

# Maine Forest Service Interpretations of the Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within the Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State (12 M.R.S. §685-A(1) & MFS Rules Chapter 27)

These interpretations take into account the full context, meaning, and intent of the Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within the Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, the associated Maine Forest Service (MFS) Rules, and the interpretations themselves, and must be used within that context.

## **Section 4: Timber Harvesting Standards**

### **1. Do the timber harvesting standards in section 4 (C) (4) apply to the entire P-RR surrounding a standing body of water?**

**Answer:** No. The intent of the enabling legislation was to transfer authority to administer and enforce existing rule from Land Use Planning Commission to Maine Forest Service, which essentially involved recodification of existing Commission standards. The reference to P-RR in Chapter 27 section 4 (C) (4) is inconsistent with previous Commission rule. In circumstances where a P-RR is established to protect a standing body of water, follow the timber harvesting standards of the underlying protection zone surrounding the standing body of water. No other timber harvesting standards apply to the remainder of the P-RR.

**Note:** Permits are required in section 4 (A) in a P-RR to protect a trail or flowing water.

## **Section 6: Gravel Extraction Less Than 5 Acres in Size**

### **2. How is the actual size of a gravel pit determined? Are the areas reforested/reclaimed calculated in the area determination?**

**Answer:** Each gravel pit will be evaluated as to the restoration of natural contours and tree stocking levels capable of producing commercial forest products in the future. The following conditions must be met:

1 - Natural contours in the gravel pit area must be re-established such that slopes do not exceed 2.5:1; and,

2 - tree regeneration in the gravel pit area must contain a minimum of 300 trees per acre of acceptable growing stock trees, well distributed on the area. Softwood trees must be at least 10 feet in height, and hardwood trees must be at least 20 feet in height.

Non-forested areas (e.g. water) will continue to count as part of the gravel pit area.

