COMMERCIAL CUTTING OF TIMBER
add in bold and italics, [delete in brackets]

DEFINTIONS

Commercial forest products: wood products harvested from a tract of forest land in excess of fifty cords or one hundred fifty tons or twenty-five thousand board feet, whichever measure is appropriate, in any twelve-month period.

10.1.4. Agriculture, farming, [forestry], truck or nursery gardening, including greenhouses incidental thereto, provided that all buildings designed for those uses shall be built not less than 100 feet from the street line and 75 feet from the nearest line of a lot under separate ownership (Section 9.2.9)

10.5.1. Agriculture, farming, [forestry], truck or nursery gardening including greenhouses incidental thereto, provided that all buildings designed for those uses shall be built not less than 100 feet from the street line and 75 feet from the nearest line of a lot under separate ownership.

DELETE ALL OF SECTION 20 - COMMERCIAL CUTTING OF TIMBER, TRANSFER DEFINTIONS AND STANDARDS TO THE INLAND WETLANDS AND WATERCOURSES COMMISSION AS REQUIRED PER CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES.

20. Introduction: Harvesting of forest tree species is an integral part of forest management by which wood for human use is obtained and by which forests are established and tended. It is recognized that during harvesting operations, there will be temporary change in the forest environment. It is the purpose of these guidelines to establish harvesting standards which will maintain the productivity of land for continuous forest crops, improve wild life habitat, and minimize negative environmental impact.

20.2. Special Exception Requirement: Within the Conservation Zone (Gateway) commercial cutting of timber, as defined in Section 5, may not be undertaken without a special exception from the Planning and Zoning Commission, except as follows:
20.2.1. Land used for agricultural purposes and cultivation of crops other than forest products;
20.2.2. Land used or being developed for residential, recreational or other non-woodland commercial purposes;
20.2.3. Thinning and clearing in connection with public improvements:
20.2.4. Land used for access to abutting land; and
20.2.5. Cultured Christmas tree area.

20.3. Special Exception Applications: The application for a special exception shall include the following requirements in addition to the customary special exception requirements contained in Section 14:
20.3.1. A site plan showing the applicant's property and the abutting property owners.
20.3.2. A cutting plan indicating the nature of the operations.
20.3.3. A certification of the cutting plan by a public or consulting forester indicating the plan's conformance with the minimum standards set forth herein.
20.3.4. Any other information, as set forth in Section 14 of these regulations, as the Commission may require.
20.3.5. A fee of $75.00 payable to the Town of East Haddam.

20.4. Water Course Protection:

20.4.1. During harvest operation water courses shall be protected from siltation. Partial cuttings, designed to create uneven aged stands, will be used within 100 feet of these watercourses. No more than 50% of the merchantable volume will be removed, taking care in selection of leave trees to minimize water temperature increases and visual impact.
20.4.2. Trees shall not be felled into or across streams. Logging debris accidentally dropped into streams and ponds shall be promptly removed.
20.4.3. Harvesting equipment will not be allowed in a stream, and the channel is not to be altered. All stream crossings shall be at a right angle.
20.4.4. After the completion of a harvest operations, banks at stream crossings will be graded and restored to their original condition. Re-seeding with an appropriate grass mixture may be required.

20.5. Logging Roads and Trails: 6/1/95r

The location of all main haul or skid roads, including alternative routes, shall be approved by the Commission or the Land Use Administrator prior to the commencement of harvesting operations.

20.5.1. All roads shall be located so as to minimize construction or use impact on the land.
20.5.2. Grades shall not exceed 10% nor be less than 1%.
20.5.3. Adequate drainage control systems and stabilization systems shall be provided and maintained to control water flow.
20.5.4. Unless otherwise stipulated, all roads, main skid trails, landings and - sites will be stabilized. Temporary culverts will be removed, water bars installed where necessary, ruts filled or graded out and gutters cleaned.
20.5.5. Where required for erosion control or where required for wildlife protection, major skid roads, landings and/or sawmill sites will be limed, fertilized, seeded with an appropriate mixture or grass and legumes.

20.6 Aesthetic Considerations:

20.6.1. Border Strips:

20.6.1.1. Within 100 feet of any automobile road, recreation trail or other recreation area, or boundary line, harvesting of trees will be partial cuttings. Not more than 50% of the merchantable volume may be removed. In high visibility areas, uneven age stands will be required to provide change and variety in scenery.
20.6.1.2. Unique tree specimens, flowering shrubs and trees, or those species that have value as food producers or den sites for birds and wildlife will be preserved as directed by the Commission.

20.6.2. Brush Control:

20.6.2.1. Undesirable sprout growth or brush must be controlled using appropriate herbicide treatments. Chemicals used in performing this practice must carry a Federal registration and be applied strictly in accordance with authorized uses, label directions, and Federal and State regulations.
20.6.2.2. Special consideration shall be given to those border strips in the following situations: 1) screen clearcuts, sheltered cutting or other heavy cuts that would be and 2) screen yarding and loading areas. All debris shall be removed.

20.6.3. Slash:

20.6.3.1. No slash will be left within 50 feet of any automobile road, established recreation trail, pond, lake or stream.
20.6.3.2. Within the remaining width of a border strip, all slash will be chipped or lopped and scattered so that it does not exceed four feet in height.
20.6.3.3. On all other harvest areas, slash, severely bent or broken trees shall be dropped and/or lopped to a height not to exceed six feet.

20.7. Harvest Methods: Because of the wide variation in forest types, stand size classes, stocking levels and timber volumes which exist in Connecticut woodlands there are a variety of methods that can be used,

either singly or in a combination in harvesting and reforestation to meet the stated purpose. These methods include: Clear-cutting with natural reproduction; Direct seeding or planting; Seed-tree cutting; Selection cutting including diameter limit harvesting, shelterwood cutting, and such other methods as shall be consistent with good forestry practice.
Although even-age management is an accepted silvicultural practice, particularly with hardwood species, its use should be practiced judiciously. A clear-cut area presents a severe visual impact to those unfamiliar with this harvest method; therefore, clear-cutting will have the following restrictions:

20.7.1. Maximum of five (5) acres in size.
20.7.2. Irregular in shape - avoid linear cutting bounds.
20.7.3. Soften edges by partial cutting within 50 to 100 feet of clear-cut boundaries.
20.7.4. Screen clear-cut areas with border strips along roads, trails, or other areas of heavy public use.
20.7.5. Leave ridge tops uncut - these areas are the most visible.
20.7.6. In most cases, even-aged management may be accomplished through shelterwood cuttings rather than clear-cutting.

20.8. Fire Control Considerations: Access roads and fire lanes will be left clear of slash when a cutting job is completed. Designated roads will be graded so as to be passable by fire equipment. Where access road construction is included in a harvest operation construction of loading docks and fire water holes at locations deemed strategic by the Commission will be required.

Proposed Gateway Regulations – No timber activity within fifty (50) feet

9.9.6 Vegetation Requirements

1. Riparian Vegetation Buffer

Within the Conservation Zone, there shall be no cutting of vegetation within the Riparian Vegetation Buffer as defined in these Regulations except as provided in this section.

a. There shall be no clear-cut openings, and a well-distributed stand of trees and other vegetation, including existing ground cover, shall be maintained. Existing vegetation less than three (3) feet in height and other ground cover shall not be removed except to provide for a footpath or other permitted uses. Pruning of tree branches on the bottom third of trees is permitted. Fields which have reverted primarily to shrubs, trees or other woody vegetation shall be regulated under the provisions of this section. Cleared openings legally in existence on the effective date of these regulations may be maintained but shall not be enlarged.

b. There shall be no timber harvesting within the buffer area except to remove safety hazards. When removal of storm-damaged, diseased, unsafe or dead trees results in the creation of cleared openings, these openings shall be replanted with native tree species unless existing new tree growth is present. Prior to cutting diseased or damaged trees, a determination about the conditions of such trees shall be made to the zoning enforcement officer by a public or consulting forester.

Riparian Vegetation Buffer: The natural and traditional plant life indigenous to the Riparian Area as designated and mapped by the East Haddam Planning & Zoning Commission, but not less than fifty (50) feet from the Coastal Jurisdiction Line (CJL),

which plant life was legally existing as of the adoption of these Gateway Standards, and not to include grass, gardens and ornamental shrubs and trees.