

Western 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 24, MAY 15, JUNE 12:
Integrated Pest Management
Workshop @ Mills River. Contact
NC Co-Op Extension: 828-255-5522

MAY 3 @ Yadkin County:
NC Tree Farm Landowner Workshop
Contact: stevecox@surry.net

MAY 11,12 @ DuPont State Forest:
Tour de Falls waterfalls bus tour
Contact: Friends of DuPont
www.dupontforest.com

JUNE 12,13,14 @ Winston-Salem:
Forsyth Community College
ProLogger Base Course
Contact: Jack Swanner, NCFA
1-800-231-7723

All Educational State Forests are
now OPEN for the 2013 season!
www.ncesf.org
Holmes ESF: Henderson Co.
Rendezvous Mtn ESF: Wilkes Co.
Tuttle ESF: Caldwell Co.

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 }*

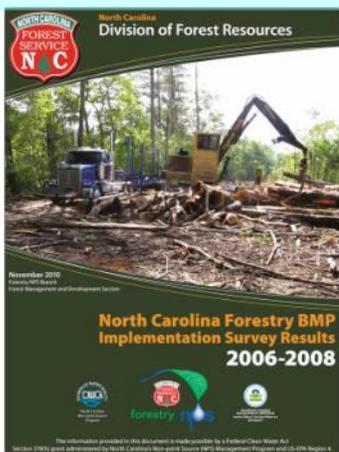
For the first time since doing these surveys over the previous decade, the N.C. Forest Service developed, in-house, a new database collection system to record and quickly analyze field data with hand-held tablet computers.

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.

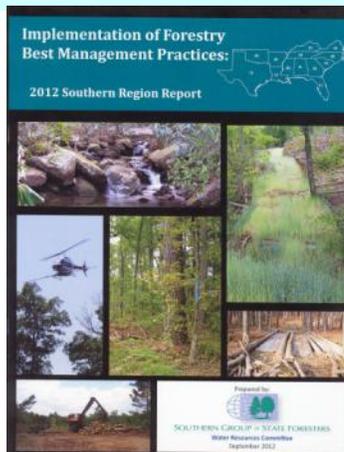
Photo at right shows two NCFS personnel on a logging job, with the employee at right using one of the new touch-screen computers to record information about the logging job.



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

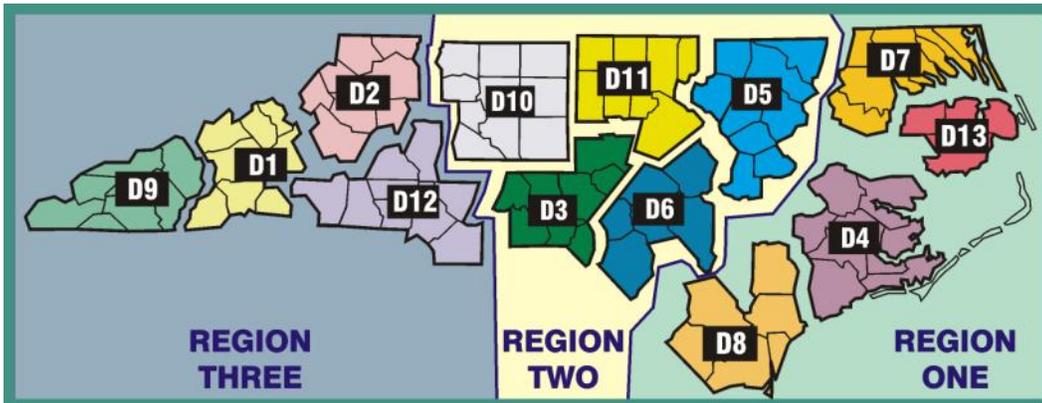
High Country, Northern Foothills: D-2
Lenoir: 828-757-5611
Roger Miller, Water Quality Forester

Catawba Valley, Southern Foothills: D-12
Mount Holly: 704-827-7576
Beth Plummer, Water Quality Forester

Central Mountains: D-1
Asheville: 828-667-5211
Caleb Jones, Assistant District Forester

Western Mountains: D-9
Sylva: 828-586-4007
Hugh Hassell, Assistant District Forester

Western Region Office: R-3
Asheville: 828-665-8688
Michael Cheek, Asst. Regional Forester



Surf The Web

Manage and Protect Your Forest - www.ncforestservice.gov

NCDA&CS Agricultural Services - www.ncagr.gov

Keep Your Home Safe From Wildfire - www.ncfirewise.org

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

Locate NC-Grown Farm and Forestry Products - www.ncfarmfresh.com

Follow-up On Forest Roads

Two positive things happened in late-March related to forest roads.

First, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that stormwater runoff that comes from forest roads need not require a federal clean water permit under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). While this ruling is welcomed by forestry professionals, we need to remain vigilant in preventing, controlling, and managing sediment runoff from forest access roads through the use of Best Management Practices - BMPs.

Second, the previous edition of this newsletter had a BMP focus on forest roads. The North Carolina Forest Service has recently re-printed an excellent, photo-illustrated guidebook originally published by the USDA-Forest Service entitled "Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance Practices for Dirt and Gravel Roads". This book is currently being distributed to the N.C. Forest Service's statewide offices, so please be patient if you want a copy. If you do a lot of road maintenance work, this guidebook can be a supplement to the NC Forestry BMP Manual and offers how-to steps on several road maintenance practices to control, capture, and manage stormwater runoff.

