



**Happy New Year**

## Piedmont Region BMP Newsletter Update

### *Ready... Set... Go Review Rules!*

Starting in January 2014, each North Carolina state agency will undertake a comprehensive review of its rules. There are many state water-quality rules that govern forestry activities.

If you have suggestions about whether or not a specific rule should be retained, amended, or eliminated, you can contribute to the review process throughout the year.

Keep tabs on this process by monitoring activities of the Rules Review Commission, through its website from the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings, at: <http://www.ncoah.com/rules/RRC.html>.

#### Inside This Issue:

Ready, Set, Go Review Rules	1
Be Careful With Fire, and Be Careful Controlling Fire	1,2
Last Year's Accomplishments, and Goals for 2014	3
Need Tree Seedlings?	3
What's Wrong With This Picture?	4
District BMP Contacts	4

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**JAN.8 @ Raleigh**, and multiple statewide locations: BMP & Water Quality Video Conference. Contact NCSU, 919-515-9563.

**JAN.30 @ Pittsboro**: Forestry Taxation Workshop. Contact Chatham County Cooperative Extension: 919-542-8202.

**FEB.11 @ Raleigh**: Community Forestry Stewardship Natural Assets Workshop. Contact NCSU, 919-515-3184.

**FEB.18 & 19 @ Fayetteville**: Stormwater BMP Inspection and Maintenance Certification. Contact NCSU, 919-515-2192.

**MAR.19 @ Salisbury**: Soils of the Piedmont Region. Contact NCSU, 919-513-1678.

### **Be Careful With Fire, And Be Careful When Controlling Fire**

**The transition out of Winter and into Spring usually means warm, dry, and low-humidity weather conditions by mid-February and throughout March.**

**If you must do any outdoor burning, be sure to first check with your [County Forest Ranger](#) and [obtain a permit](#), as needed. Be careful with fire, and do not allow it to escape.**

**A key part to controlling fire, especially if done in woodlands, is the need to install fire control lines (also called plowlines, firebreaks, or firelines).**

{ Continued on Page 2 }

## Be Careful With Fire, And Be Careful When Controlling Fire

When planning a prescribed burn, take time to consider where control lines can be installed in a way that minimizes plowing or pushing excessive amounts of soil.

Sometimes, a fire control line for a prescribed burn can be satisfactorily established by lightly scraping off the uppermost layer of debris and vegetation, seen in the photo at left. Digging deeply, moving a lot of soil, and pushing stumps or trees is usually not needed, and only invites trouble for erosion and sediment control problems.



ABOVE: A bladed fireline being installed to contain a site prep burn.

RIGHT: A fireline that was promptly seeded and stabilized after a site prep burn.

### **Consider alternatives to plowing, digging, or blading a prescribed burn fireline, such as:**

- **Disking or tilling the fireline, just enough to expose mineral soil and remove potential fuel.**
- **Closely mowing a control line, then wetting it down just before initiating the prescribed burn.**
- **Use existing corridors, such as roads, trails, rights-of-way, or old existing firelines.**
- **Initiating the prescribed burn from within the stream corridor or swamp area, and let the fire back-out. The stream or wet-bottomland area then becomes a natural fire break that is already 'in the black' when the rest of the tract is burned.**
- **In hardwood forests with a thick leaf layer, try using backpack leaf blowers to remove the leaves and expose the soil surface.**

Plowing or blading a fireline immediately next to, or tying it into, a stream can lead to increased sedimentation into the water if not promptly rehabilitated. Do your part to use BMPs and protect water quality during all phases of forest management. Ask your [County Forest Ranger](#) to help you plan a prescribed burn, and refer to the [Forestry BMP Manual](#) and [Field Guide](#) for recommendations and photos of deploying BMPs when using prescribed fire.



## What Did We Accomplish Last Year?

Since 2004, we have produced a brochure leaflet that briefly highlights some of the more notable accomplishments in our Nonpoint Source and Water Quality programs.

The 2013 edition of the *Year in Review* can be downloaded from the N.C. Forest Service website, under "[Water Quality](#)".

## Our Goals for 2014..... What Are Yours?

- ⇒ Assess at least 200 forestry sites for BMP implementation.
- ⇒ Produce and print a guide book for constructing forest roads in the mountains.
- ⇒ Revise and print a 3rd edition of the Riparian & Wetland Tree Planting Pocket Guide.
- ⇒ Conclude a comprehensive, multi-year forest watershed BMP study project.
- ⇒ Begin developing an online tool for planning and laying out timber harvest BMPs.
- ⇒ Replace a sub-standard culvert stream crossing at Clemmons Educational State Forest.
- ⇒ Initiate water resource restoration work at Gill State Forest.

You can also keep track of the N.C. Forest Service goals outlined in our 5-year Strategic Plan. This Plan, and its quarterly progress updates, are available at <http://ncforests.gov>.

## Need Tree Seedlings?

Winter is the time to reforest and plant new seedlings. The North Carolina Forest Service grows and sells a diversity of native hardwood and pine species. We maintain climate-controlled storage buildings across the state to keep the seedlings at the proper temperatures. To obtain the current available inventory, and find out about pricing, you can call toll-free 1-888-NCTREES (628-7337), or visit the online Forestry Store website, <http://nc-forestry.stores.yahoo.net/>



# North Carolina Forest Service

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



## District Office BMP Contacts

Northwest Piedmont: D-10  
Lexington: 336-956-2111  
Keith Money, Water Quality Forester

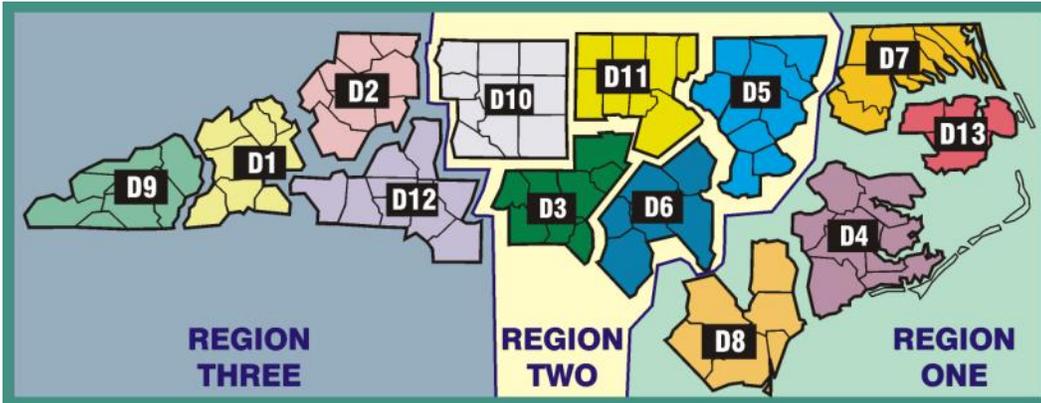
North Central Piedmont: D-11  
Hillsborough: 919-732-8105  
John McBryde, Water Quality Forester

Northeast Piedmont: D-5  
Rocky Mount: 252-442-1626  
Aaron Levine, Water Quality Forester

Western Sandhills: D-3  
Rockingham: 910-997-9220  
Matt Vincett, Water Quality Forester

Eastern Sandhills: D-6  
Fayetteville: 910-437-2620  
Roger Hart, Assistant District Forester

Piedmont Region Office: R-2  
Jordan Lake: 919-542-1515  
Mark Bost, Assistant Regional Forester  
for Forest Management



### Surf The Web

Manage and Protect Your Forest - [www.ncforestservice.gov](http://www.ncforestservice.gov)

NCDA&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)

## Let's Play a Game: What's Wrong With This Picture?



This skid trail stream crossing has lots of exposed, compacted soil with no groundcover. Think about how much soil can easily wash into the stream after a heavy rain. If you don't absolutely need to cross a stream, don't do it. This photo was taken in August 2013 in central North Carolina.