The 2021 Revised North Carolina Forestry BMP Manual: What’s Changed?

The Numbers:
About 75% of the original content remains intact.
The 2021 revised edition has 341 BMPs.
...(the 2006 edition had 395 BMPs.)
Some chapters are re-numbered and re-organized.

NEW >> Background Information Awareness Topics:
Ch.1: Connecting Resiliency and Forestry BMPs.
Ch.2: Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species.

Streamside Management Zones (SMZs)
Entire chapter was re-written...make sure you review it!
- 50 feet = standard statewide recommended SMZ width, intermittent & perennial streams.
- Factors to adjust the SMZ wider or narrower are still included, with edits.
- NEW >> Minimum SMZ width is 20 feet.
- NEW >> Emphasis to consider little or no harvest / disturbance in SMZ.
- NEW >> Emphasis to consider wind-throw or blowdown when establishing a SMZ.
- NEW >> No mechanical site prep in the SMZ.
- If timber will be harvested from SMZ: Remove no-more-than 50% basal area.
- NEW >> Exceptions: More than 50% BA may be harvested if needed for:
  1. Salvage logging.
  2. Controlling invasive vegetation.
  3. Removing planted pines to stimulate diversity of riparian tree species regrowth.
- NEW >> Added BMPs for working along ditches and ephemerals.

Stream Crossings:
“Brush Crossings” not acceptable on intermittent or perennial streams, or flowing ditches.
(placement of logging debris into the channel)
NEW >> Log Bridge option.
NEW >> Install ‘curb logs’ alongside bridgemats to catch slop-over debris.
NEW >> Consideration of alternative culvert sizing formulas.
(ex: the USFS ‘Coweeta’ method in the mountains)
Forest Roads:
NEW >> Descriptions and photos of different road standards.
Simplified and streamlined the BMPs.
Moved discussions on using geotextiles and gravel from the old Appendix into the main Chapter, for easier access. Content remains the same, just in a different location.

Mechanical Site Prep:
Streamlined/consolidated BMPs for brevity.

Fire Management:
Emphasis on considering avoiding plowed/bladed firelines along streams.
Consider using the stream as a natural break.

Erosion & Sedimentation Control:
NEW >> Rolling Dip.
NEW >> Rolled Erosion Control Products. *(straw mats, coconut fiber wattles, etc.)*
Adjusted spacing of broad-based dips.

Wetlands:
Entire chapter was re-written...make sure to review it.
- NEW >> BMPs for Shovel/Mat Logging.
- NEW >> Supplemental Forest Management Considerations *(logging in bottomland swamps)*.
- NEW >> Examples of landowner responsibilities for maintaining silvicultural exemptions.
- NEW >> BMPs for Ditch Maintenance *(references the 2020 federal guidance memo)*.
- Revised BMPs for Installing Minor Drainage *(focusing on erosion & sediment control)*.
- BMPs for Roads, and BMPs for Site Prep: streamlined for brevity.

Site Rehabilitation:
BMPs consolidated and streamlined for brevity.
Seeding recommendations remain unchanged.

2021 Revised NC Forestry BMP Manual: What's Changed?

Appendix Items: (in the Manual)
- Agency Contacts
- Conversion Factors
- Web Mapping Resources
- Descriptions of Logging Systems
- Talbot’s Culvert Sizing Formula Table
- Waste Recycling
- Common Types of Forest Wetlands
- Buffer Rule *Forestry Leaflets*

>>(Online Website Only <<
- Forestry BMP Research Bibliography
- Laws, Rules, Regulations & Guidance