



Eastern Region BMP Newsletter Update

Groundwater and Wetlands Research Study

Earlier this year, the N.C. Division of Water Quality (NC-DWQ) released its final results from a multi-year research study to investigate how groundwater moves in the coastal plain region. Several study sites were located on Bladen Lakes State Forest and Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest.



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Overall, the findings showed that isolated wetland areas examined in the study were, in fact, hydrologically connected with streams and groundwater, even though the isolated wetlands had no obvious inlet or outlet upon the ground surface. The full 283-page report, entitled "Hydrologic Connectivity, Water Quality Function, and Biocriteria of Coastal Plain Geographically Isolated Wetlands" is available from the NC-DWQ Aquifer Protection Section, [Groundwater Publications website](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 7: Smithfield. NCFA Safety, Logging & Transportation Committee. Contact Jack Swanner @ 1-800-231-7723.

AUGUST 7,8,9: Wilmington. NC Urban Forestry Conference. Contact: North Carolina Urban Forest Council: www.ncufc.org.

AUGUST 21: Raleigh. NC SFI State Implementation Committee. Jim Durham @ 910-362-4748.

SEPTEMBER 20 & 21: Smithfield/Selma area. Mid-Atlantic Logging & Biomass Equipment Live Demo and Expo. Contact Jack Swanner @ NCFA: 1-800-231-7723; or Doug Duncan @ NCAPL: 919-271-9050.

BMP Focus: Using Slash on Skid Trails

What do you call the limbs, tops, needles, leaves, and other small pieces of trees that are leftover when bucking and de-limbing a tree during logging?

Slash?.... Laps?..... Logging debris?.... Woody trash?....

Whatever you call it, that leftover material is a low-cost, effective, versatile, and valuable BMP tool.

Don't let it go to waste! Apply, mat-down, and pack-in that leftover debris atop of skid trails, log decks, landings, and approachways to stream crossings.

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BMP Focus: Using Slash on Skid Trails

If you are a logger, think about this: *It's all about risk management.*

Every time your log skidder makes a turn at the deck, have the operator grab a grapple full of slash and spread it out across bare soil, and work it in with each pass of the tractor, on skid trails, decks, and stream crossing approachways.

If done right, and used correctly, you will save time and money by not having to buy and install silt fence..... straw bales..... waterbars..... turnouts..... grass seed..... lime..... fertilizer.....

Don't just plop down a couple piles of slash on a skid trail – that won't work.

Using slash will help you:

- ◆ Prevent compacting and rutting, especially on soft ground. This can reduce time spinning wheels in slick mud or getting stuck.
- ◆ Create a cushioning layer atop of the bare soil to catch rainfall, slow down runoff, and help trap sediment that might wash down the slope.
- ◆ Improve your job's efficiency by actively rehabilitating the skid trails while the job is ongoing.



BMPs are a logger's best friend to manage risk: Low Risk, Low Cost, High Reward.

If you are a forest owner, think about this: *It's all about sustainability.*

- ◆ Having the logger spread out leftover slash will avoid unsightly debris piles.
- ◆ Matting down slash will protect your soil, keep sediment from washing into your stream, and add natural nutrients back across your land for the next forest.
- ◆ Using slash may hinder access for a few years along the skid trail, but this can also prevent trespassers and un-authorized users.

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Compare these photos of two different logging jobs, taken a few months ago, during BMP survey site assessments being conducted by the N.C. Forest Service:



Which logging job is effectively using leftover slash as a BMP on skid trails?

Which logging job is more at-risk of environmental compliance concerns?

The rutting seen on the left will be a permanent scar on the land, long after the logging is complete. If slash had been matted down from the beginning of the logging, as done on the right, then perhaps the rutting could have been prevented or reduced in severity.

About those BMP Surveys.....

As highlighted in the previous issue, the N.C. Forest Service is conducting a statewide random assessment of logging sites to evaluate the usage of voluntary BMPs.

Through the end of June we have completed 30 surveys.

And the results so far confirm our belief that there is still plenty of room for improvement when it comes to using BMPs at the right time, the right way, for the right reason.

If your organization would like to have one-on-one BMP training, or pre-harvest planning assistance, contact the N.C. Forest Service forester in your area, listed on the back page.

POSSIBLE ANSWERS TO PAGE 4:
 1. Was a plowed fireline really needed through this wet, soft, hardwood bottomland area?
 2. Could another method have been used to effectively contain a controlled burn, with minimal impact to the soil and water resources in this hardwood stand? Options such as a leaf blower, a mulching machine, a hand-line, or even nothing at all may have worked better.
 3. What type of risk management analysis was conducted before plowing this line? What was the level of risk that a fire might escape all of the way through this wet, swampy, hardwood bottomland..... when compared with the environmental risk of plowing a fireline and excessively disturbing the soil and tree roots?
 4. This area appears to be a wetland.... Is this fire plow line, for a prescribed burn, allowable under the federal and state wetland and water quality laws?

North Carolina Forest Service

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District Office BMP Contacts

Northeastern Coastal Plain: D-7
Elizabeth City: 252-331-4781
James Caddy, Water Quality Forester

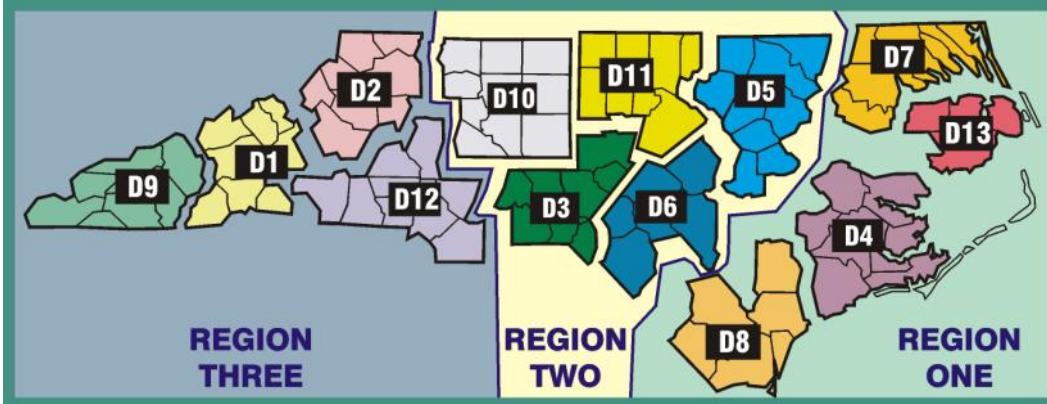
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Jamie Dunbar, Assistant District Forester

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Dennis Register, Water Quality Forester

Southeastern Coastal Plain: D-8
Whiteville: 910-642-5093
Corey Klamut, Water Quality Forester

**CONGRATULATIONS TO COREY,
NEWLY ASSIGNED WATER QUALITY
FORESTER IN THE WHITEVILLE DISTRICT**

Eastern Region Office: R-1
Kinston: 252-520-2402
Jim Slye, Assistant Regional Forester for
Forest Management



Surf The Web

Manage and Protect Your Forest - www.ncforestservice.gov
NCDA&CS Agricultural Services - www.ncagr.gov
Keep Your Home Safe From Wildfire - www.ncfirewise.org
Go Out and Learn in the Forest - www.ncesf.org
Locate NC-Grown Farm and Forestry Products - www.ncfarmfresh.com

Let's Play A Game: What's Wrong With This Picture?

How many potential BMP problems can you identify in this photo? Possible answers are on page 3.
Hint: This is not a logging job... it is a plowed fire line for a future prescribed burn.



Photo taken March 7, 2013