BMP Focus: As Winter Approaches...

Rehabilitating and stabilizing exposed soil during the winter is more difficult. Grass won’t grow very well in the cold weather.

In this time of year, it is critical to use alternative methods to establish groundcover for preventing sedimentation and controlling soil erosion on logging jobs. This is especially true on steep slopes and nearby to streams or other waterways.

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 HAVE YOU SEEN ME?

This pocket guide was last printed in 2008. We are seeking feedback to determine if we need to reprint more copies, because our inventory is nearly depleted. Let us know if you think this is a valuable reference that we should continue to provide, and how many copies you think you would need.

Email us your advice at forestry.npsunit@ncagr.gov.
Some other ways to establish groundcover and stabilize bare soil:

- During the logging work, apply, mat-down, and work-in leftover tree limbs, tops, slash, and laps on sloping sections of skid trails and stream crossing approachways on skid trails.

- If you operate a wood chipper, cover the critical bare soil areas with a thick layer of wood chips before leaving.

- Apply a thick layer of wheat straw that covers the bare soil.

- Unroll and stake down coir (coconut fiber) matting, excelsior matting, or other natural fiber matting. These are examples of “rolled erosion control products” that work especially well on stream crossing approachways, along disturbed stream or ditch banks, and within roadside ditches.

In 2010, the N.C. Forest Service produced a 30-minute video showing how to install silt fence and erosion control matting. If you want a DVD copy, send us an email with your name and address: forestry.npsunit@ncagr.gov. Quantities are limited.

Earlier this year, several NCFS foresters received hands-on training for installing rolled erosion control (excelsior) matting, and other BMP products.

Similar training workshops are hosted each year by the NCSU Department of Soil Science.
Erosion control matting is shown in the two above photos of the same site. Left photo was taken immediately after BMP work was completed. Right photo shows the same site, a few months later. This is a good example of “BMP stacking”, or using multiple BMP tools to achieve the desired solution. In this case, (1) a turnout was installed, (2) erosion control matting was applied, (3) rock check dams were installed, and (4) grass seed and straw were spread.

Don’t let winter rains wash away your BMP investment!
Use BMPs early & often. Remember Risk Management

On this logging job, a wood chipper was used. A layer of wood chips was blown upon the soil as a protective cover. This is an excellent groundcover BMP to help stabilize the soil. Photo taken in northeastern North Carolina, September 2013.
Let’s Play a Game: What’s Wrong With This Picture?

See how many potential BMP problems you can identify in this photo.

- Wood road mats are installed to support the log trucks, but this access road is totally falling apart because of the saturated soil.
- The muddy water stirred up with each pass of the truck will wash into the nearby ditch and drain into a creek.
- Some serious soil stabilization is needed to cover the exposed soil, drain-off the excess water, and firm-up the roadway.

This photo was taken in northeastern NC in January 2013.

ANSWER: The access road is totally falling apart because of the saturated soil.