

Wet-Weather Logging Advisory for North Carolina

Take extra measures to conserve soil, minimize runoff, and protect streams.

The North Carolina Forest Service reminds loggers, timber buyers and woodland owners to take extra precautions during this time of prolonged rainfall. Flash flood warnings recently have been posted for some counties in the mountains. Continued rainfall is expected across much of the state for the next several days.

In the logging industry, the measures and actions that are used to conserve soil and protect water quality are known as Best Management Practices, abbreviated as BMPs. The Forest Service suggests that emphasis be placed on implementing the following BMPs:

- Reduce and manage runoff from logging roads, skid trails, and log decks.
- Prevent excessive sediment or soil from washing into creeks.
- Curtail logging on steep slopes or on saturated soil to limit excessive rutting or compacting.
- Promptly establish groundcover on areas prone to erosion. Examples include erosion control matting, or a thick layer of wood chips or mulch.
- Apply leftover tree tops, limbs, branches and woody debris onto the surface of skid trails to cover bare soil throughout the duration of the logging work. This can prevent soil damage and reduce the risk of sediment washing down the slope and into a stream.
- Do not install new equipment crossings over streams. Access timber from the other side if possible. Be aware of flash flooding that may cut-off your access.
- Retain wider, undisturbed buffer zones of trees and vegetation alongside streams to account for possible flooding.

The Forest Service has a comprehensive user's guide to assist loggers and other forestry professionals with identifying and installing BMPs. The [North Carolina Forestry BMP Manual](#) and its corresponding [Field Guide](#) are available from Forest Service offices and online at <http://ncforestsservice.gov>.

County rangers with the Forest Service can provide free BMP advice and pre-harvest planning assistance to support logging work. Interested individuals also should review the extensive library of BMP recommendations available on the agency's website, including the latest [BMP newsletter](#).

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