

ROY THOMPSON
Chairman
JAPPY STRINGER
Commissioner
WALTER GIBSON
Commissioner
RAY MOSLEY
Commissioner
TIMMY RUSHING
Commissioner
ANTHONY D. SIMMONS
Commissioner
CURT DEAL
Commissioner

THOMAS M. COUCH
County Manager
CINDY STEINMANN
Assistant County Manager
KRISTIE KING
Chief Financial Officer
JEFF S. AKINS
Chief Legal Counsel



BULLOCH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

November 18, 2022

«Name»
«Company»
«Address»
«City», «State» «Zip»

RE: Bulloch County Timber Harvest Notification Requirements

Dear Timber Industry Professional,

Earlier this year the Bulloch County Board of Commissioners adopted a timber harvest notification ordinance in response to a state law change amending O.C.G.A. 12-6-24. Bulloch County now requires all timber harvest operations follow a notification process using the Georgia Forestry Commission's (GFC) website <https://gatrees.org/forest-management-conservation/timber-harvest-notifications/>. The required information according to state law and the Bulloch County ordinance will be collected by the website and sent to the Planning and Development department and other appropriate county offices. We are asking you to help make this an easy process, and to quickly adopt the notification action into your normal timber sales/harvesting routine. I am providing you a copy of the Bulloch County Timber Harvest Ordinance, however actions required are summarized below.

Login Created

To begin, please visit the link above and create a login account. How-to videos are available on the website. In addition, one login account is all you need for the GFC system. A single account will allow you to notify any of the 159 counties plus cities in Georgia depending on where the tract of timber is identified.

Bond or Letter of Credit required

Prior to your first timber harvest notification, you are required to have an irrevocable letter of credit or surety bond in the amount of \$5,000 on file with the county to protect the county from any damage or expense (such as, but not limited to, road damage or removal of harvesting residue) caused by your timber harvesting operation. You may post this bond/letter of credit with the Planning and Development department located at 115 N. Main Street, Statesboro, GA 30458. The bond/letter of credit may remain on file

for the calendar year in which it was delivered. Only one bond/letter of credit is required for each person or firm regardless of the number of tracts harvested, so long as the bond or letter of credit remains valid. Surety bonds must be from a company on the US Department of Treasuries listing of approved sureties (Dept. Circular 570).

Notice Required

Once you are ready to begin the harvest operation, you are required to submit a notification using the GFC website prior to entering the property, if possible, but in no event later than 24 hours after entering the property. The duration of the notice will remain in effect until the time the person or firm provides notice the harvesting is complete. You must report when the harvest operation is complete within 24 hours of conclusion. If there are changes in fact including but not limited to a change in the scope or extent of the operation, you must report those changes within three business days to Bulloch County.

Violation; Penalties

Any person or firm engaging in a timber harvest operation in the unincorporated portion of Bulloch County without complying with the Notice requirements will be subject to a citation or accusation to the Magistrate Court of Bulloch County. Upon conviction, fines shall not exceed \$1,500.00 for each violation.

We look forward to working with you in the future. If you have any questions, please contact the Bulloch County Planning and Development department. All required timber tax notifications and/or other requirements by the Tax Commissioner remain applicable.

Sincerely,



James Pope, AICP
Planning and Development Director

Enclosure:

Bulloch County Timber Harvest Ordinance

CC:

Tom Couch, County Manager
Jeff Akins, County Attorney
Leslie Akins, Tax Commissioner