

## Eastern Region

# BMP Newsletter Update

### Assessing BMP Usage on Logging Jobs

Raleigh-based staff of the N.C. Forest Service have begun the third cycle of BMP Implementation Surveys. While we call them “surveys”, these are, in fact, detailed site assessments on active and closed-out logging jobs across North Carolina that are in addition to the routine water quality compliance inspections that are done by local NCFS personnel. The purpose of the surveys is to evaluate what BMPs are being used, and to rate the degree to which the BMP is functioning as expected. This is the first comprehensive evaluation of the 2006 BMP Manual, and we expect the outcomes to help guide our recommendations for the future.

Periodically monitoring BMPs is one phase of the ongoing cycle of forestry BMP management. This concept is illustrated at right.

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#### UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 11 @ New Bern:  
Level 1 Erosion & Sediment Control and Stormwater Inspector or Installer Training  
Contact: NCSU Soil Science  
Joni Tanner: 919-513-1678

APRIL 24,25,26 @ Kinston:  
ProLogger Base Course  
Lenoir Community College  
Contact: Jack Swanner, NCFA  
1-800-231-7723

MAY 8 @ Wilson:  
Cooperative Extension Office  
Forest Landowner Workshop  
Contact: 252-237-0111

ALL Educational State Forests are now OPEN for the 2013 season!  
[www.ncesf.org](http://www.ncesf.org)  
Turnbull Creek ESF: Elizabethtown  
Clemmons ESF: Clayton

## BMP Focus: Pre-Harvest Planning

Spring time is for renewal, re-growth, and for getting out into the woods. Spring often sees an increase in the amount of timber being harvested, as the ground conditions dry-out, which allows improved access for logging and hauling timber.

Increased levels of home construction also creates a higher demand for lumber and wood products, which translates into a need for more timber and raw materials from the forest.

**Before harvesting timber, make time to plan your work.**

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## Assessing BMP Usage *{ continued }*

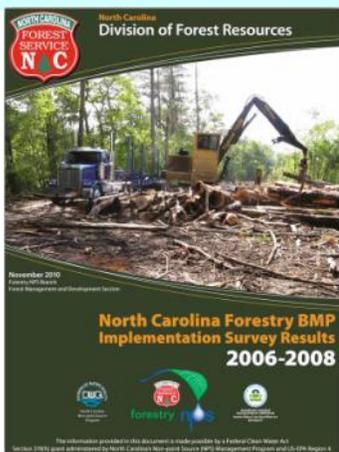
For the first time since doing these surveys over the previous decade, the N.C. Forest Service developed, in-house, a new database collection system to record and quickly analyze field data with hand-held tablet computers.

This BMP survey is serving as a pilot project to determine the usefulness and logistical feasibility of capturing field data with readily available computers, in an effort to be more efficient, provide more timely data analysis reporting, and improve data integrity.

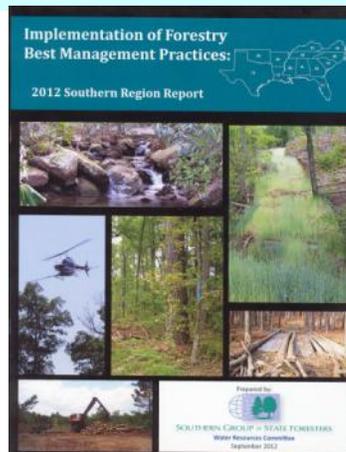
*Photo at right shows two NCFS personnel on a logging job, with the employee at right using one of the new touch-screen computers to record information about the logging job.*



To read two recent BMP monitoring reports for North Carolina and the southeastern U.S., click on the photo illustration of each report.



2011 North Carolina Report



2012 Southern Regional Report

## **BMP Focus: *Pre-Harvest Planning*** *{continued}*

Planning a timber harvest well in advance can help you to:

- ◆ Understand the rules & regulations that apply to your land.
- ◆ Construct or prepare forest roads using BMPs and allowing time for the road to stabilize.
- ◆ Install a culvert or make improvements to the driveway access entry onto the public road.
- ◆ Locate, identify, and mark stream buffer protection zones to keep sediment out of the water.
- ◆ Mark the timber harvest boundary area so the logger knows where to stop cutting.
- ◆ Purchase grass seed, straw, erosion control matting, fertilizer, lime, and other materials for stabilizing bare soil to prevent erosion or sedimentation after the logging is completed.

### *Get Professional Help !*

*You don't need to be an expert on all things. The N.C. Forest Service can assist you with planning a timber harvest at no charge. Ask your County Forest Ranger for help.*

Some tools to use for planning your harvest include soils maps, topographic maps and aerial photos. But, above all, you should walk the area to be harvested to get a good feel for what issues or problems you

and the logger may need to plan for. Refer to [Chapter 3 of the NC Forestry BMP Manual](#) for a detailed pre-harvest planning checklist.

Throughout 2013, the N.C. Forest Service and N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services' Emergency Programs Division will be working on developing a new, free, web-based pre-harvest planning program tool that will allow users to obtain updated aerial satellite images, soils information, stream maps, and other valuable information for planning a harvest. This online tool is part of a project funded by the USDA-Forest Service, and will allow the user to choose the type of plan desired, ranging from a basic aerial photo, or a combination of maps, up to a detailed site suitability report.

Look at the photo of this completed clearcut timber harvest. Can you identify some things in this photo in which pre-harvest planning played a key role?

- ◆ Riparian stream buffer is left intact.
- ◆ No stream crossings were established; the logger skidded the timber around the stream.
- ◆ Log deck landing is located away from the stream.
- ◆ No new roads were built to access the timber.
- ◆ Skid trails are kept to a minimum with no large areas of soil disturbance.



**Pre-harvest planning need not be complicated:  
Just get out and start taking notes of potential obstacles, sensitive areas, and notable items. Locate them on a map, communicate with the timber buyer and the logger, and ask the N.C. Forest Service for assistance!**

# North Carolina Forest Service

Forestry Nonpoint Source Branch  
1616 Mail Service Center. Raleigh, NC. 27699-1616



## District Office BMP Contacts

Northeastern Coastal Plain: D-7  
Elizabeth City: 252-331-4781  
James Caddy, Water Quality Forester

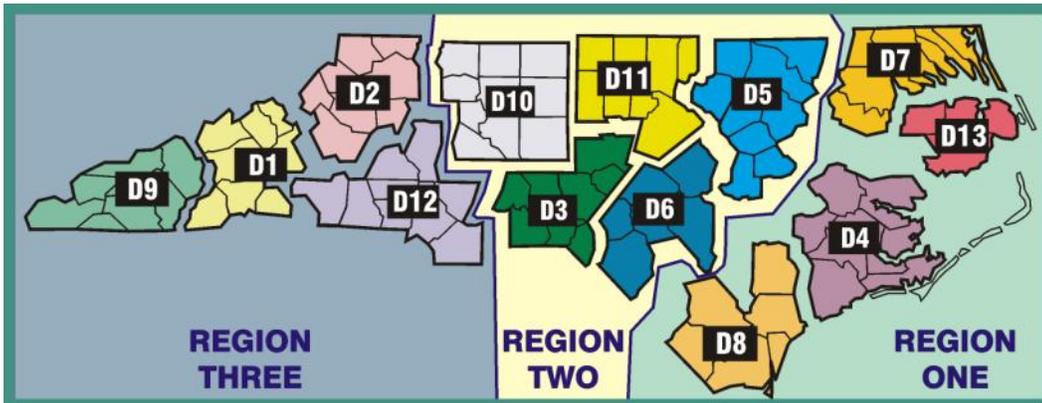
**CONGRATULATIONS JAMES CADDY,  
RECENTLY PROMOTED TO WATER  
QUALITY FORESTER FOR D-7 !**

Albemarle-Pamlico Peninsula: D-13  
Fairfield: 252-926-3041  
Jamie Dunbar, Assistant District Forester

Middle Coastal Plain: D-4  
New Bern: 252-514-4764  
Dennis Register, Water Quality Forester

Southeastern Coastal Plain: D-8  
Whiteville: 910-642-5093  
Duane Truslow, Assistant District Forester

Eastern Region Office: R-1  
Kinston: 252-520-2402  
Jim Slye, Assistant Regional Forester for  
Forest Management



### Surf The Web

Manage and Protect Your Forest - [www.ncforestservice.gov](http://www.ncforestservice.gov)  
NCD&CS Agricultural Services - [www.ncagr.gov](http://www.ncagr.gov)  
Keep Your Home Safe From Wildfire - [www.ncfirewise.org](http://www.ncfirewise.org)  
Go Out and Learn in the Forest - [www.ncesf.org](http://www.ncesf.org)  
Locate NC-Grown Farm and Forestry Products - [www.ncfarmfresh.com](http://www.ncfarmfresh.com)

## Do You Have Blown-Down Trees Within a Stream Buffer Zone?



Photo above shows a stream buffer on a timber harvest along a stream in coastal North Carolina. Without accessing the site and inspecting the stream buffer, it is difficult to say how wide the stream buffer shown here really is.

If you said “yes!”, then we want to know about it, and maybe even come to your property and examine the blown-down trees. Recent concerns have been raised in parts of northeastern North Carolina from individuals who claim that the stream management zone buffers that must be retained alongside streams to filter out sediment are leaving tree vulnerable to blow-down from strong winds.

Eastern North Carolina has a long history of wind storms and timber production. We need to better understand the dynamics that are involved when a stream buffer of trees is left standing. The state rules differ, according to what river basin the logging job is conducted. But, generally, we recommend that a 50-foot wide buffer strip be retained to keep sediment from washing into the natural streams.

If you have questions or concerns about this issue, contact the NCFS forester for your area listed above. We look forward to hearing from you.