



Piedmont Region BMP Newsletter Update

What Is This? And Why We're Doing It . . .

This newsletter will focus on BMP-related topics, and will include a specific BMP-focused theme in each issue. We want to keep you updated on what's going on related to forestry BMPs, rules, water resources, and let you know what kind of water-related projects the North Carolina Forest Service is working on.....*we do a lot more than ride around in our green pickup trucks and put out wildfires, you know....*

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We hope that this quarterly newsletter will supplement your relationship and communication with our agency's Rangers and Foresters in your area.

If you want to get a printed copy of each new edition of this newsletter, or if you wish to receive an email notification that the new edition is posted to our website, send us an email with your preference, to:

forestry.npsunit@ncagr.gov

BMP Assistance from NCFS:

Identify Streams on Site

Determine Stream Buffer & SMZ Width

Loan Bridgemats for Crossing Streams or Ditches

Pre-Harvest Planning

Road Layout

Harvest Inspection

BMP Focus: Forest Roads

A good road can lead you to prosperity..... And a bad road can lead you to a hard time.

It sometimes seems hard to believe that anybody would need to build a new access road to harvest timber, when you think about the millions of little woods road, farm roads and hunting trails that criss-cross all over central North Carolina.

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BMP Focus: Forest Roads {continued}

Know The Rule !

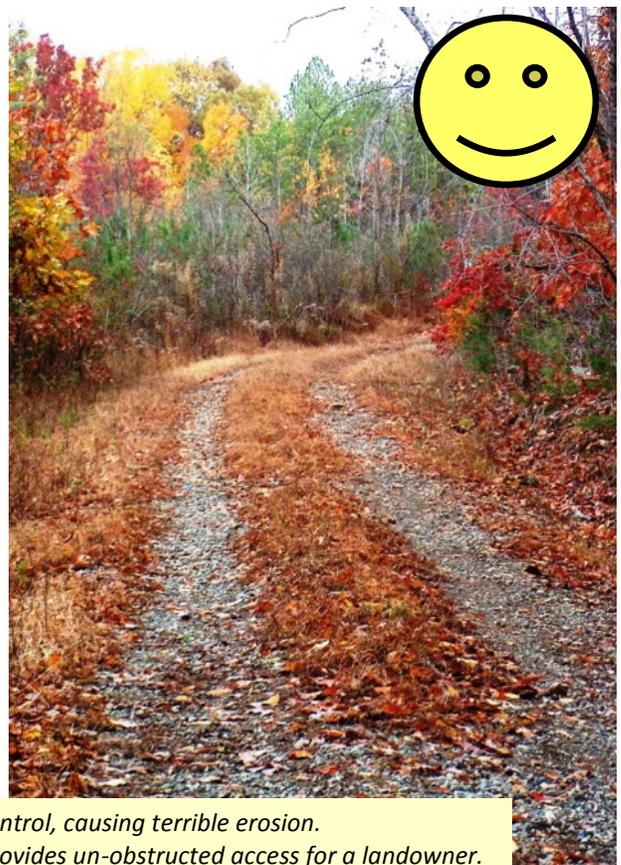
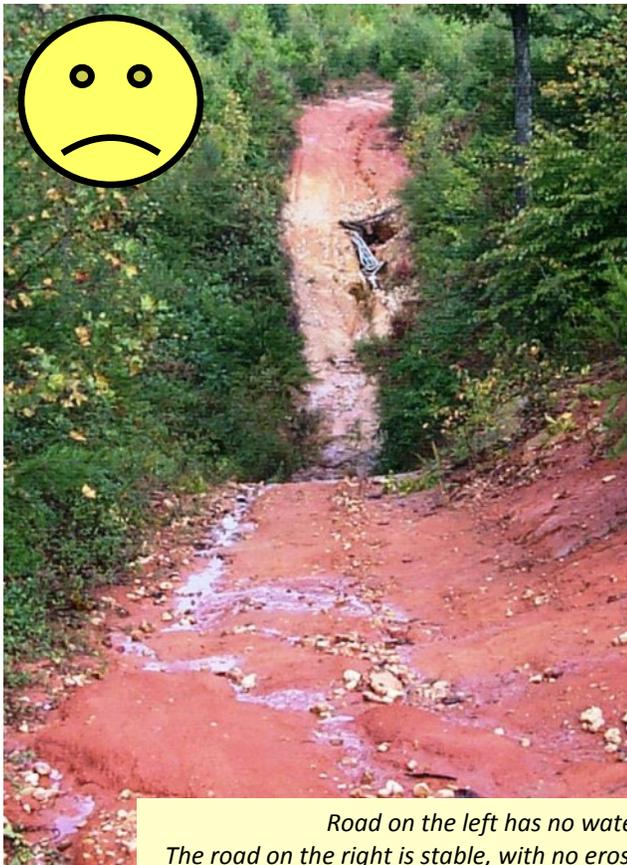
The “riparian buffer rules” which apply in many river basins and watersheds of the Piedmont have limitations on forest roads within the mandatory buffer zone. Know what rules apply.

But, it never fails: the place that you need to cut timber is the place where there is no good road for log trucks, so that means you need to build a new road (or greatly improve an old road). Forest roads are time-consuming to install correctly and can become a long-term headache for maintenance, trespassing, runoff, and water control.

But fear not, there is ample assistance available for you, and most of the time that assistance won’t cost you! The N.C. Forest Service can meet with you on site and examine your options for building a good quality road. The NC Forestry BMP Manual has an extensive chapter on forest roads including information for constructing new roads, maintaining existing roads, and retiring old roads.

Soils frequently found in the Piedmont can quickly erode and wash abundant sediment into nearby creeks. Whenever you build a road, maintain a road, or intensively use a forest road, you need to install water runoff control structures to manage surface runoff. The goal is to prevent the runoff from increasing in speed and volume, which will easily wash away your hard-earned investment in your road.

Bottomline: When managing runoff on a forest road or skid trail:
Slow It Down... & Spread It Out.



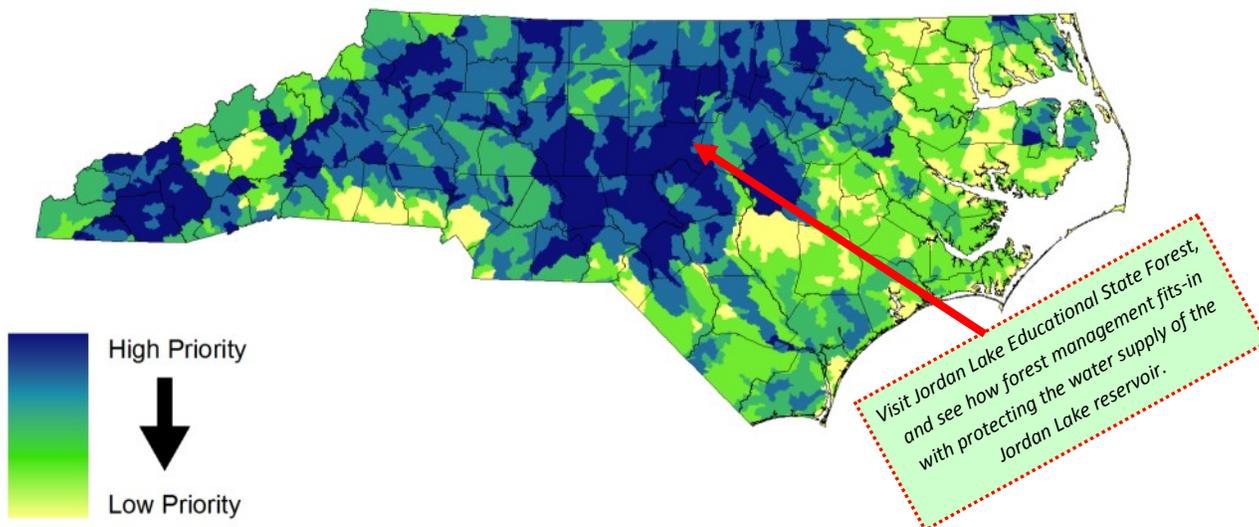
Road on the left has no water runoff control, causing terrible erosion. The road on the right is stable, with no erosion, and provides un-obstructed access for a landowner.

Healthy Forests = Clean Water

Many North Carolinians who live in the Piedmont get their drinking water from surface water impoundment reservoirs (you know them as “lakes”). Many of these water supply lakes have one problem in common: Too much nutrient and sediment pollution. Over time, stormwater runoff carries this pollution into the lake, and it remains trapped there, unable to naturally cycle through the water system due to the dam impoundment. How can this stormwater pollution be managed? Easy: **forests**.

Research from nearly 75 years of effort by the U.S. Forest Service and others has shown that in the eastern United States, where precipitation is abundant, a watershed that is abundantly covered with forests can yield high quality, clean, and reliable supplies of water.

So what does this mean, for a town or county that wants to see increased economic development in their water supply watershed, while still keeping enough forestland to protect their water? Well, the N.C. Forest Service, in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and others, is working on multiple projects to demonstrate that managing forestlands in a watershed can be a practical, low-cost solution to keeping water supplies clean, abundant, and safe.



This map is part of the 2010-2015 North Carolina Forest Action Plan. The map highlights those watersheds where continued conservation, management, and protection of forestlands can be expected to have the most rewarding influence on protecting our future water supply lakes. This map, and others, along with explanations on how each map was produced, are available in the North Carolina Forest Action Plan, at www.ncforestactionplan.com.

BMP Focus: Forest Roads *{continued from page 2}*

When you build a forest road on soils that are prone to erosion, follow BMPs and:

- ◆ Only cross a stream, creek, or ditch when you have no other alternative.
- ◆ Keep roads at least 50 feet away from any creek or natural open water.
- ◆ Apply gravel and crushed stone atop bare soil, and/or abundant vegetation to keep the road surface from washing away.
- ◆ Frequently install turnouts, waterbars, broad based dips, or other runoff diversions to manage and control storm water runoff.

Don't Do It !

Stream crossings are the #1 water quality problem in forestry !

Avoid crossings at all costs.

North Carolina Forest Service

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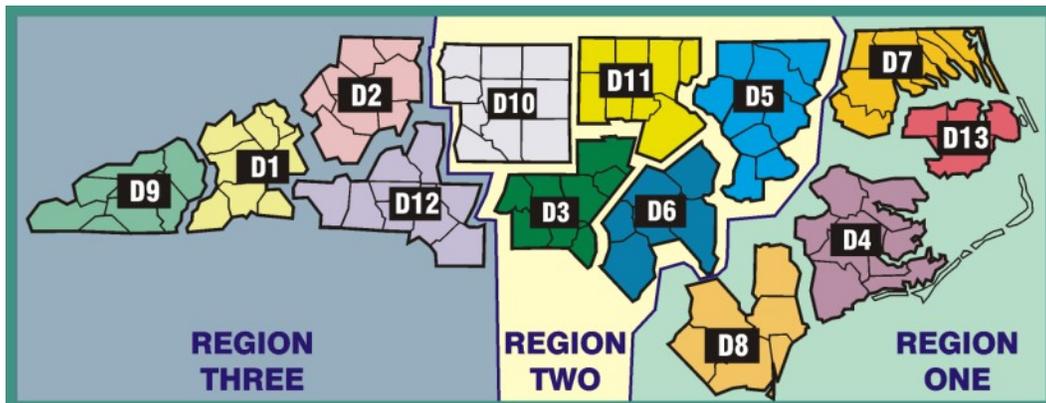
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Surf The Web

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

Where Does Your Water Flow?

North Carolina has 17 large river basins. The largest four river basins are:

Cape Fear: 9,149 square miles of land

Yadkin-Pee Dee: 7,213 square miles of land

Neuse: 6,192 square miles of land

Tar-Pamlico: 5,440 square miles of land

As a size reference, 1 square mile equals 640 acres!

If we get familiar with where our river's flow, then we might be careful about polluting the streams and waterways, because what we do will affect somebody else downstream.

