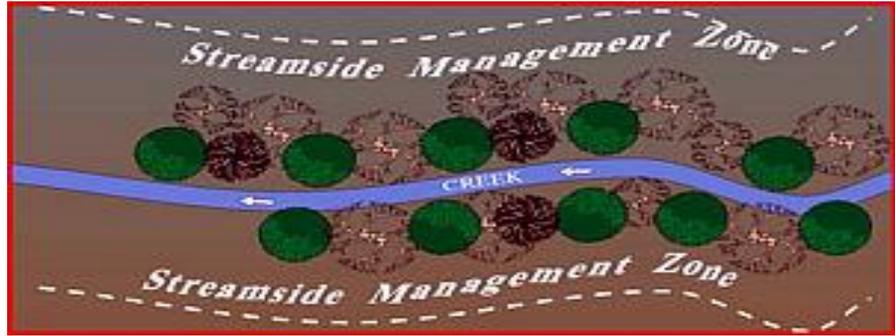


## Western Region BMP Newsletter Update



### **Special Edition: A Good "Zone Defense"**

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 29 - MAY 1 @ Asheville:  
Stream Morphology Assessment.  
Contact [NCSU Stream Restoration Program](#).

MAY 7-8 @ Boone: "Low Impact  
Development and Storm-EZ  
Training." Contact [NCSU  
Stormwater Engineering Group](#).

MAY 12 - 15 @ Blacksburg, VA.  
Eastern U.S. Forestry BMP  
Symposium & Field Tour:  
[www.bmpsymposium2014.org](http://www.bmpsymposium2014.org)

MAY 16-18 @ Raleigh:  
State Fairgrounds. *Got To Be NC  
Agriculture Festival*.  
<http://gottobenfestival.com/>

JUNE 16 + 17 @ Valle Crucis:  
Assessing and Identifying Riparian  
Vegetation. Contact [NCSU Stream  
Restoration Program](#).

JUNE 25 @ Dallas:  
"Rethinking Swales and Filter  
Strips for Stormwater." [NCSU  
Stormwater Engineering Group](#).

March Madness is over, but a good Zone defense is still important: a Streamside Management Zone (or SMZ).

The SMZ should be considered your 'last line of defense' to protect streams, and not as your primary BMP tool. There are many BMPs to use on a forestry operation that can prevent sediment from ever reaching the SMZ in the first place.

**REMEMBER:** In North Carolina, a SMZ is *required* by the Forest Practices Guidelines regulations (15A NCAC 011 .0201) on any forestry-related, land-disturbing activity that has either an intermittent stream, perennial stream, or perennial waterbody. Review the FPG performance standards that must be achieved when establishing and maintaining a SMZ.

**ALSO TAKE NOTE:** The SMZ requirement under the statewide FPG rules says nothing about referencing any maps!

>> *If the stream is on the ground, it requires a SMZ.*

>> Don't get confused between SMZs and the additional "riparian buffer rules" that only exist in certain watersheds or river basins of North Carolina.

{ Continued on Page 2 }

## A Good “Zone Defense”

### How Wide Is Wide Enough for a SMZ?

That question can result in volumes and volumes of research study conclusions, discussion, deliberation and flat-out arguments. This question has been known to draw a lot of emotional responses that may, or may not, have anything to do with actual forest and water science.

Chapter 4 of the N.C. Forestry BMP Manual includes a general SMZ recommendation of 50-feet along each side of the protected waterbody. The Manual also offers a table with optional width ranges, if you wish to adjust the SMZ according to site-specific conditions.

And, you can choose to selectively cut timber from inside the SMZ, **but beware**, the extra soil disturbance so close to the stream only invites trouble!

*Remember, BMPs can be considered as your “risk management” tool when conducting forestry operations. Using BMPs can reduce environmental risk, operational risk, and financial risk.*



## **Establishing Your SMZ**

**Identify where SMZs are needed before the operation starts. Don't wait for the logger to unload the tractors and say "okay, I guess we need to figure this out..."**

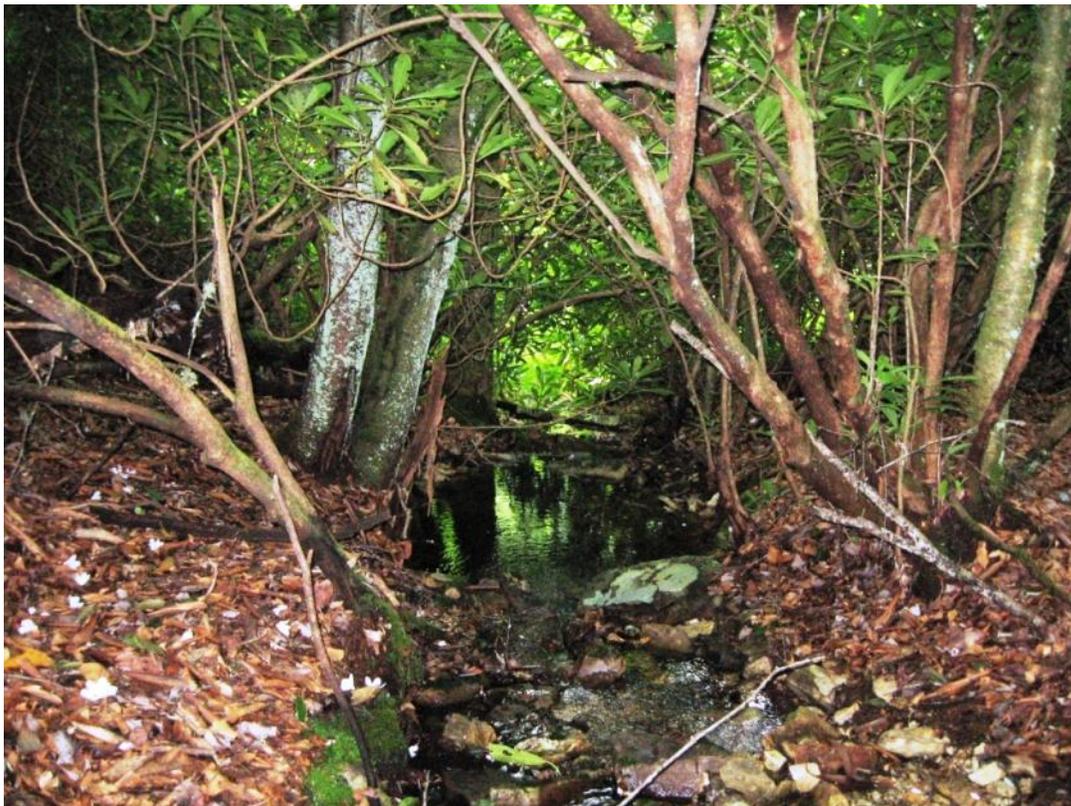
**Clearly mark the SMZ so the machine operator can see it. Ideally, use bright paint or flagging tape. And use lots of it. Frequently check behind the logger, to make sure the SMZ is being protected and not encroached upon.**

**If at all possible, do not cross the stream with vehicles or equipment (also refer to the FPGs for Rule .0203 on the topic of stream crossings).**

**If you must cut trees from within the SMZ:**

- **Only cut when the ground is firm and dry, to avoid rutting and compacting the soil.**
- **Fell trees away from the stream.**
- **Avoid creating wide gaps between trees.**
- **Leave trees in the SMZ evenly distributed.**

**In the mountains, it's important to make sure adequate shade is retained on streams that are designated as Trout Waters, or on a tributary (feeder) stream that ties into a designated Trout stream. On steep slopes or where a lot of soil is disturbed nearby, a SMZ wider than 50 feet may be appropriate, and timber harvesting may need to be limited.**



# North Carolina Forest Service

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



## District Office BMP Contacts

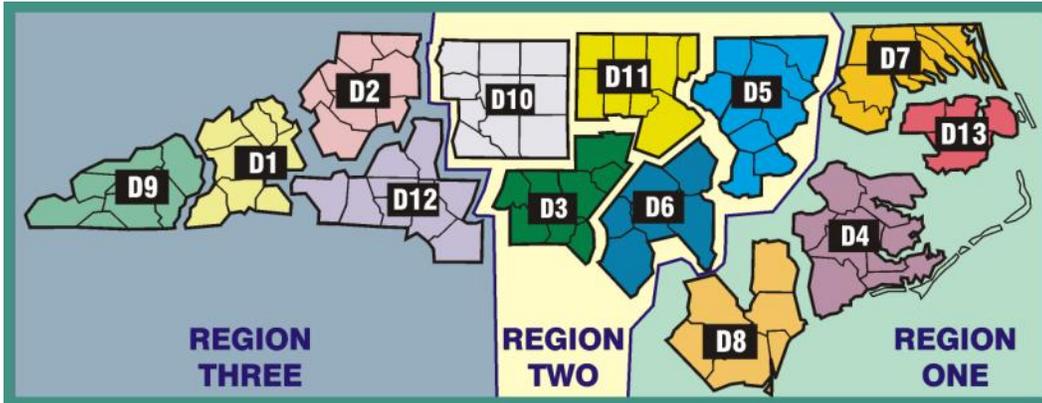
High Country, Northern Foothills: D-2  
Lenoir: 828-757-5611  
Roger Miller, Water Quality Forester

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](http://www.ncforestservice.gov)

NCDA&CS Agricultural Services - [www.ncagr.gov](http://www.ncagr.gov)

Keep Your Home Safe From Wildfire - [www.ncfirewise.org](http://www.ncfirewise.org)

Go Out and Learn in the Forest - [www.ncesf.org](http://www.ncesf.org)

Locate NC-Grown Farm and Forestry Products - [www.ncfarmfresh.com](http://www.ncfarmfresh.com)

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



This SMZ was well-marked with blue paint. But when logging was done, the SMZ was nearly totally cut. The soil is rutted. Leftover trees are damaged. Soil is exposed. Sometimes your best option may be to just leave the SMZ alone.  
This photo was taken in south-central North Carolina in August 2013.