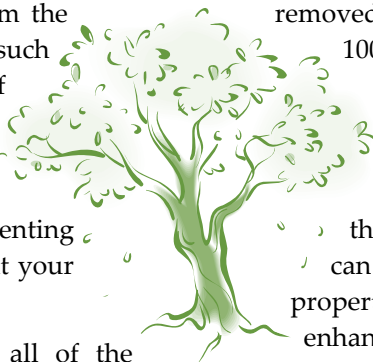


## Make Your Land Work for You Evaluate Your Forest Management Potential

The housing market continues to soften as we move into the new year causing builders and developers to explore new ways to keep their businesses successful and profitable. Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. (WEG) is working to develop new and creative ways to assist our clients with revenue generation. One of the major issues we have recognized is the fact that land which was purchased when the market was "good" is now going undeveloped as construction timetables are set back waiting for the market to rebound. Confident investors may want to buy land now, speculating on its worth when the market comes around. In either case, it would be advantageous to find ways to generate revenue from the property while it goes undeveloped. One such method is through the implementation of forest management practices. In addition to our other services, WEG has a team of foresters, including two certified arborists, that can assist you in developing and implementing a management plan for your property so that your land can start to work for you!

WEG is qualified and staffed to provide all of the forestry services needed to assess your property for potential gains through forest management. The first step is to evaluate the existing forest cover on the property. Forest inventories, timberstand delineations, forest stand evaluation, and appraisals are all useful tools for creating a plan of action. These services are not limited to large properties (with exemplary old growth trees), as profit can be realized on smaller parcels with younger pulpwood-sized trees as well. Larger tracts or groups of properties open up the potential for rotational management, however. Under this method, the property is divided into management compartments which are scheduled for harvesting, site preparation, and re-planting on a rotating basis so that income is generated on a more sustained basis than from a one-time harvesting of an entire property. WEG can also identify and mark specimen trees or unique "green" areas to be preserved during harvesting which can help to market the building sites during development.



Other benefits of implementing forest management practices are cost-share programs and tax benefits. The Commonwealth of Virginia, as well as many states, offers cost-share funds usually on a 75/25 basis (the landowner pays 25% of the cost with the balance being covered by state funds). These programs cover all aspects of forest and land management from harvesting and reforestation costs to wildlife management. Outside of traditional forestry practices, WEG is able to provide arboricultural services as well. These services are implemented mainly through Virginia's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance set forth by municipalities. This ordinance states that no trees may be removed from a resource protection area (RPA) (area 100' landward of the Chesapeake Bay headwaters and tributaries) unless they are deemed to be dead, dying, or diseased by a certified arborist. WEG's certified arborists are able to diagnose such trees and coordinate with the regulatory agencies for their removal. This can help to make the required RPA areas on your property more of an amenity to future residents as it enhances the beauty and safety of the areas as well as potentially opening viewsheds.

WEG has already begun to implement forestry practices in the development phase for several of our clients. We currently have an extensive forest management plan forecasted for a 600+ acre single-family home development project. This plan consists of the harvesting of timber, the selective removal of trees within the RPA, and the reforestation of a previously forested parcel located on-site. The implementation of these practices will make this an example community; one that involves the integration of development and natural resources management that has become a vital part of today's society.

Please contact any of our project managers at Williamsburg Environmental Group, Inc. if you have any questions regarding forestry management practices and the potential effects these practices could have on your properties.

## TECHNICAL UPDATE



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