

**Maryland General Assembly  
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations  
Department of Natural Resources**  
(DLS Control No. 15-313)

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## **Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact**

These regulations clarify that the Maryland Forest Service in the Department of Natural Resources is the unit administering the Woodland Incentive Program and revise the scale requirements for any sketch map included in an application for technical assistance under the program.

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

## **Regulations of COMAR Affected**

### **Department of Natural Resources:**

Forest and Parks: Woodland Incentive Program: COMAR 08.07.05.02 and .04

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## **Legal Analysis**

### **Background**

The Woodland Incentives Program provides financial and technical assistance to nonindustrial private landowners for forest management and reforestation through approved forestry practices. Technical assistance provided by the department includes advice regarding forest resource protection and information regarding restoration and management techniques and advances in forest management technology.

### **Summary of Regulations**

These regulations clarify that, in the context of the Woodland Incentive Program, references to the department mean the Forest Service within the department. The regulations also specify that the scale of a sketch map included in an application for technical assistance must be not less than “1 inch = 660 feet” rather than the formerly required “1 sec. = 660 min.”

### **Legal Issues**

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

## **Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent**

The department cites § 5-303 of the Natural Resources Article as statutory authority for the regulations. Section 5-303 requires the department to develop and implement a Woodland Incentives Program to assist eligible landowners in conducting woodland management and requires the Secretary of Natural Resources to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of the program.

This authority is correct and complete. The regulations comply with the legislative intent of the law.

## **Fiscal Analysis**

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

### **Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact**

The department advises that the regulations have no impact on State or local governments. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

### **Impact on Budget**

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

### **Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact**

The department advises that the regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

## **Contact Information**

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