

# Foresters for Healthy Waters A Landowner Cost Share Program for Pre-Harvest Plans

*Working forests protect clean air and water with planning, management, and proper execution.*

## Overview

Join your neighbors in keeping your forests and waterways healthy and beautiful while saving money. When it comes time to thin or harvest timber, Foresters for Healthy Waters can help.

It's a voluntary program in which trained forestry or wildlife professionals write pre-harvest plans that include practical measures to ensure adjacent rivers and streams remain in good condition for rare aquatic species. Landowners receive reimbursement for these specialized plans. It's a win for landowners, foresters, stream species, and local communities that use the waterways.



*Landowners with forests in Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Nash, Vance, and Warren counties are eligible to participate. Map by J. Archambault, FWS*

## What is a Foresters for Healthy Waters pre-harvest plan?

These plans go above and beyond to guide the timber harvest in ways that prevent sedimentation and maintain ideal water temperatures and habitat connectivity. The plans account for operations through the lens of aquatic species. They identify details like the best locations and methods for access roads, logging decks, stream crossings (if necessary), post-harvest site rehabilitation, and protected areas like streamside management zones to ensure maximized protection of water quality.



*With a little extra effort, landowners can help keep streams in good condition for aquatic life.*

## Why Forests Matter for Aquatic Species

Forestlands are important to families. In addition to valuable timber products and revenue, forests offer natural beauty, a place to relax and play, and a home for wildlife.

The forests of the Tar River basin protect the habitat of rare aquatic species such as the Carolina madtom, a tiny catfish, and freshwater mussels like the yellow lance and Atlantic pigtoe. Every mussel can filter gallons of water per day, removing excess nutrients and harmful pathogens like E. coli. By ensuring that harvest operations keep streams clean, forest landowners can help maintain balance in nature.



*The Tar River and its surrounding forests provide beautiful places to recreate.*



*The Carolina madtom (left) and the yellow lance mussel (right) inhabit streams of the upper Tar River basin.*

## Are you planning to harvest timber?

Private landowners who voluntarily participate in Foresters for Healthy Waters will receive reimbursement for the cost of having a qualifying Pre-Harvest Plan prepared for their pending timber harvest. Streams are protected from harmful impacts, aquatic life is conserved, and biodiversity is sustained through well-implemented forest management practices.

## For more information contact:

NCFS District 5 – Rocky Mount Office (252-442-1626)  
Eligible counties include Franklin, Nash, Edgecombe, Warren, and Halifax  
NCFS District 11 – Hillsborough Office (919-732-8105)  
Eligible counties include Granville, and Vance

Foresters and wildlife managers can become certified by Foresters for Healthy Waters and help landowners achieve their goals of managing forests for water and wildlife!

