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House Bill 88: Understanding Ohio's Timber Harvest Regulations

Timber harvesting in Ohio is governed by two primary statutes: Section 208 of the federal Clean Water Act and the Ohio Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (APAP), as outlined in House Bill 88.

Agricultural Pollution Abatement Program (APAP)

Under the APAP, soil or sediment-laden water resulting from timber harvesting activities is classified as an "agricultural pollutant." The Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Soil and Water Conservation (DSWC) administers this program, with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) implementing the standards and providing technical assistance to landowners and operators [Ohio Department of Agriculture](#).

If sediment-laden water enters the waters of the state, both the landowner and the operator may be subject to fines and required to take remedial actions to achieve compliance.

Forestry Pollution Prevention Plan (FP3)

To encourage voluntary compliance, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) offers the Forestry Pollution Prevention Plan (FP3). This plan assists woodland owners, loggers, and foresters in pre-planning logging activities to minimize environmental impacts. By developing and adhering to an FP3, operators can use it as an affirmative defense in a private civil action for nuisance claims related to forestry pollution [Cloudinary+1](#).

Enforcement and Compliance

The ODNR Division of Forestry is responsible for enforcing these regulations. Complaints regarding forestry pollution can be submitted orally or in writing to the chief or the chief's designee. The division may investigate these complaints and, if necessary, work with the SWCD to ensure compliance with the forestry pollution abatement rules [Ohio Laws](#).

Note: For the most current information and guidance, please consult the Ohio Department of Natural Resources and the Ohio Department of Agriculture's Division of Soil and Water Conservation.