



Happy New Year

Western Region BMP Newsletter Update

Ready... Set... Go Review Rules!

Starting in January 2014, each North Carolina state agency will undertake a comprehensive review of its rules. There are many state water-quality rules that govern forestry activities.

If you have suggestions about whether or not a specific rule should be retained, amended, or eliminated, you can contribute to the review process throughout the year.

Keep tabs on this process by monitoring activities of the Rules Review Commission, through its website from the N.C. Office of Administrative Hearings, at:
<http://www.ncoah.com/rules/RRC.html>.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 5,6,7 @ Asheville:
Annual Meeting of the N.C. Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts.
Register at www.ncagr.gov.

JAN.8 @ Raleigh, and multiple statewide locations: BMP & Water Quality Video Conference.
Contact NCSU, 919-515-9563.

JAN.25, FEB.25, & MAR.25 @ Concord. "Protect Cabarrus Farmland" Workshop. Hosted by Cabarrus County Cooperative Extension. Contact 704-920-3317.

MAR.19 @ Salisbury:
"Soils of the Piedmont Region" Workshop. Hosted by NCSU Soil Science Department.
Contact 919-513-1678.

Be Careful With Fire, And Be Careful When Controlling Fire

The transition out of Winter and into Spring usually means warm, dry, and low-humidity weather conditions by mid-February and throughout March.

If you must do any outdoor burning, be sure to first check with your County Forest Ranger and obtain a permit, as needed. Be careful with fire, and do not allow it to escape.

A key part to controlling fire, especially if done in woodlands, is the need to install fire control lines (also called plowlines, firebreaks, or firelines).

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Be Careful With Fire, And Be Careful When Controlling Fire

When planning a prescribed burn, take time to consider where control lines can be installed in a way that minimizes plowing or pushing excessive amounts of soil.

Sometimes, a fire control line for a prescribed burn can be satisfactorily established by lightly scraping off the uppermost layer of debris and vegetation, seen in the photos below. Digging deeply, moving a lot of soil, and pushing stumps or trees is usually not needed, and only invites trouble for erosion and sediment control problems.



ABOVE: A bladed fireline along the side of the slope. If you must plow or blade a fireline, run it along the slope, not up & down.

RIGHT: On steep slopes, sometimes the only method is the hardest method; a hand line. Shown in the photo are participants in the "BRIDGE Program", a [young offenders rehabilitation program](#).



Consider alternatives to plowing, digging, or blading a prescribed burn fireline, such as:

- Disking or tilling the fireline, just enough to expose mineral soil and remove potential fuel.
- Closely mowing a control line, then wetting it down just before initiating the prescribed burn.
- Use existing corridors, such as roads, trails, rights-of-way, or old existing firelines.
- Initiating the prescribed burn from within the stream corridor or swamp area, and let the fire back-out. The stream or wet-bottomland area then becomes a natural fire break that is already 'in the black' when the rest of the tract is burned.
- In hardwood forests with a thick leaf layer, try using backpack leaf blowers to remove the leaves and expose the soil surface.

Plowing or blading a fireline immediately next to, or tying it into, a stream can lead to increased sedimentation into the water if not promptly rehabilitated. Do your part to use BMPs and protect water quality during all phases of forest management. Ask your [County Forest Ranger](#) to help you plan a prescribed burn, and refer to the [Forestry BMP Manual](#) and [Field Guide](#) for recommendations and photos of deploying BMPs when using prescribed fire.



What Did We Accomplish Last Year?

Since 2004, we have produced a brochure leaflet that briefly highlights some of the more notable accomplishments in our Nonpoint Source and Water Quality programs.

The 2013 edition of the *Year in Review* can be downloaded from the N.C. Forest Service website, under "[Water Quality](#)".

Our Goals for 2014..... What Are Yours?

- ⇒ Assess at least 200 forestry sites for BMP implementation.
- ⇒ Produce and print a guide book for constructing forest roads in the mountains.
- ⇒ Revise and print a 3rd edition of the Riparian & Wetland Tree Planting Pocket Guide.
- ⇒ Conclude a comprehensive, multi-year forest watershed BMP study project.
- ⇒ Begin developing an online tool for planning and laying out timber harvest BMPs.
- ⇒ Replace a sub-standard culvert stream crossing at Clemmons Educational State Forest.
- ⇒ Initiate water resource restoration work at Gill State Forest.

You can also keep track of the N.C. Forest Service goals outlined in our 5-year Strategic Plan. This Plan, and its quarterly progress updates, are available at <http://ncforestservice.gov>.

Need Tree Seedlings?

Winter is the time to reforest and plant new seedlings. The North Carolina Forest Service grows and sells a diversity of native hardwood and pine species. We maintain climate-controlled storage buildings across the state to keep the seedlings at the proper temperatures. To obtain the current available inventory, and find out about pricing, you can call toll-free 1-888-NCTREES (628-7337), or visit the online Forestry Store website, <http://nc-forestry.stores.yahoo.net/>



North Carolina Forest Service

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



District Office BMP Contacts

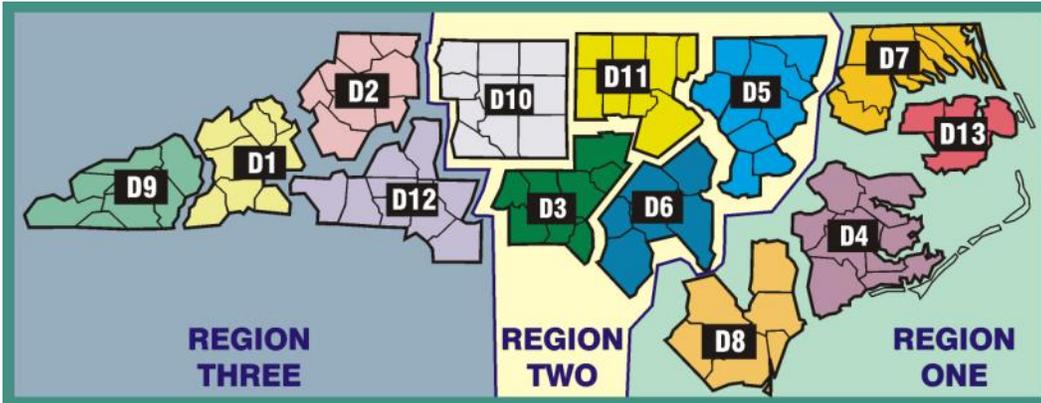
High Country, Northern Foothills: D-2
Lenoir: 828-757-5611
Roger Miller, Water Quality Forester

Catawba Valley, Southern Foothills: D-12
Mount Holly: 704-827-7576
Beth Plummer, Water Quality Forester

Central Mountains: D-1
Asheville: 828-667-5211
Caleb Jones, Assistant District Forester

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

Let's Play a Game: What's Wrong With This Picture?



This un-improved road crossing through a stream needs BMP work to control sediment from washing into the water.
Just because you can drive through a creek, that does not mean that the crossing is an appropriate, improved ford crossing. The road needs re-grading along the approaches to install water diversions. A thick layer of gravel should be applied to the approaches.
Clean ballast stone may be needed on the stream bottom, to harden the ground and keep mud from being stirred up with each passing vehicle.
This photo was taken in November 2012 in western North Carolina.