



Piedmont Region BMP Newsletter Update

Stream Crossing BMP Studies Continue

The N.C. Forest Service, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and cooperating landowners, are continuing to study the sedimentation effects from skid trails and logging roads when they cross streams. We always encourage forest owners and loggers to avoid installing a crossing, but sometimes you just need one. The photos below show the apparatus that we built to gauge the streamflow for taking water samples and monitor the amount of water that flows during the study.



Photo below is from Montgomery County, on a small stream with an existing forest road that will be used for logging.



Photo above is from Orange County, on a larger stream where a new forest road must be built to gain access to timberland.

Inside this issue:

Stream Crossing Studies	1
BMP Focus: Using Slash on Skid Trails	1,2,3
BMP Survey Update	3
What's Wrong With This?	4
District BMP Contacts	4

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

AUGUST 13: Raleigh @ NCSU. Management of Invasive & Exotic Vegetation in Riparian Areas. Contact [NCSU Stream Restoration Program](#) at 919-513-2192.

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 @ NCAFL: 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.

{ Continued on Page 2 }

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 laps & 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 bridgemat crossing on the left has exposed bare soil on each approachway, and has a wide gap between the panels: a high risk scenario. The bridgemat crossing on the right has no gaps between panels and lots of slash matted down on the approachways.

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. The skid trail did not use slash or laps to cover the bare soil, creating a high risk situation for erosion and sedimentation runoff.
2. A lot of rehab work will be needed: waterbars, turnouts, diskings, liming, seeding, strawing, etc. That means extra time, labor, and \$\$\$\$. The soil in the skid trail is now compacted. This hard surface cannot absorb water as easily, and will restrict new tree seedling root growth.

LOOK AT THE LEFTOVER SLASH ALONGSIDE THE SKID TRAIL...COULD THAT SLASH HAVE BEEN SPREAD OUT ATOP OF THE SKID TRAIL AND WORKED-IN FROM THE START, POSSIBLY PREVENTING THIS HIGH RISK BMP SITUATION?

North Carolina Forest Service

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District Office BMP Contacts

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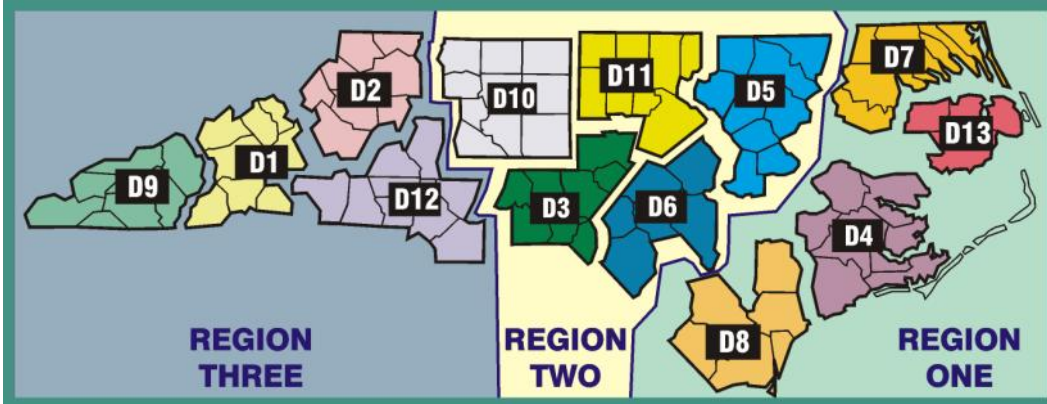
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Surf The Web

Manage and Protect Your Forest - www.ncforestservice.gov

NCD&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?

See how many potential BMP problems you can identify in this photo. Possible answers are on page 3.

