

## Appendix 13 - Glossary of Select Terms

**NOTE:** *There are several terms defined in the NC FPGs and DWQ riverbasin / watershed riparian buffer rules. Refer to each rules citation as noted in Appendix 1.*

### Accelerated erosion

Any increase over the rate of natural erosion, as a result of land-disturbing activities.

*Source: NC FPGs (15A NCAC 01I .0102 (1))*

### Adjacent

As cited in the source reference, adjacent means bordering, contiguous or neighboring. Examples include wetlands separated from other waters of the US by man-made dikes or barriers, natural river berms, beach dunes and similar situations.

*Source: United States 33 CFR 328.3(c)*

### Best Management Practice - BMP

A practice, or combination of practices, that is determined to be an effective and practicable (including technological, economic, and institutional considerations) means of preventing or reducing the amount of pollution generated by nonpoint sources to a level compatible with water quality goals. *Source: NC FPGs (15A NCAC 01I .0102 (4))*

### Borrow ditch

A borrow ditch retains water that either seeps in from groundwater sources, and/or runs off from the surface as a nonpoint source. Borrow ditches are usually excavated with a backhoe or similar equipment and often are located alongside roadways, so that the spoil material from the borrow ditch can be used to construct or maintain a road. A borrow ditch does not have an outlet to a natural waterway. *Source: NC Forestry Technical Advisory Committee, 2006*

### Braided stream

Streams with multiple channels that inter-connect like the strands of a braid. Braided streams are often characterized by very low stream gradients (less than 0.5% channel slope); broad valleys with well-defined floodplains; frequent high water tables; and soil with high organic matter content. *Source: South Carolina Forestry Commission. March 1999. "Braided Stream Systems: A Supplement to the 1994 BMP Manual."*

### Channel

A natural water-carrying trough cut vertically into low areas of the land surface by erosive action of concentrated flowing water or a ditch or canal excavated for the flow of water. *Source: NC FPGs (15A NCAC 01I .0102 (5))*

### Discharge

"Discharge" shall mean, but shall not be limited to, any emission, spillage, leakage, pumping, pouring, emptying, or dumping of oil or other hazardous substances into waters of the State or into waters outside the territorial limits of the State which affect lands, waters or uses related thereto within the territorial limits of the State, or upon land in such proximity to waters that oil or other hazardous substances is reasonably likely to reach the waters, but shall not include amounts less than quantities which may be harmful to the public health or welfare as determined pursuant to G.S. 143-215.77A; provided, however, that this Article shall not be construed to prohibit the oiling of driveways, roads or streets for reduction of dust or routine maintenance; provided further, that the use of oil or other hazardous substances, oil-based products, or chemicals on the land or waters by any State, county, or municipal government agency in any program of mosquito or other pest control, or their use by any person in accepted agricultural, horticultural, or forestry practices, or in connection with aquatic weed control or structural pest and rodent control, in a manner approved by the State, county, or local agency charged with authority over such uses, shall not constitute a discharge; provided, further, that the use of a pesticide regulated by the North Carolina Pesticide Board in a manner consistent with the labeling required by the North Carolina Pesticide Law shall not constitute a "discharge" for purposes of this Article. The word "discharge" shall also include any discharge upon land, whether or not in proximity to waters, which is intentional, knowing or willful.

*Source: N.C. General Statute (NC G.S.) Ch.143 Art.21A Sec.215-77(4)*

### Duff (also 'litter')

The surface layer of the forest floor which is not in an advanced stage of decomposition, usually consisting of freshly fallen leaves, needles, twigs, stems, bark, and fruits.

*Source: "Glossary of Soil Science Terms", Soil Science Society of America Web site: [www.soils.org/sssagloss/](http://www.soils.org/sssagloss/)*

### Erodibility

- (i) The degree or intensity of a soil's state or condition of, or susceptibility to, being erodible.
- (ii) The K-factor in the Universal Soil Loss Equation.

Source: "Glossary of Soil Science Terms", Soil Science Society of America Web site: [www.soils.org/sssagloss/](http://www.soils.org/sssagloss/)

### Grader ditch (also 'grader ditchline')

The name given to a shallow, angled trench that is excavated into the roadway surface along the roadside edge, usually no more than 3 to 6 inches deep, and most often created by using the end of the blade on a motor grader, bulldozer or similar blade. The purpose of the grader ditch (ditchline) is to control surface runoff from a roadway.

Source: NC Forestry Technical Advisory Committee, 2006

### Ground cover

Any natural vegetative growth or other natural or manmade material which renders the soil surface stable against accelerated erosion. Source: NC FPGs (15A NCAC 01I .0102 (8))

### Hydric soil

A hydric soil is a soil that formed under conditions of saturation, flooding, or ponding long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part. Source: Federal Register of July 13, 1994.

Lists and/or maps of hydric soil mapping units by county may be obtained from the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web site: "Soil Data Mart" at: <http://soildatamart.nrcs.usda.gov/> or

Web Soil Survey (WSS) at: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/>

### Hydrologically-connected ditch

A hydrologically-connected ditch has an outlet to a stream network, within which sediment and other nonpoint source pollution may enter that stream network unless appropriate BMPs or other measures are implemented to prevent this action from occurring. Source: NC Forestry Technical Advisory Committee, 2006

### Nonpoint source (NPS)

Pollutant sources that are not defined by statute as 'point sources'. Nonpoint sources include return flow from irrigated agriculture; other agricultural runoff and infiltration; urban runoff and infiltration; urban runoff from small or non-sewered urban areas; flow from abandoned mines; hydrologic modification; and runoff from forestry activities.

Source: USEPA. April 2005. "National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Forestry." Publication No. EPA-841-B-05-001.

### Nutrient sensitive waters

Those waters which are so designated in the classification schedule in order to limit the discharge of nutrients (usually nitrogen and phosphorus). They are designated by "NSW" following the water classification.

Source: Neuse River Nutrient Sensitive Waters Management Strategy (15A NCAC 02B .0202 (49))

### Runoff (surface)

In forest areas, that portion of precipitation that flows from a drainage area on the land surface or in open channels.

Source: NC Forestry BMP Manual - 1989

### Stream

A body of concentrated flowing water in a natural low area of the land surface.

Source: NC FPGs (15A NCAC 01I .0102 (17))

#### Ephemeral Stream

A stream that flows only during and for short periods following precipitation and flows in low areas that may or may not have a well-defined channel. Source: NC FPGs, 15A NCAC 01I .0102 (17)(a)

#### Intermittent Stream

A stream that flows only during wet periods of the year (30% to 90% of the time) and flows in a continuous well-defined channel. Source: NC FPGs, 15A NCAC 01I .0102 (17)(b)

#### Perennial Stream

A stream that flows throughout a majority of the year (greater than 90% of the time) and flows in a well-defined channel. Source: NC FPGs, 15A NCAC 01I .0102 (17)(c)

### Organic matter

Plant and animal residue in the soil in various stages of decomposition

Source: *USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. "Urban Soil Primer." Issued 2005.*

### 'Permanently stabilized'

Permanently stabilized means that a site is protected to the state at which no further accelerated erosion is expected to occur from the forestry activities, as noted in 15A NCAC 01I .0102.

### Pores

That part of the bulk volume of soil not occupied by soil particles. Soil pores have also been referred to as interstices or voids. Source: *"Glossary of Soil Science Terms", Soil Science Society of America Web site: [www.soils.org/sssagloss/](http://www.soils.org/sssagloss/)*

### Primary Nursery Areas (PNAs)

Tidal saltwaters which provide essential habitat for the early development of commercially important fish and shellfish and are so designated by the Marine Fisheries Commission. Source: *Environmental Management (15A NCAC 02B .0202 (51)).*

### Sedimentation

The process by which sediment resulting from accelerated erosion has been or is being transported off the site of the land-disturbing activity or into a lake or natural watercourse.

Source: *NC Sedimentation Control (15A NCAC 04A .0105 (12)).*

### Sheetflow

Runoff that flows across and/or atop the ground surface as a thin, even layer, which is not concentrated within a channel.

### Soil texture

The relative proportions of sand, silt, and clay particles in a mass of soil.

Source: *USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service. "Urban Soil Primer." Issued 2005.*

### Streamside Management Zone - SMZ

An area along both sides of intermittent and perennial streams and perennial waterbodies where extra precaution is used in carrying out forest practices in order to protect water quality. Source: *NC FPGs (15A NCAC 01I .0102 (18))*

### Turbidity

Term used to describe cloudy water that results from very fine soil particles in suspension.

The turbidity standards for Class C freshwaters is cited below, for reference and is also in Appendix 1:

The turbidity in the receiving water shall not exceed 50 Nephelometric Turbidity Units (NTU) in streams not designated as trout waters and 10 NTU in streams, lakes or reservoirs designated as trout waters; for lakes and reservoirs not designated as trout waters, the turbidity shall not exceed 25 NTU; if turbidity exceeds these levels due to natural background conditions, the existing turbidity level cannot be increased. Compliance with this turbidity standard can be met when land management activities employ Best Management Practices (BMPs) [as defined by Rule .0202 of this Section] recommended by the Designated Nonpoint Source Agency [as defined by Rule .0202 of this Section]. BMPs must be in full compliance with all specifications governing the proper design, installation, operation and maintenance of such BMPs.

Source: *Fresh Surface Water Quality Standards for Class C Waters (15A NCAC 02B .0211(3)(k))*

### Waterbody

A natural or man-made basin that stores water, not including jurisdictional wetlands or beaver ponds.

Source: *NC FPGs (15A NCAC 01I .0102 (20))*

### Waters of the US

The most recent definition of "Waters of the U.S." can be found in the Code of Federal Register (33 CFR 328.3(a)). For purposes of this regulation, the term "Waters of the U.S." includes not only regulated waterways and waterbodies but also certain special aquatic sites such as wetlands. Source reference is available at this US Army Corps of Engineers' Web site: <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands/authority.html>

### Windrow

An elongated pile of residual vegetation commonly formed during site preparation activities related to forest regeneration.