



**North Carolina Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services**
N.C. Forest Service



Steven W. Troxler
Commissioner

Scott Bissette
Assistant Commissioner

From: N.C. Forest Service Leadership
To: N.C. Forestry Community
RE: COVID-19 Impacts to N.C. Forest Service Programs & Services
Date: 4/1/2020

The N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) continues to closely assess the COVID-19 outbreak and how we deliver our programs and services. We are aware this could be a very challenging time for many in our forestry community, particularly small businesses.

As an emergency response agency, the NCFS will continue to respond to wildland fires as well as other emergency support operations. We wanted to share that our foresters and rangers are also still servicing most types of field requests (ex. timber exams; yard tree concerns) as long as recommended social distancing guidelines can be implemented. Maintaining public and employee health will be our staff's number one priority when determining if a request can be serviced now versus being postponed. Remote assistance and use of other technology are also being used when practical. For a full listing of COVID-19 impacts to NCFS programs and services, please visit <https://ncforestsERVICE.gov/COVID19.htm>

To keep forestry field operations efficient, productive and in compliance with forestry-related regulations, please keep in mind the following assistance is available:

- pre-harvest advice and forestry management plans
- assistance accessing online resources such as topographic and soils maps
- assistance using online tools such as the [NCFS Online Pre-Harvest Planning Tool](#)
- stream identification determinations for Division of Water Resources Buffer Rule compliance
- bridgemat loans for stream crossings
- Forest Practice Guidelines Related to Water Quality (FPGs) inspections to confirm requirements have been met before leaving the site

Our hope is that by working together we can reduce problems and help keep essential forestry operations running as smoothly as possible.

For further assistance, please contact your local NCFS County Ranger's office or visit https://ncforestsERVICE.gov/contacts/contacts_main.htm for NCFS office contact information. Water quality-related technical assistance can also be requested at: https://www.ncforestsERVICE.gov/water_quality/wqAssistance.htm

Best wishes to all.