Perennial Streams<sup>2</sup>:</b> 100' special management zone on each side of stream. First 50' next to stream is a protection buffer. The next 50' - maintain at least 75% of pre-harvest basal area.</p> <p><b>Intermittent Streams<sup>1</sup>:</b> 100' special management zone on each side of naturally occurring intermittent streams. Maintain at least 75% of pre-harvest basal area within special management zone.</p>
<b>Skid Trails</b>	<p>Keep skid trails at least 100' from wetlands and water bodies and at least 150' away when adjoining slopes are greater than 10%.</p> <p>Must follow guidelines presented in New York State Forestry BMPs for Water Quality Field Guide (BMP Field Guide) and stream crossing permit procedures.</p>
<b>Haul Roads*</b>	Avoid construction within 250' wetlands. Must follow BMPs.
<b>Log decks &amp; Access Roads</b>	<p>Must follow BMP Field Guide.</p> <p>Keep log decks and landings at least 250' from all wetlands, streams and ponds.</p>

<b>Spring Seeps</b>	
A spring seep is a permanent spring where water emerges from the ground and flows across the soil surface without defined bed and banks. The limits of the seep are demarked by the extent of surface water.	
<b>Gas Drilling Surface Disturbance</b>	Surface disturbance prohibited within 250'.
<b>Silviculture</b>	Maintain 100' special management zone with at least 50% of pre-harvest basal area. Fell trees away from seeps.
<b>Skid Trails and Haul Roads</b>	No skidding through seep origin. Where roads and trails must cross seeps, locate them as far from the origin as possible and ensure that crossings are at right angles to the seep.

<b>Vernal Pools</b>	
Vernal pools are naturally occurring shallow depressions on level ground, that hold water on a seasonal basis and have no permanent above-ground outlet.	
<b>Gas Drilling Surface Disturbance</b>	Surface disturbance prohibited within 250'.
<b>Silviculture</b>	Establish special management zone <u>at least</u> (if possible, wider is better) 150' wide around perimeter of pool. Maintain at least 50% crown cover and minimize disturbance of leaf litter and soil. In special management zone, restrict logging to frozen ground conditions if possible. Do not create ruts deeper than 6 inches. If rutting begins, immediately suspend operations. Any ruts must be leveled. Keep tops & slash out of pool area.
<b>Main Skid Trails</b>	Keep main trails out of the 150' wide special management zone.
<b>Haul Roads* and Access Roads</b>	Avoid construction within 250' of vernal pools.

<b>Recreational Trails</b>	
<b>Gas Drilling Surface Disturbance</b>	Surface disturbance prohibited within 250' of trails.
<b>Silviculture</b>	Where possible, avoid clear cutting over and across any recreational trail. Whenever harvesting close to or over a recreational trail, contact must be made with representatives of known trail adopter or trail user groups to explain the rationale for the harvest. Additionally, educational or interpretive signs explaining the rationale for the harvest must be installed on site. Tops & slash must be kept at least 25' back from the edge of trails.

\* Haul roads refer to roads constructed for removal of timber or mineral resources.

**Possible Exemption Considerations**

- Habitat Improvement:** Tree cutting or other habitat management activities within management zones may be undertaken to improve habitat for specific species. Must be explained in stand treatment prescription and approved by Central Office.

2. **Control of Invasive Species:** Tree cutting, removal or deadening within management zones may be undertaken within management zones in order to control or eradicate invasive species. Central Office approval is required
3. Any other activity proposed to be undertaken within a special management zone must be approved by Central Office on a case-by-case basis.

All protection buffers will be designated on the ground with flagging or paint. For Harvests: Buffers will be identified on sale maps and equipment restrictions will be listed in the Notice of Sale.

### DEFINITIONS

1. **Intermittent Stream** - A naturally occurring watercourse that periodically goes dry or that has a stream flow of less than 0.1 cubic feet per second, as estimated using a method or methods generally accepted and in common use and practice at the relevant time. Intermittent Streams should have definable banks and bed with widths between banks greater than 12" and a depth from high water mark to the bed greater than 4".
2. **Perennial Stream** - That portion of any fresh surface watercourse for which the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has adopted or may hereafter adopt pursuant to applicable law or regulation, the following classifications or standards: AA, AA (T), AA (TS), A, A (T), A (TS), B, B (T), B (TS), C (T), C (TS), or D and appearing on maps (USGS or otherwise) maintained and on file with the DEC, or portions of such streams if the classification is verified in the field, or by similar method, by the DEC.
3. **Protection Buffer** - A vegetation strip or management zone a minimum of fifty feet wide maintained to mitigate the impacts of actions on adjacent lands, to enhance aesthetic values, or as a best management practice. No vehicular, construction or harvesting equipment will be allowed to operate within Protection Buffers unless at designated crossings to access other management areas. Protection Buffers will not be considered for active commercial forest management or salvage and should be generally allowed to develop naturally. Any vegetation to be removed or disturbed within Protection Buffers for any purpose must have appropriate justification with documentation in an approved *Conceptual Approval Form*. Intervention will be considered to protect forest health (e.g. fire or invasive plant or animal control),, to protect, restore or enhance significant habitats, to develop recreational opportunity and public access and to mitigate erosion potential. Protection Buffers will be installed around designated streams, wetlands, ponds and lakes as described by the *DEC Division of Lands and Forests Management Rules for Establishment of Special Management Zones on State Lands*, and any other land feature requiring protection. The external boundary of Protection Buffers, defining the border with adjacent land, will be designated with flagging or paint that can be discernable from other markings during active management. Widths will be measured to the accuracy of a pace and may vary based on terrain and other limiting factors. Protection Buffers may be part of a Special Management Zones.
4. **Special Management Zone** - A vegetation strip or management zone extending from wetland boundaries, high-water marks on perennial and intermittent streams, vernal pools, spring seeps, ponds and lakes, recreational trails, camp grounds and other land features requiring special consideration. Portions of a Special Management Zone may include protection buffers where applicable as described in the *DEC Division of Lands and Forests Management Rules for Establishment of Special Management Zones on State Lands*.
