

COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
Legislative Session 2012, Legislative Day No. 7

Bill No. 22-12

Mr. David Marks, Councilman

By the County Council, April 2, 2012

A BILL
ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

Forest Buffer - Permitted Activities

FOR the purpose of authorizing mountain biking and the use of mountain bikes in a certain area; and
generally relating to authorized activities in an area designated as a forest buffer.

BY repealing and re-enacting, with amendments

Section 33-3-112(c)
Article 33 - Environmental Protection and Sustainability
Title 3 - Protection of Water Quality, Streams, Wetlands, and Floodplains
Baltimore County Code 2003

1 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF BALTIMORE COUNTY,
2 MARYLAND, that the laws of Baltimore County read as follows:

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter stricken from existing law.
~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from bill.
Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

1 §33-3-112. Management Requirements for Forest Buffers.

2 (c) Authorized structures, practices, and activities.

3 (1) The following structures, practices, and activities are permitted in the forest buffer.

4 (2) (i) Roads, bridges, trails, storm drainage, stormwater management devices and practices,
5 and utilities approved by the Department are authorized within the forest buffer provided that an
6 alternatives analysis has clearly demonstrated that no other feasible alternative exists and that
7 minimal disturbance will take place.

8 (ii) The alternatives analysis shall be submitted to the Department in accordance with
9 § 33-3-106 of this title.

10 (iii) These structures shall be located, designed, constructed, and maintained to:

11 1. Provide maximum erosion protection;

12 2. Have the least adverse effects on wildlife, aquatic life, and their habitats;

13 and

14 3. Maintain hydrologic processes and water quality.

15 (iv) Following any disturbance, the impacted area shall be restored.

16 (3) Stream restoration projects, facilities, and activities approved by the Department are
17 authorized within the forest buffer.

18 (4) Scientific studies approved by the Department, including water quality monitoring and
19 stream gauging, are authorized within the forest buffer.

20 (5) Horticulture practices may be used to maintain the health of individual trees in the forest

1 buffer.

2 (6) Individual trees in the forest buffer that are in danger of falling, causing damage to
3 dwellings or other structures, or causing the blockage of streams may be removed.

4 (7) Other timber cutting techniques approved by the Department may be undertaken within
5 the forest buffer under the advice and guidance of the State Departments of Agriculture and Natural
6 Resources, if necessary to preserve the forest from extensive pest infestation, disease infestation, or
7 threat from fire.

8 (8) HIKING AND BIKING, INCLUDING THE USE OF MOUNTAIN BIKES, MAY BE
9 ALLOWED IN THE LOCH RAVEN RESERVOIR.

10 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, that this Act, having been passed by the
11 affirmative vote of five members of the County Council, shall take effect on May 20, 2012.