



North Carolina Forest Service



A Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Steve Troxler, Commissioner

BMP Newsletter

Best Management Practices for Water Quality & Soil Conservation

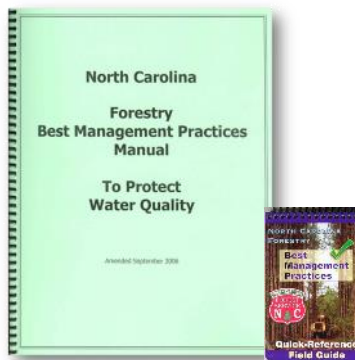


This issue's cover photo was taken near Plumtree in Avery County. This is a great example of a natural-bottom ford stream crossing. They did a great job selecting this crossing type as this stream is much too wide for the practical installation of a culvert or bridgemat set. The stream has an existing rocky bottom that can support low-volume log truck traffic. The stream banks have low vertical heights, resulting in minimal streambank alterations. The approach ways are quite gentle (less than 4%) and rock was applied uphill from the edge of the stream to the nearest break in slope. The rock application covers more than 80% of the roadway. Areas near the crossing were stabilized with a mixture of grass seed (see tall blue/green rye grass in the background).

To learn more about stream crossing BMPs, review the [BMP manual section on stream crossings](#) and the [NCFS Water Quality Refresher Presentations](#).

Forestry BMPs 101

Forestry BMPs are voluntary/nonregulatory things or processes used to minimize environmental impacts to soil and water. Many people tend to think of BMPs as 'things' that can be operationally implemented on the ground (e.g., water bars, turnouts, streamside management zones, etc.). But BMPs can also be 'processes' (e.g., planning, trial and error learning, and keeping up to date on the latest regulations). A wide range of options (things and processes) are included in the N.C. Forestry BMP manual and its associated quick-reference field guide (shown and linked below).



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The nonregulatory approach to forestry BMPs is largely an acknowledgement of the variability among sites and the abilities of trained natural resource professionals to tailor methods to meet environmental and landowner objectives. Regardless of which BMPs are implemented and how, tracts must remain in-compliance with state and federal rules and standards. Such rules and guidelines are oriented primarily toward improving water quality, minimizing soil loss from erosion, reducing sedimentation and controlling nonpoint source pollution. With this model, the private sector has flexibility to conduct operations with the understanding of baseline expectations that have shown to be effective at protecting water quality.

Begin this new year by reviewing the basics of BMPs in Chapter 1 of the BMP manual.

The BMP Life Cycle

BMPs recommended by the state are an excellent starting point for planning and executing a sustainable forestry operation. However, the N.C. Forest Service encourages the implementation of BMPs not listed in the manual if it helps meet landowner objectives and environmental standards. If you are aware of such tactics, the N.C. Forest Service welcomes the opportunity to learn about the BMP, the situation and how it worked. Photos are encouraged and may even be highlighted in subsequent editions of this BMP newsletter. Contact your water quality forester (see Pages 3 and 4) or a member of the [Water Resources Branch](#) to discuss!

These state recommendations don't just come out of the blue. They are a product of the BMP life cycle (shown below). This continuous cycle allows for adjustments in BMP recommendations so that new and/or different information can be accommodated. The N.C. Forest Service—as well as many others—embrace this process and believe that all parts of this cycle are critical to achieving sustainability. An example in each BMP life cycle category can be found on the N.C. Forest Service website in the [water quality section](#).



No matter which part of the cycle you look at, it involves multiple organizations and collaboration occurring simultaneously. If you are reading this newsletter, you are part of the forestry community, and the N.C. Forest Service wants to work with and hear and learn from you.

Coming soon is another product of collaboration: the [2020 North Carolina Forest Action Plan](#). Be on the lookout for an updated description of priority forest watersheds and notable forestry actions that warrant attention in the coming years.

Meet Your New Water Quality Forester



Jonathon Pearson (above) is now the water quality forester in the northern Coastal Plain region. He is a graduate of N.C. State University and brings several years of experience from within the N.C. Forest Service as a forest inventory and analysis technician and service forester.

Cellphone: 252-286-0881

Brian Michaelsen (below) is now the water quality forester in the eastern Piedmont region. He is a graduate of N.C. State University and brings several years of experience from within the N.C. Forest Service as an assistant county ranger and service forester. He has also worked in industry as a procurement forester.

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See Page 4 for updated water quality forester coverage areas.



Billy Barnette (left) is now the water quality forester in the southern Coastal Plain region. He brings 32 years of work experience in industry, including wood procurement and SFI compliance.

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Western Region Events

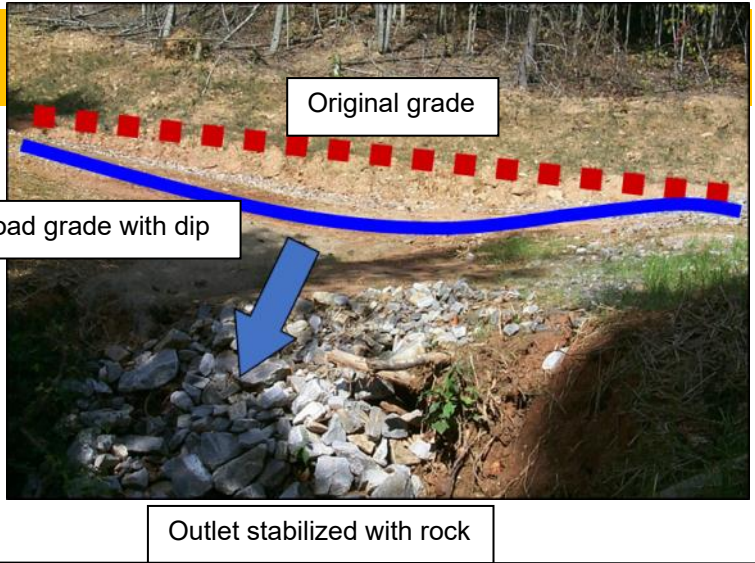
Piedmont Region Events

Eastern Region Events

For recorded and live webinars related to forestry and/or erosion control, check out:
[The Forestry and Natural Resources Webinar Portal](#)
[NC Erosion & Sediment Control Design Workshop Webinars](#)

Did you know...

A **broad-based dip** is a combination of a shallow depression (dip) excavated into the road surface with a slight hump at a reversed grade, formed immediately on the downhill edge of this dip. An outlet area is provided for the runoff to leave the road surface. The dip works by diverting runoff away from the roadbed and through the outlet. The hump acts as a barrier to continued runoff flow downhill along the road surface.



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Protect, Manage and Grow Your Forest
www.ncforestservice.gov

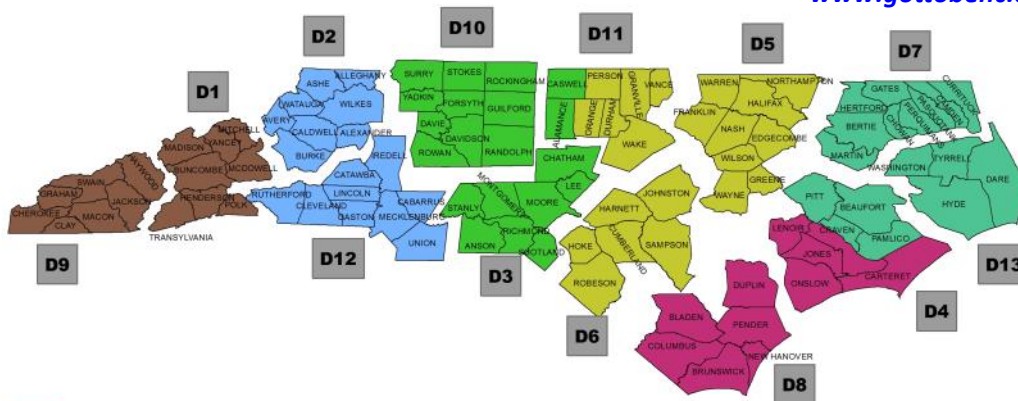
NCD&CS Agricultural Services
www.ncagr.gov

Go Out and Learn in the Forest
www.ncesf.org

Purchase NCFS Forest Tree Seedlings
www.buynctrees.com

Keep Your Home Safe From Wildfire
www.resistwildfire.nc.gov

Locate North Carolina Farm Products
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www.gottobenc.com



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