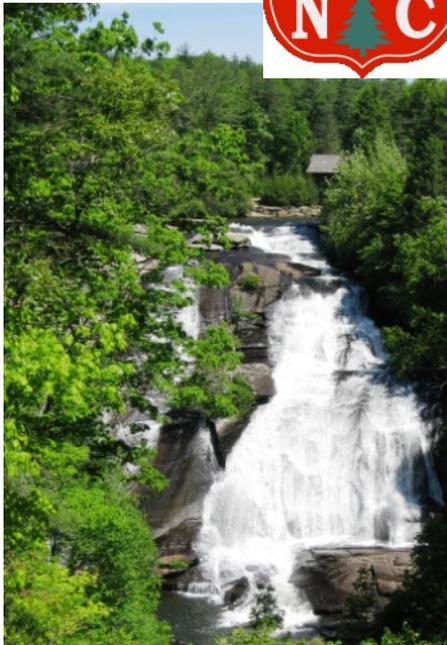




North Carolina Forest Service

An agency of the N.C. Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services



Western 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 old homestead roads, fire-control roads, and other trails that criss-cross the North Carolina mountains.

Continued on Page 2 →



This road is being improved with geotextile (filter fabric), crushed stone, and is shown being graded to its final shape.

Use broad based dips, shown above, to control runoff on forest roads. The dotted line is the original road grade. The curved blue line shows the newly established dip in the road. Runoff will exit the road from the base of the dip, where the arrow is located.



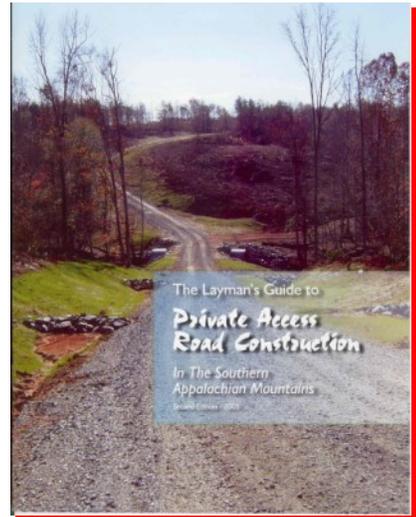
BMP Focus: Forest Roads { continued }

But, it never fails: the place that you need to cut timber is the place where there is no good road for logging 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 also has an extensive chapter on constructing, maintaining, improving, and retiring forest roads.

In addition, there is a special booklet available at no charge, which includes detailed recommendations for access road construction in the southern Appalachians (cover shown at right).

In the steep terrain of the mountains, the key to successful road work is to install the road correctly the first time. 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 road or skid trail:
*Slow It Down... & Spread It Out.***

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

When you build a forest road on steep ground, follow BMPs, including:

- ◆ Situate the road bed along the side edge of a hill slope, not straight up & down the slope.
- ◆ 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.
- ◆ Frequently install turnouts, waterbars, broad based dips, or other runoff diversions to manage and control storm water runoff.
- ◆ Apply gravel atop bare soil, and/or abundant vegetation to stabilize the road surface.

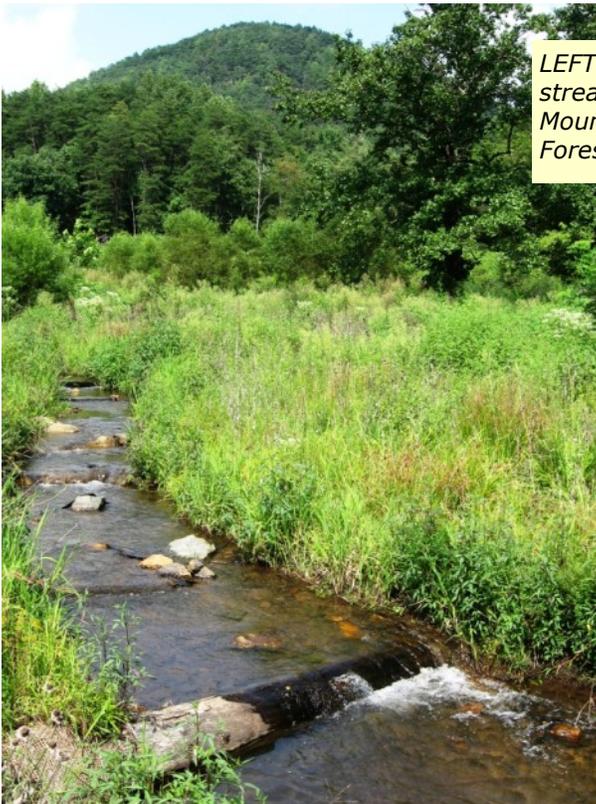
Don't Do It !

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

Avoid crossings at all costs.

NCFS Stream Restoration and Enhancement

The N.C. Forest Service manages several State Forests in western North Carolina for multiple objectives, including timber, wildlife, recreation, education, and water resource protection. In much the same manner that we use silvicultural practices on the timber resources to restore a degraded forest, we have also taken the opportunity to use stream restoration practices to restore degraded waterways. The two restoration projects at DuPont State Recreational Forest are readily accessible by the public. However, the work at Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest remains closed to the public until the project site further stabilizes, and until we can install infrastructure to handle public access. To learn more about the stream restoration work done by the N.C. Forest Service, look in the 'Water Quality' section of our website (www.ncforestservice.gov), and click on "[Stream Restoration](#)."



LEFT: Restored section of stream at Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest in Wilkes County.



RIGHT: Restored section of stream at DuPont State Recreational Forest in Transylvania County.

North Carolina Forest Service

Forestry Nonpoint Source Branch
1616 Mail Service Center. Raleigh, NC. 27699-1616



District Office BMP Contacts

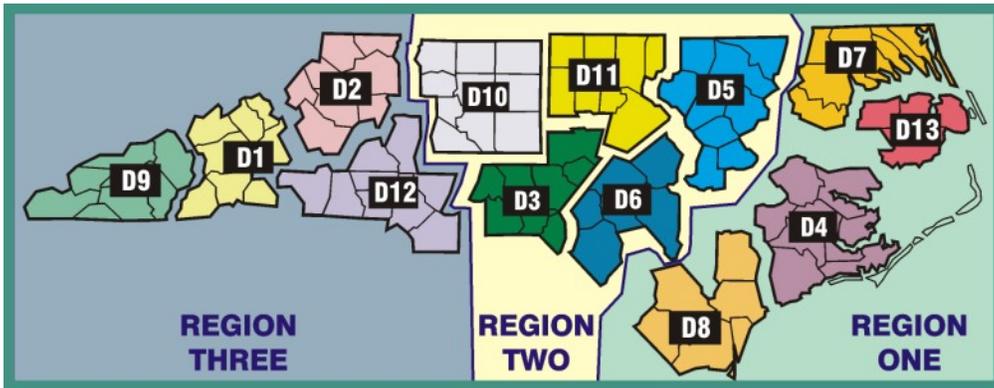
High Country, Northern Foothills: D-2
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Western Mountains: D-9
Sylva: 828-586-4007
Hugh Hassell, Assistant District Forester

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.ncsf.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.

