

Jamie Whitehouse

From: Hoyd, Kyle (DDA) <kyle.hoyd@delaware.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, October 14, 2025 2:00 PM
To: Planning and Zoning
Cc: Jamie Whitehouse
Subject: Comments regarding Belmead Farm LLC
Attachments: BelMead Farms LLC SPZ 10_14_25.pdf

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Please find the attached comments concerning Belmead Farm LLC. Feel free to contact me regarding them if further response is needed.

Kyle Hoyd
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Delaware Forest Service
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OCT 14 2025

SUSSEX COUNTY
PLANNING & ZONING

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October 13, 2025

Jamie Whitehouse
Director of Planning & Zoning
2 The Circle
Georgetown, DE 19947

Dear Mr. Whitehouse,

Subject: Belmead Farm LLC, Parcel: 334-18.00-40.01&40.06

Upon review of the questions presented by Sussex County Council on September 16, 2025, the Delaware Forest Service has the following comments:

1. Plans show that up to 5 acres will be removed out of the 10 acres that are currently onsite, not 10 acres as stated in the SPZ letter. Impacts to the forest area outlined on the PLUS plans dated January 6, 2025, show that most of the land clearing will occur along the Northwest boundary. This is the most favorable area for forest loss out of the 10 acres from a forest health/forest connectivity standpoint if the proposed development moves forward.
2. During a site assessment it was noted that the North-East/South-East portions of the forest are the most important as it relates to forest preservation-conservation and forest connectivity. The 10-acre forest is a mixed hardwood stand comprised of Yellow Poplar, White Oak, Southern Red Oak, and Loblolly Pine, with an American Holly understory. Logging occurred sometime in the early to mid-60's (prior to our permitting system) which left a number of coppice trees present (past practice of harvesting and allowing rapid regrowth from the stump). Given the age of the forest, lack of favorable understory, it is our recommendation that the forested area outside of any proposed land use change undergo a silvicultural prescription by a professional forester. This will help with understory establishment, the removal of poor-quality trees, increase water uptake which will also increase habitat and overall forest health.
3. Regarding questions 2-4, the Forest Service has reached out to the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to provide comment as these matters fall under their jurisdiction.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please let me know if additional information is needed.

Sincerely,

Kyle R. Hoyd
State Forester
Delaware Department of Agriculture
Forest Service