



ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

*A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services
to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.*

September 20, 2013

Dear Neighbor:

**RE: UPCOMING WORK ON OWASA'S 491-ACRE CANE CREEK RESERVOIR
MITIGATION PROPERTY NEAR BUCKHORN ROAD**

I am writing to inform you that OWASA has selected a contractor to implement the forest management plan provided by the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) for our 491-acre Cane Creek Reservoir Mitigation Tract. This work is being performed to comply with the requirements of the 404 permit that the US Army Corps of Engineers issued for construction of the Cane Creek Reservoir.

We anticipate finalizing a contract with the timbering company sometime in October and begin harvesting trees later that month or in November. I have attached a map summarizing the forest management plan. The area north of the stream has already been harvested, and no further activities will occur on that portion of the site as noted on the attached map. The area scheduled for management is approximately 407 acres out of the total 491 acre tract. As shown on the attached map, the following management activities will occur:

- No Harvesting – approx 151 acres (37% of area) – no cutting will occur in the riparian buffer areas, visual buffers at the property boundaries near occupied homes, and near historic home sites found on the property.
- Thinning – approx 201 acres (49% of area) – these areas will be thinned to promote overall forest health and vigor and improve wildlife habitat. Many of the thinnings protect the healthier trees and higher value species.
- Final Harvest – approx 43 acres (11% of area) - these areas include pine stands and areas which were severely damaged from Hurricane Fran. All trees will be harvested from these management areas (largest area is 8 acres, but average size is 3.6 acres). These areas will be reforested in shortleaf or loblolly pine following harvest.
- Hardwood Openings – approx 12 acres (3% of area) – these are small group harvests within the hardwood thinning areas which average one acre in size. Mature oak and hickory trees may be left to help regenerate the center of the openings.

The current plan is for the contractor to begin work west of the access road shown on the map. All work will be completed in accordance with *North Carolina Forest Practices Guidelines Related to Water Quality* and recommendations described in *North Carolina Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual to Protect Water Quality* as amended in September 2006.

We anticipate two main impacts to neighbors:

1. Noise – neighbors may be able to hear equipment during hours of operation.
2. Vehicular traffic – all trucks will enter and exit the site via Martin Road; we anticipate six to eight truckloads of timber per day during normal harvest operations.

We will continue to keep you informed about our forestry management activities. If you did not receive e-mail notification (with this same letter attached) please send me an e-mail (see below) and I will add your name to our distribution list. Conversely, if you prefer not to be contacted about our activities at this site please notify me and I will remove your name from our list.

Please contact me at 919-537-4214 or at rrouse@owasa.org if you have any questions or would like more information regarding our forestry management activities at the Cane Creek Reservoir Mitigation Tract.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Ruth C. Rouse, AICP
OWASA Planning and Development Manager