2008 Logging Sediment Control Act Annual Report West Virginia Division of Forestry

The following accomplishments reflect the Division of Forestry's effort to operate more efficiently in carrying out the mandates of the Logging Sediment Control Act, the WV Flood Protection Plan and also meet the goals and actions listed in the 2001 WV Forest Resources Strategic Plan. Specific accomplishments include a reorganization of the WVDOF that focuses 31 employees specifically on the LSCA, the establishment of Toll Free Numbers for LSCA notifications, and the acquisition of a Forest Hydrologist by WVU. Calendar year 2008 was also a Best Management Practices Committee review year, and two possible changes are being considered: The revision of the BMP Manual to include alternative stabilization methods on steep roads besides straw or hay mulch; and further definition or discussion regarding ephemeral streams as they exist in West Virginia.

Licensing

•1,194 operators were licensed by the WV Division of Forestry (WVDOF) to perform timbering operations, buy standing timber or buy logs for resale.

•1,602 professional loggers were issued certified logger certificates to supervise logging operations and assure that Best Management Practices were applied, chain-saw safety was stressed, and first aid/CPR was available in case of an accident.



Logging Operations/Inspections

•2565 logging start notifications were filed by timber operators.

- •8921 site inspections were performed by the WVDOF.
- •211 Complaints were received by the WVDOF, of which 121 were found to be valid.



Training

•63 workshops were held and 1,221 individuals were trained or retrained in Best Management Practices and the LSCA.

•The Best Management Practices training modules continue to be updated and revised. •Current Training modules include:

- Best Management Practices Instruction
- Road and Operations Planning
 - Topographic Map Reading
 - Impacts of Soil Types
 - Positive and negative control points to use or avoid
- Safety
 - Chainsaw and Tree Felling
 - Equipment
 - o OSHA Requirements
 - Fatality Assessment by WVU (This program has been terminated)
- Quarantine Information from the Dept. of Ag. for Exotic Pests
- Sustainable Forestry Initiative
 - o Sustainable Forestry
 - Endangered Species
 - Forestry Aesthetics

Logging Enforcement

•293 corrective actions were taken, as recommended by the WVDOF, without the issuance of a formal Order.

•533 Compliance Orders, 215 Suspension Orders and 39 citations were issued to individuals/companies holding certified logger and timbering licenses.



Logger of Excellence

•133 Loggers qualified for this program in its second year. The program is designed to recognize and reward professional loggers who have gone above and beyond the requirements of the law.