

(3) Trees, shrubs, or plants identified on the list of rare, threatened, and endangered species of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the Department;

(4) Trees that are part of a historic site or associated with a historic structure or designated by the Department or local authority as a national, State, or local Champion Tree; and

(5) Trees having a diameter measured at 4.5 feet above the ground of:

(i) 30 inches; or

(ii) 75% of the diameter, measured at 4.5 feet above the ground, of the current State Champion Tree of that species as designated by the Department.

(d) The following shall be considered priority for afforestation or reforestation:

(1) Establish or enhance forest buffers adjacent to intermittent and perennial streams AND COASTAL BAYS to widths of at least 50 feet;

(2) Establish or increase existing forested corridors to connect existing forests within or adjacent to the site and, where practical, forested corridors should be a minimum of 300 feet in width to facilitate wildlife movement;

(3) Establish or enhance forest buffers adjacent to critical habitats where appropriate;

(4) ESTABLISH OR ENHANCE FORESTED AREAS IN 100-YEAR FLOODPLAINS;

(5) Establish plantings to stabilize slopes of 25% or greater and slopes of 15% or greater with a soil K value greater than 0.35 including the slopes of ravines or other natural depressions;

[(5)](6) Establish buffers adjacent to areas of differing land use where appropriate, or adjacent to highways or utility right-of-ways;

[(6)](7) Establish forest areas adjacent to existing forests so as to increase the overall area of contiguous forest cover, when appropriate; and

[(7)](8) Use native plant materials for afforestation or reforestation, when appropriate.

(e) (1) As part of the development of a forest conservation program, a local government shall develop provisions for:

(i) Preservation of areas described in subsections (c) and (d)(1) and (3) of this section;

(ii) Retention as forest of all land forested, afforested, or reforested under this subtitle; and

(iii) Limitation of uses of forest to those that are not inconsistent with forest conservation, such as recreational activities and forest management under subsection (f) of this section.