

# Year in Review 2014



## Success Stories & Accomplishments

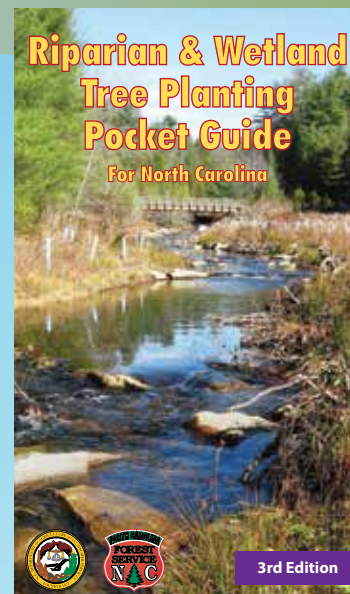
North Carolina Forest Service, Nonpoint Source & Water Quality programs

### Got Streams or Wetlands, and Need to Plant Trees? We Can Help.

The 3rd edition of this popular pocket guide was produced in 2014 and was widely distributed at two regional water resource conferences in which the North Carolina Forest Service participated. The guide has new information on different planting methods, improved illustrations, and new color photos. A limited number of 2,500 copies were printed, which are available from the NCFS website and local offices.

As a reminder, the NCFS produces and sells a diversity of forest tree seedlings, both pine and hardwood species, as well as some native grasses. Many of these trees and grasses are suitable for establishing or enhancing a streamside forest, wetland area, or stream restoration site. One of our local foresters can prepare\* a reforestation plan for establishing or renewing your woodland.

\*A service fee is required



### Got a Stream to Cross for Harvesting Timber? We Can Help With That, too.



A tried and true method of protecting water quality during logging is to not cross the stream with equipment, unless absolutely needed. If that time comes, portable bridgemats are the preferred solution.

Since 1996 the NCFS has loaned portable bridgemats to loggers for temporarily crossing streams and ditches when harvesting timber. This project demonstrates how well portable bridgemats keep sediment, debris, and other pollution out of the water, when used correctly.

This photo shows a set of three 25-foot long steel bridgemats loaned out by the NCFS, being used in Yancey County in 2014 to widen an existing road bridge, so that the log trucks can

safely access the tract of timber. This past year, the NCFS provided bridgemats for 63 logging jobs, protecting 74 crossings, and providing access to an estimated 3,000 acres of timber. Bridgemats have been acquired over the years by the NCFS using various grants from federal water quality protection programs



Website: [ncforestservice.gov](http://ncforestservice.gov)



# Education, Outreach & Training

The list below is a sample of some water-related programs, classes, and workshops where NCFs personnel led, assisted with, exhibited or presented at: (estimated number of participants shown for each event)

- 365: N.C. Chapter of the American Water Works Assoc./Water Environment Assoc. Spring Conference
- 350: EcoStream Restoration Conference
- 215: Environmental Day for fifth grade students in Greene County
- 200: N.C. Water Resources Research Institute Annual Conference
- 160: Southern Regional Water Education Summit
- 140: Symposium on Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) in the Eastern U.S.
- 137: North Carolina ProLogger Program
- 95: Urban Forestry Technical Foundations for Communities
- 79: NCSU satellite video conference refresher of the state water quality rules and BMPs
- 46: BMP classroom instruction and field lab exercises for forestry college students
- 40: Central Carolina Forestry Club presentation on BMPs, FPGs, and water quality projects
- 19: Water Quality Committee of the Western Piedmont Regional Council of Government



Instructing a ProLogger workshop. A special note: NCFs Lenoir District Water Quality Forester Roger Miller, seen in the photo, will retire in early 2015 after serving for 35 years and helping to build the foundation of the NCFs water quality program. He mentored new employees, was a catalyst for logger training, and exemplified proactive BMP outreach.

Photo provided by the North Carolina Forestry Association.



A tour of logging on Clemmons Educational State Forest for DENR staff.

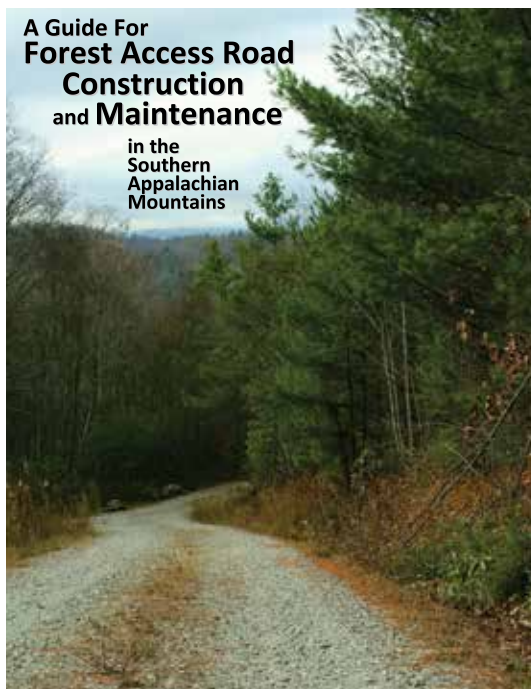
We continued a water quality study of a forest road stream crossing to evaluate how well BMPs prevent sediment from polluting streams.



College students get a lesson on proper BMPs and soil stabilization measures after logging is completed.

# Publications

By the end of 2014, we were putting the finishing touches on three newly revised and updated publications that will be printed and made available in early 2015.



## Roads in the Mountains

Building and maintaining a forest access road in the mountains is challenging, and requires an extra level of planning to assure soil conservation and water resource protection. The new guide book is a re-crafted version of an older guide that was originally developed by the U.S. Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service in the 1980s. Demand for this type of reference material continues today, and the NCFS took the challenge to update, revise, and remake this book. Funding for the printing will be shared with some other state forestry agencies, since the issues related to forest roads in the mountains is not just something that North Carolina faces. Copies of this book will be available from NCFS District and County offices in the western area of the state, and it will also be available to print from the NCFS website.

## Timber Harvest Planning Advice

We developed two new outreach products aimed at forest owners who may be thinking about selling their timber. Most of North Carolina's 18 million acres of forestland is owned by individuals, farmers, and families.

The NCFS can assist forest owners with understanding suitable harvesting methods, what measures are needed to protect water quality, and what options are best to establish the next generation of forest.



**Look for the new *Call Before You Cut* brochure and its accompanying *Before You Cut Timber* poster in your neck of the woods!**

# Compliance Inspections & Technical Assistance

## Results from statewide FPG inspections in state fiscal year 2013-2014:

- 4,119: Number of forestry sites inspected for compliance with the FPG rules (02A NCAC 60C .0100 to .0209; Forest Practices Guidelines Related to Water Quality)
- 2,873: Number of reinspections
- 98%: Statewide FPG Compliance Rate
- 73: Number of inspected sites that were not in compliance upon initial site visit
- 101: Number of sites inspected as a result of receiving a complaint
- 15: Number of complaint sites that were not in compliance upon initial site visit
- 3: Number of cases that were referred for environmental rules enforcement
- 32,600: Number of hours recorded by NCFs personnel statewide to implement water quality program activities

## Some examples of technical assistance that we provided:

**Brunswick county:** Hosted a field tour of a pine plantation forest for staff experts from USEPA and NOAA, to observe silvicultural practices in wetlands of the coastal region.

**Currituck, Gates, Hertford and Pasquotank counties:** Evaluated streams, rivers, and canals to identify possible wind-thrown trees that may come from streamside buffers (photo at right).

**Jackson county:** Assessed multiple streams as requested by a landowner, to assist with laying out skid trail and logging road crossings for a planned timber harvest.

**Wake county:** Provided suggestions to the NCSU Forest Manager on options to stabilize and restore a washed-out section of Richland Creek on Schenck Memorial Forest.



## Stream Restoration



The Lake Julia Outfall (Reasonover Creek) at DuPont State Recreational Forest, Sept. 2014. Additional trees were installed this past year to fill in gaps



Washed out culverts in Beddingfield Creek on Clemmons Educational State Forest, Jan. 2014. We are seeking grant funds to restore this stream section and install a better crossing.

## Partners and Cooperators



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