

TRUNK EIGHT INCHES ABOVE THE GENERAL GROUND LEVEL.

(D) "LANDOWNER" MEANS THE PERSON HOLDING TITLE TO ~~OR POSSESSING THE LAND OR THE PERSON'S AGENT POSSESSING THE RIGHT TO CONTRACT FOR THE CUTTING OPERATION THEREON.~~

(E) "OPERATOR" MEANS ANY PERSON, INCLUDING A "LANDOWNER", WHO CONDUCTS ANY CUTTING OPERATION.

(F) "PERSON" INCLUDES THE STATE, ANY COUNTY, MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OR OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION OF THE STATE, OR ANY OF THEIR UNITS, OR AN INDIVIDUAL, RECEIVER, TRUSTEE, GUARDIAN EXECUTOR, ADMINISTRATOR, FIDUCIARY, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF ANY KIND, OR ANY PARTNERSHIP, FIRM, ASSOCIATION, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE CORPORATION OR ANY OTHER ENTITY.

(G) "PINE" MEANS ANY LOBLOLLY (PINUS TAEDA), SHORTLEAF PINE (PINUS ECHINATA), OR POND PINE (PINUS SEROTINA).

(H) "SEEDLING" MEANS A YOUNG LOBLOLLY, SHORTLEAF, OR POND PINE PLANT ~~GROWN FROM SEED AND~~ LESS THAN SIX INCHES IN DIAMETER.

(I) "TREE" OR "TIMBER" MEANS ANY TREE OF A CURRENTLY COMMERCIALY VALUABLE SPECIES WHICH IS SIX INCHES OR MORE IN DIAMETER.

5-502.

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECLARES THAT THE MAINTENANCE AND REPRODUCTION OF THE PINE FOREST RESOURCE OF THE STATE IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST AND PROVIDES SIGNIFICANT RECREATIONAL, ESTHETIC, WILDLIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS AS WELL AS WOOD FIBER ESSENTIAL TO COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE.

(B) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS THAT THE PINE FOREST RESOURCES OF THE STATE ARE BEING HARVESTED AT A GREATER RATE THAN THEY ARE BEING REPLANTED OR REPRODUCED. IT FURTHER FINDS THAT UNLESS MEASURES ARE INSTITUTED TO ENSURE THAT THE PINE FOREST RESOURCES ARE SUSTAINED, THIS NATURAL RESOURCE WILL BE DEPLETED TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE. CONSEQUENTLY, IT IS THE INTENT OF THIS SUBTITLE TO REQUIRE THAT WHEN COMMERCIAL CUTTING OPERATIONS ARE CONDUCTED IN THE STATE MEASURES ARE TAKEN TO ENSURE THAT PINE FORESTS ARE REPRODUCED OR REPLANTED.

5-503.

THE DEPARTMENT MAY ADOPT RULES AND REGULATIONS TO ADMINISTER THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SUBTITLE.

5-504.

(A) (1) EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY THIS SECTION, UPON COMPLETION OF ANY CUTTING OPERATION THE