



# ORANGE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

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

May 8, 2014

Dear Neighbor:

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

I am writing to follow up on my letters of September 20 and December 3, 2013 in which we informed you that OWASA had 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 issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers to construct Cane Creek Reservoir.

In the December letter, we indicated that work would likely begin later that month. Due to the wet weather we experienced this winter, we delayed the timbering to help protect the stream on the site. At this time, we anticipate beginning work in May. All work will be completed in accordance with *North Carolina Best 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.

I have attached a map summarizing the forest management plan, which has not changed since the September and December updates. 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 –about 151 acres (37% of area; shown in green on attached map) – 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 –about 201 acres (49% of area; shown in yellow on attached map) – these areas will be thinned to promote overall forest health and vigor and improve wildlife habitat. Many of the thinnings will protect the healthier trees and higher value species.
- Final Harvest –about 43 acres (11% of area; shown in orange on attached map) - 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 –about 12 acres (3% of area; shown in white on attached map) – 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.

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](mailto: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

# Forest Management Plan for the Cane Creek Mitigation Tract (491 Ac)

9/13/2013

BUCKHORN RD

MARTIN RD

Forest Mgmt  
Previously  
Implemented

Gate at end of road

MT WILLING RD

HOLLY HILL RD

OAK GROVE CHURCH RD



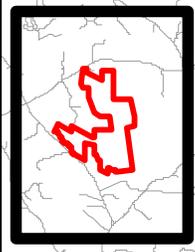
## Legend

- Property Boundary
  - Access Road
  - Streams and Creeks
  - Previous Forest Mgmt
- Treatment**
- No Harvesting
  - Thinning
  - Final Harvest
  - Hardwood Group Opening

This map contains sensitive information, not to be copied or distributed without the express written permission of OWASA. This data is being provided as a visual representation and at no time should the data be considered exact. The data is not guaranteed to be accurate and is not intended as a substitute for a field survey. OWASA assumes no legal liability or responsibility for this data.



Cane Creek Mitigation Tract General Location



Cane Creek Reservoir

