



North Carolina Forest Service

An agency of the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services

BMP Newsletter

Best Management Practices for Water Quality & Soil Conservation



This month's cover photo was taken in March on the Ouachita National Forest in Arkansas. The NCFS sent a representative to an annual meeting of BMP program coordinators from each of the southern state forestry agencies. Many of the same BMP and water quality issues that we deal with here in North Carolina are also a high priority in the other southern states.

Through the [Southern Group of State Foresters](#), each state shares lessons learned, exchanges ideas, and increases the overall base of expertise and capacity for each of the partner states in a cooperative effort.

We All Need a Refresher

Back in January, the NCFS Water Quality Foresters in the Piedmont region put on a well-attended BMP/water quality refresher workshop in Granville County. It included a morning classroom session, and an afternoon field trip to look at a recently harvested site.

Through 2016 and going forward, we intend to host more of these workshops across the state. The next one will be in May in western North Carolina. The January workshop was noteworthy because Day 1 was mainly for loggers and timber buyers; while Day 2 was focused on NCFS agency employees and consulting foresters. We hope to continue to offer a venue where loggers, operators and buyers can come together and hear the same message, to foster consistency and BMP use. The end-goal is to improve compliance with the rule standards and ultimately, protect water quality. If you would like to host a refresher workshop, talk with the Water Quality Forester who serves your area.

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NCFS Water Quality Forester Laura Hendrick discusses waterbars and turnouts on a harvested site during a BMP refresher workshop in Granville County, Jan. 2016. Over the two days of this workshop, there were an estimated 130 attendees.

What is “Temporary Compliance”?

When the NCFS inspects sites for compliance with the *Forest Practices Guidelines Related to Water Quality* (FPGs), there are times when a site may be determined to be in “temporary compliance”.

This designation is used after corrective actions are taken to fix a non-compliance problem, but groundcover vegetation is not yet fully established or developed sufficiently to permanently stabilize the site. Therefore, it is temporarily in compliance, pending that the groundcover vegetation successfully establishes. Usually, the NCFS provides one growing season for vegetation to establish on tracts that are in Temporary Compliance.

With the 2016 growing season of spring now upon North Carolina, be sure to re-examine any tracts where you logged last year, if it was determined to be in Temporary Compliance back then.

Now is the time to assure that groundcover is developing.

If a tract is not permanently stabilized, as required by the FPGs, then it may be referred to a state environmental quality agency for possible enforcement actions, and may lose its exemption from permitting under the N.C. Sedimentation Pollution Control Act.

*A stream crossing that is permanently stabilized with vegetative groundcover.
Photo courtesy of NCFS Water Quality Forester Beth Plummer.*



Western Region Events

MAY 25 + 26 @ Statesville:
NCFS Forestry Update Meeting.
Day 1: BMP & Water Quality
Refresher.
Day 2: Forest Management
Programs Updates.
Contact Beth Plummer:
704-616-0747.

JUNE 2 @ Canton:
[Annual WNC Sustainable
Forestry Conference.](#)

Piedmont Region Events

APRIL 28 @ Hickory:
[Erosion & Sedimentation Control
Design and Planning Workshop.](#)
Contact NC-WRRI: 919-515-2815.

MAY 3 @ Raleigh:
Forestry Day at the Legislature.
Contact [North Carolina Forestry
Association](#): 1-800-231-7723.

MAY 16 + 17 @ Kernersville:
[Stormwater BMP Inspection and
Maintenance Certification.](#)
Contact NCSU Bio & Ag
Engineering: 919-515-6780.

JUNE 16 @ NCSU / Raleigh:
[Erosion & Sedimentation Control
and Stormwater Inspector /
Installer.](#) Contact NCSU Soils
Science Dept.: 919-515-2655.

Eastern Region Events

APRIL 13 + 14 @ Whiteville:
[ProLogger Base Course.](#)
Contact North Carolina Forestry
Association: 1-800-231-7723.

May 17 @ Beaufort:
[Getting to Know Wetlands Value,
Regulations and Conservation.](#)
Contact NC Coastal Reserve
Program: 252-838-0882.

In March, six NCFS foresters attained certification for coastal plain streams under the state's Surface Water Identification and Training Certification (SWITC).

This allows these foresters to make "stream calls", when requested, for the forestry requirements of the Riparian Buffer Rules in the Neuse, Tar-Pam, Jordan, Randleman, and Goose Creek watersheds.

The foresters are:

- Matt Bishop, New Bern.*
- Aaron Chamblee, Rocky Mount.*
- Austin Harriett, New Bern.*
- Roy Jones, Fayetteville.*
- Jonathan Murray, Rocky Mount.*
- Michael Rhodes, Whiteville.*

FPG Quarterly Reports Delayed

Each quarter, the NCFS staff consolidates all of the FPG site inspection data from each of the 13 districts and then combines it with other data from the 100 counties to produce a set of reports that are a snapshot in time showing which tracts had a FPG non-compliance during the designated period of time. In mid-January, an unexpected departure of a key staff member who was responsible for assembling and reporting this data delayed our ability to pull this information together and produce these reports. We are working on an interim solution and we appreciate your patience as we fill multiple staff vacancies, and develop a process to avoid this type of delay in the future.

As the NCDA&CS and NCFS continue to develop an entirely new database system for agency use in the future, we anticipate that one resulting benefit will be that FPG reports can be produced in a more timely manner.

North Carolina Forest Service

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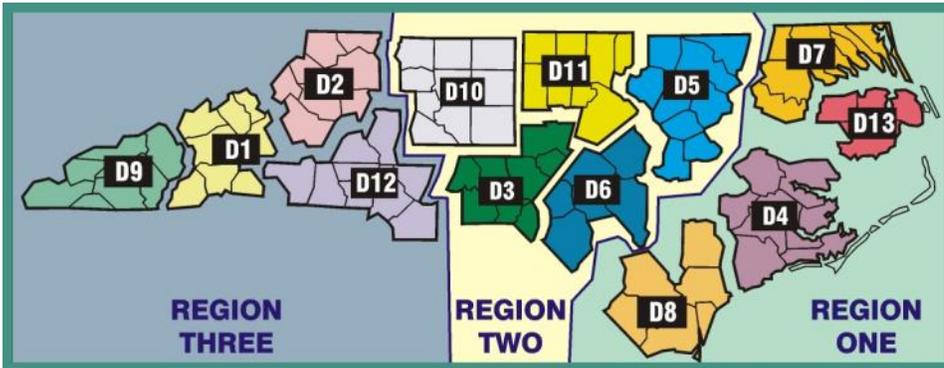
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Western Region Water Quality Foresters

Western Mountains (D9, D1):
[vacant]
Office: 828-665-8688 (interim)

Foothills (D2, D12):
Beth Plummer: 704-616-0747

Piedmont Region Water Quality Foresters

Hillsborough District (D11, northern D10)
Laura Hendrick: 919-218-4263

Rockingham District (D3, southern D6+D10)
Matt Vincett: 910-334-0025

Rocky Mount District (D5, Johnston, Sampson)
Aaron Levine: 252-813-3174

Eastern Region Water Quality Foresters

Northern Coastal Plain (D7, D13):
[vacant]
Office: 252-520-2402 (interim)

Southern Coastal Plain (D4, D8):
[vacant]
Office: 252-520-2402 (interim)

What's Wrong With This Picture?

Stream crossings continue to be the highest risk potential where water quality could be impacted from forestry operations.

Remember the first statement in FPG .0203:
"Stream crossings shall be avoided when possible."

Culverts are especially challenging. There are many steps in proper culvert installation. If just one step is not done correctly, then the entire stream crossing can more easily fail.

What are some problems with this culvert?

- ⊗ Lack of soil stabilization.
- ⊗ Sedimentation into the channel.
- ⊗ Insufficient bypasses to allow storm flow to pass around, over, or through the backfill soil.
- ⊗ Culvert is set atop of the channel, essentially disconnecting the continuity of the stream corridor (not to mention the dump-truck's worth of soil backfill within the natural stream valley).



Photo courtesy of NCFS Water Quality Forester Beth Plummer

If this is a temporary crossing: would bridgemats be a better BMP choice?

If this is a permanent crossing: would an improved, hardened ford be a better BMP choice?