

# TEXAS FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



TEXAS FORESTRY  
ASSOCIATION



TEXAS A&M  
FOREST SERVICE

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This publication, funded by the Texas Forestry Association, combines the *Texas Best Management Practices for Silviculture* and *Texas Best Management Practices for Forested Wetlands*.

### **Additional Sources for Help with BMPs**

#### **Texas A&M Forest Service**

Water Resources  
P.O. Box 310  
Lufkin, Texas 75902-0310  
(936) 639-8180

#### **Texas Forestry Association**

P.O. Box 1488  
Lufkin, Texas 75902-1488  
(936) 632-8733

#### **Natural Resources**

##### **Conservation Service**

1122 N. University Dr., #144  
Nacogdoches, TX 75961  
(936) 564-5891  
Or local USDA Service Center

#### **USDA Forest Service**

National Forests in Texas  
2221 North Ragout St.  
Lufkin, Texas 75904  
(936) 639-8501

#### **TFS OFFICES**

Carthage	(903) 693-6865
Conroe	(936) 273-2261
Crockett	(936) 544-7798
Gilmer	(903) 402-2560
Henderson	(903) 657-0511
Houston	(713) 688-8931
Hudson	(936) 875-4400
Huntsville	(936) 295-5688
Jacksonville	(903) 586-7545
Jasper	(409) 384-9427
Kirbyville	(409) 423-2890
Kountze (Olive)	(409) 246-2484
Linden	(903) 756-5571
Livingston	(936) 265-9050
Longview	(903) 297-3818
Marshall	(903) 938-8712
Nacogdoches	(936) 564-9276
New Boston	(903) 628-2711
Palestine	(903) 729-7738
Pittsburg	(903) 856-7181
San Augustine	(936) 275-3438
Woodville	(409) 283-3785

## **Texas Forestry BMPs - Mobile Application**

The *Texas Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) Handbook* is now available as a smartphone application, enabling quick and easy access to practices designed to protect soil and water resources when conducting forest operations.

*Texas Forestry BMPs* is a free, publicly accessible, native mobile application available on both the App Store (iOS) and Google Play (Android). This convenient, quick reference tool allows users to review the forestry BMP guidelines, recommended specifications, and schematics to ensure proper implementation while in the field.

The application also includes several other features, including a searchable glossary of forestry terms and built-in tools for measuring slope and tree heights. When a cellular data or Wi-Fi connection is available, the soil identifier tool is able to display a map and key operational properties of the soils in your specific area, using your smartphone's GPS.

To download this application, search for "*Texas Forestry BMPs*" on either the App Store (iOS) or Google Play (Android).



**Texas Forestry BMPs**  
Texas A&M Forest Service

## **Plan My Land Operation - Web Application**

Effectively planning and laying out forest operations is a critical first step and the foundation of implementing BMPs that protect your land and water resources. Technology is now available that allows foresters, landowners, and loggers to access site specific information from their home or office that can be combined with field reconnaissance to ensure a successful forest operation.

*Plan My Land Operation* is a free, publicly accessible, web-based forest operation planning tool developed by Texas A&M Forest Service. This application allows users to plan and layout a project based on the specific terrain, soil, and water resources found on a custom area of interest.

After quickly locating and mapping their property, users can identify sensitive areas such as streams, wet areas, and steep slopes; place custom buffers around these special features; and determine key operational characteristics of mapped soil types, including rutting potential and erosion hazard. The application also includes advanced functionality for properly sizing culverts and laying out forest roads. Detailed maps and reports with BMP recommendations tailored to the local site conditions can be saved and printed.

To access this web application, visit <http://texasforestinfo.com> and click on the *Plan My Land Operation* button.

# How to Use this Book

This book is divided into four parts.

## I

The first part, pages 5-28, the Best Management Practices Guidelines, includes Sections 2.0-9.30. These sections describe the various *BMPs*.

## II

The second part, pages 29-68, the blue pages, contains Section 10, detailed Recommended Specifications for the practices outlined in the Guidelines. Specific construction details are found in this section.

## III

The third part, beginning on page 71, the green pages, contains Guidelines for Best Management Practices for Forest Wetlands or wetland-like areas.

## IV

The fourth part, the Appendix, beginning on page 93, includes the Glossary of Forestry/Wetland Terminology, How to Calculate Basal Area, the Index, and the Slope Calculator Chart.

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\* Words in italics are included in the glossary.

Texas has more than 60 million acres of forestland. Almost a quarter of this area, roughly 14.4 million acres, is considered *commercial timberland* (capable of growing timber crops). The majority of these timberlands are located in East Texas near the neighboring states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana and are often referred to collectively as the “Pineywoods.”

Most *streams* that originate or flow through these timberlands are sources of water supply, prime recreation, and other high-quality uses. Because of this, forest management programs should incorporate adequate measures to protect *water quality*. The only practical approach for maintaining low levels of *nonpoint source pollution* from *forestry* activities is through the use of preventive Best Management Practices (*BMPs*).

Planning for protection of *water quality* from *nonpoint source pollution* is provided for in the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and as amended in the Clean Water Act of 1987. The basic goal of this law is to protect and improve the quality of the nation's waters so they remain “fishable and swimmable.” The purpose of this handbook is to recommend sound *forest practices* based on the climate, *soils*, and topography found in Texas. Most *BMPs* involve the application of conservation principles, which not only minimize *water pollution*, but also maintain or enhance the productivity of the land and are consistent with economic objectives.

Those who carry out *forestry* practices should use these non-regulatory *BMPs*. The progress of this program of protecting our water resources is reviewed annually. Therefore, to guarantee future flexibility in employing *forest practices*, it is important that forest managers, landowners, and *logging* contractors recognize that these freedoms can be lost if these non-regulatory measures fail to achieve established *water quality* goals.

Since the economy of East Texas is largely based on its natural resources, we must continue good forest stewardship to maintain this resource for ourselves and our posterity.



## East Texas Pineywoods

## FORESTRY BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The Society of American Foresters (1967) defines *forestry* as the science, the art, and the practice of managing and using, for human benefit, the natural resources that occur on and in association with forest lands.

These guidelines are intended to cover all activities on the land, from planting to transporting the harvested crop from the forest area.

*Best Management Practices (BMPs)* are designed to help landowners, foresters, loggers, and others protect *water quality* during *forestry (silvicultural)* operations. *BMPs* can prevent, or at least greatly reduce, *nonpoint source pollution* of water bodies from *forestry* activities. The use of the *BMPs* is non-regulatory in Texas and this manual should be used as the guideline for *BMPs*. If everyone involved in forest management implements these practices, *water quality* can be protected without strict government regulation.

A thorough understanding of the *BMPs* and flexibility in their application are of vital importance in selecting *BMPs*, which offer site-specific control of potential *nonpoint source pollution*. Those responsible for forest management practices should remain aware of potential problems and be prepared to make changes as they become necessary. With each situation encountered at various sites, there may be more than one correct *BMP* for reducing or controlling potential *nonpoint source pollution*. Care must also be taken to select *BMPs* that are practical and economical while maintaining both *water quality* and the productivity of forest land.

The positive use of non-regulatory *BMPs* will not only minimize any potential for *nonpoint source pollution*, but will also protect vital *soil* resources and maintain productivity and related values in forested areas. The following *BMP* guidelines relate to planning, road construction and maintenance, *harvesting* operations, locations of *landings, skid trails*, drainage, treatment of *wastes* and chemicals, and the protection of *stream* courses.

These Forestry Best Management Practices are a part of the Nonpoint Source Management Program administered by the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Under the requirements of the Agricultural Code of Texas, the Board is responsible for planning, implementing, and managing programs and practices for abating agricultural and *silvicultural (forestry) nonpoint source pollution*. The specific *silvicultural* practices section of the program was modeled with contributions from Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas Forestry Association.

# Part I

## Best Management Practices

### Guidelines

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## 2.0

## PLANNING

Methods to control potential *nonpoint sources of pollution* resulting from *forestry* activities should include careful planning of the layout of all operations. The plan should maximize efficiency, minimize traffic, maintain *soil* integrity, and protect *water quality*. Practices to achieve these goals during the planning stage of harvest operations follow:

### 2.10 GENERAL

- .11 Use available topographic maps, aerial photographs, and *soil* surveys in combination with local knowledge or field reconnaissance to determine site conditions.
- .12 Operations on wet *soils* should be scheduled to minimize adverse impacts to the *soils* and water.
- .13 Carefully evaluate the tradeoffs in different forest management strategies against their potential for increased *erosion* and other harmful *water quality* impacts. Selecting the best strategy to maintain environmental standards including *BMPs* and sustaining an economic forest system are the responsibility of the landowner, forest manager, and contractor working together. This is best achieved on a site-specific basis.

### 2.20 PLANNING DESIGN

- .21 Locate *landings* away from natural drainage *channels* (see pages 27 and 55). Skid away from these *channels* to minimize *stream* crossings.



- .22 Skidding area boundaries should use terrain, roads, and a forest area size compatible with available *logging* equipment, planting schedules, or other management objectives. Its size should minimize *soil* movement and protect *water quality*.
- .23 Set designs should balance skidding distances against road densities for the most efficient operations.
- .24 Special care should be taken to avoid increasing *erosion* on *below grade roads*.

### 3.0 ROAD CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

Well-located, well-constructed, and properly maintained *forest roads* are essential to forest management activities and critical to reducing *pollution* impacts on forest *streams*. Practices to provide maximum practical *stream* protection for road construction and maintenance follow:

#### **Applicable Recommended Specifications: Haul Roads, Waterbars, Wing Ditches, Culverts, Broad-based Dips, Rolling Dips and Stream Crossings.**

See also: Section 5.0 Harvesting.

#### 3.10 ROAD LOCATION

- .11 Use available *soil* surveys, topographic maps, and aerial photographs to achieve the most practical road location with the best possible *grade*.
- .12 As a general practice, *an SMZ* should not be used for road locations or traffic areas.
- .13 Attempts should be made to stabilize or reconstruct existing roads where significant *erosion* problems exist. Stabilize, and retire roads where repair is impractical.
- .14 Avoid or minimize the number of *stream* crossings.
- .15 Cross *streams* at straight sections and at right angles.
- .16 Locate roads on the best available sites, avoiding excessive *slope*.
- .17 Upgrade an existing woods road only if it has been determined that the existing right of way (ROW) is properly located.

- .18 Locate roads far enough outside the *SMZ* to prevent encroachment and to protect its integrity.

### **3.20 CONSTRUCTION**

- .21 Right-of-way timber salvage should closely follow the right-of-way clearing.
- .22 Use the minimum road design sufficient to carry anticipated traffic loads with reasonable safety and with minimum environmental impact.
- .23 Balance *cuts* and fills so that the excavated material will be deposited in the roadway fill sections and thereby minimize the need for *borrow pits*.
- .24 To minimize *erosion*, *cut-and-fill* slopes should be designed at the normal angle of repose or less.
- .25 Seeding, *mulching*, or other stabilizing means should be used wherever necessary to mitigate the potential for *erosion*.
- .26 Plan and construct *erosion* control structures to minimize the adverse effects of rain during any construction phase.
- .27 After construction begins, all phases of that construction should be completed in a timely manner.

### **3.30 DRAINAGE**

- .31 Ditches, *culverts*, cross drains, and *wing ditches* should be installed at the same time as the construction of the roadway.
- .32 Permanent *access roads* should be designed to drain effectively by using site-specific practices such as crowning; using ditches, culverts, and waterbars; and/or outsloping.

- .33 Cross drains, relief *culverts*, and *wing ditches* should not discharge onto erodible *soils* or over erodible *fill* slopes unless *outfall protection* is provided.
- .34 Make effective use of *diversion* or *wing ditches* to carry road drainage away from the road and onto the undisturbed forest floor. *Wing ditches* should not discharge within 50 feet of a *stream* bed or *channel*.
- .35 All *culverts*, permanent or temporary, should be of adequate size to carry the normal water flow anticipated during heavy rains (see *Culvert Size Chart*, page 51).
- .36 If needed, *waterbars* and other appropriate water control structures should be constructed to minimize *erosion* of the roadbed.

### **3.40 WATER CROSSINGS**

- .41 If a *ford* or crossing cannot be found that minimizes rutting or siltation, then bridges, *culverts*, concrete slabs, or other constructed *fords* should be used.
- .42 *Stream* crossings should be constructed to minimize the disturbance to *stream banks* and existing *stream channels*. Temporary crossings should be removed, and the site promptly restored. Approaches to temporary crossings can be stabilized with *logging debris*, *mulch*, hay, grass, rock, or other suitable material.
- .43 Use of equipment in the *stream* bed should be kept to an absolute minimum.
- .44 Crossing *streams* at *fords* should take place when *stream* flow is down and the threat of sedimentation is low.

- .45 *Low water bridges*, fills, and earth embankments used as bridge approaches should be stabilized to minimize potential *erosion* by using headwalls, wing walls, *rip-rap*, surfacing, etc.
- .46 Excess material and woody debris from road construction should be cleared from *streams* and drainage ways and deposited above the *ordinary high-water mark*.
- .47 Bridges should not constrict clearly defined *stream channels* nor unduly impede flood waters.

### **3.50 ROAD MAINTENANCE**

Proper maintenance of permanent *access roads* is of vital importance to *logging* and land management activities.

- .51 The road surface should be crowned, or *outsloped* to dissipate surface *runoff* and minimize *erosion* of the roadbed.
- .52 Ditches should be kept free from siltation, *logging debris*, brush, etc.
- .53 *Culverts* should be kept open and clean to allow unrestricted passage of water.
- .54 Exposed *soil* subject to excessive *erosion* should be revegetated or otherwise stabilized if natural revegetation will not suffice.
- .55 Roads not in use should be retired and periodically inspected by the landowner or their agent to ensure their integrity.
- .56 Re-establish vegetation on roadbeds, drainage systems, sideslopes, and backslopes following significant *soil* disturbances as quickly as site sensitivity requires.

- .57 When extended periods between activities are expected (*logging, logging/site prep, site prep/planting, etc.*), temporary preventive measures should be taken when the potential for significant *erosion* exists.
- .58 Re-sizing *culverts* and/or installing additional drainage structures may be necessary on highly erodible sites due to the increased *runoff* which usually follows *logging* and *site preparation*.
- .59 Grassed-over roadbeds, sideslopes, and backslopes should be mowed or hand cleared, etc., to minimize *soil* disturbance.
- .60 Special care should be taken when maintaining roads so that *below grade roads* are not created.

## 4.0

## ROAD MATERIAL SITES

Deposits of surfacing, fill, and site stabilization materials are an extremely important resource for forest management activities. Excavation of these deposits represents a potential for *nonpoint source pollution*. Use proper planning, layout, maintenance, and reclamation of these sites to maximize utilization of the deposit and minimize *soil* movement. Guidelines, which should aid in reducing *sediment* and protecting *water quality* for road material site operations follow:

### 4.10 PLANNING AND LAYOUT

- .11 To adequately reduce *sediment* movement both during and after pit operations, assess natural drainage patterns, adjacent *SMZs*, *soils*, *slopes*, and the location and shape of the deposit during planning.
- .12 Deposits covering large areas should be divided and worked in stages, maintaining a minimum size working area and accomplishing partial or complete reclamation of the disturbed area before moving on. Avoid leaving large areas disturbed for extended periods, active or not.
- .13 Size the site to minimize *soil* movement and protect *water quality*.
- .14 Do not locate road material sites within an *SMZ*. Maintain a minimum of 50 feet from the edge of the *SMZ*. If you must locate near an *SMZ*, use control measures to ensure protection of *water quality*.

### 4.20 ACTIVE SITES

- .21 Minimize changes to the area's natural drainage patterns to avoid directing large volumes of high velocity water onto disturbed *soil*.

- .22 On steep *slopes*, fragile *soils*, or highly erodible sites, use settling basins, *waterbars* and/or terraces to slow *runoff* and disperse surface flow.
- .23 When extended periods of inactivity are expected, use temporary *erosion* control measures to control surface *runoff*
- .24 Do site work during dry weather, whenever possible, to eliminate excessive *runoff* and accelerated *erosion* of freshly disturbed areas.

#### **4.30 RECLAMATION**

- .31 Upon completion of pit operations and depletion of the deposit, redeposit and shape the overburden in a uniform layer over the pit area.
- .32 Leave the area so that the pit will drain, have no areas of standing water, and prevent substantial *soil* movement and *stream* sedimentation.
- .33 Cut and slope steep banks to at least a 2:1 *slope* and revegetate if needed (Refer to the Revegetation Recommended Specifications, page 65).
- .34 Reclaim these sites to aid the future use of the area (i.e., ponds, non-timber areas, reforested, etc.) and implement control measures to minimize surface *runoff* for each case.
- .35 Consider the area's *slope*, *soil* erosive tendencies, and capability to naturally revegetate and then fertilize and reseed all disturbed areas as needed. (Refer to the Revegetation Recommended Specifications, page 65).



*Harvesting* trees is an integral part of most forest management. *Harvesting* operations necessarily cause a temporary disturbance in the forest, but can be conducted to minimize the impact to *water quality*. Guidelines to help reduce the potential for *nonpoint source pollution* from *harvesting* trees follow:

**Applicable Recommended Specifications: Waterbars, Culverts, Rolling Dips, Skid Trails, Stream Crossings, Logging Sets, SMZs and Revegetation.**

### 5.10 HARVEST DESIGN

- .11 *Landings* should be located to reduce the impact of skidding on the natural water drainage pattern. Skidding should avoid road ditches, *culverts*, sensitive sites, excessive *slopes*, etc.
- .12 *Landings* should be located on firm ground outside of the *SMZ* so *runoff* is well dispersed before reaching the *SMZ* (see page 27 and page 55).
- .13 When operations are complete, plan to disperse water *runoff* from *landings* and *secondary roads* by implementing *BMPs* where the potential for increased *erosion* exists.
- .14 Activities located adjacent to navigable waters must comply with applicable U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regulations (see page 83).
- .15 Shading, *soil* stabilization, and the water filtering effects of vegetation should be provided along *streams* by using one or more of the following methods:

- Leave trees, shrubs, grasses, rocks, and naturally felled timber wherever they provide shade over a *stream* or stabilize the *soil* near such a *stream*.
- Harvest timber from the *SMZ* in such a way that shading and filtering effects are maintained.
- Where it is difficult to leave adequate vegetation within the *SMZ* to provide *stream* protection, cover should be re-established as soon as possible after *harvesting* is completed.

## 5.20 FELLING AND BUCKING

- .21 Minimize *soil* disturbance and protect the residual timber stand within the *SMZ*.
- .22 If possible, trees harvested in the *SMZ* should be removed from the *SMZ* prior to skidding.
- .23 Directional *felling* should be used near *streams* to minimize debris entering the *stream*. Any tree that cannot be felled without falling into or across the streambed should be left standing. Trees accidentally felled across *streams* should be topped prior to skidding or removed by the top from the other side.
- .24 Minimize the number of trees harvested on the *stream* bank within an *SMZ* where they may help to protect the integrity of the *stream*, provide shade, and stabilize the bank.
- .25 Trees should be removed from the *SMZ* before being limbed and topped if the adjacent areas are to be burned after *logging* operations.

### 5.30 SKIDDING

- .31 *Skid trails* should be placed to minimize disruption of natural drainage patterns.
- .32 *Stream channels*, road ditches, or roads (*primary* or *secondary*) should not be used as *skid trails*.
- .33 Temporary crossings using *culverts*, poles, or portable bridges should be removed and the site restored as soon as their use is complete. Dirt crossings and *fords* should never be used.
- .34 *Skid trails* on *slopes* should have occasional breaks in *grade* to vent water. Upon completion of use, and if necessary, trails should be stabilized to prevent excessive *soil erosion*.
- .35 *Erosion* prone areas should be mulched, seeded, or stabilized with *logging debris* to help re-establish permanent vegetative cover when necessary.

### 5.40 DISPOSAL OF DEBRIS AND LITTER

- .41 *Logging debris* in *streams* should be removed immediately.
- .42 *Logging debris* should not be pushed into drains, *streams*, or SMZs.
- .43 All trash associated with the *logging* operation should be promptly hauled to a legal disposal site (not buried).
- .44 All equipment fluids should be captured and disposed of properly. Service equipment away from *streams* outside the *SMZ* so accidental spillage will not result in *stream contamination*.

## 6.0

## SITE PREPARATION/PLANNING

The major problems associated with *site preparation* involve *soil erosion* and potential sedimentation from *runoff*. The primary factors contributing to accelerated *erosion* from *runoff* are percent of the area with exposed *soil*, degree of *slope*, and type of *soil*.

The following guidelines recognize that *erosion* and sedimentation may result from any *site preparation* activity and are designed to protect *soil*. They should also be used to protect *soil* resources in situations where the *SMZ* may be damaged by fire and where *organic* residue may enter *streams* as a result of *site preparation* activities.

### **Applicable Recommended Specifications: Waterbars, SMZs, Revegetation.**

See also: Section 7.0 Fire and Section 8.0 Silvicultural Chemicals.

### **6.10 GENERAL**

- .11 The boundaries of all *SMZs* should be clearly defined before beginning *site preparation* activities.
- .12 The *SMZ* along *streams* should be protected by planning the use of equipment so as to minimize disturbance of these areas. *Stream* crossing construction should minimize disturbance of the area in which the crossing is being constructed. Such crossings will be restored promptly.
- .13 Equipment operators should be trained, and appropriate planning done so that *soil* disturbance, compaction, and displacement are minimized.

- .14 Avoid intensive *site preparation* on steep *slopes* or highly erosive *soils*. Hand plant excessively steep *slopes* and wet sites.
- .15 Mechanically site prepare and machine plant sites in relation to the *contour*.
- .16 Trash associated with *site preparation* and planting operations should be disposed of properly. All equipment fluids should be caught in containers and disposed of properly.
- .17 *Firebreaks* should have well-installed and maintained water control structures to minimize *erosion*. These structures should not discharge within 50 feet of a *stream* bed or *channel*.
- .18 Stabilize and repair *erosion* resulting from *site preparation* and planting operations.
- .19 Avoid damage to existing water control devices (i.e., *culverts*, *wing ditches*). Site prep/planting equipment should avoid crossing or turning around in roads, road ditches, and *wing ditches*. Damages should be repaired immediately.

## **6.20 EQUIPMENT OPERATIONS**

- .21 Ripping, *shearing*, *windrowing*, and mechanical planting should follow the *contour*.
- .22 On *slopes* exceeding 7%, parallel *windrows* should be located no more than 150 feet apart.
- .23 *Soil* disturbances should be kept to a minimum. Avoid intensive *site preparation* on steep *slopes* and on *slopes* with thin or highly erodible *soils*.

- .24 *Site preparation* activities should skirt SMZs and *stream channels*. Any debris should be placed above the *ordinary high-water mark* of any *stream*, or body of open water.
- .25 Provide water outlets on bedded or furrowed areas at locations that will minimize the movement of *soil*. Discharge water onto a vegetated surface.
- .26 Minimize the amount of *soil* pushed into a *windrow*.

## 7.0

## FIRE

A major concern of the forest manager is how fires affect surface *runoff* and *soil erosion*. For most flat, sandy *soils* of Southeast Texas, there is little danger of *erosion*. In the steeper topography of Northeast Texas, there is greater chance for *soil* movement. However, if the burn is under a timber stand and much of the *duff* remains, *soil* movement will be minor on *slopes* up to 25%. *Site preparation* burns are often the hottest type of burn and can remove a substantial amount of the surface *organic* material. This type of burn would have the greatest potential for increased surface *runoff* or *soil erosion*, particularly on steeper *slopes*.

### 7.10 PRESCRIBED FIRE

- .11 Site prep burns on steep *slopes* or highly erodible *soils* should only be conducted when they are absolutely necessary and should maintain the *duff* layer.
- .12 A significant amount of *soil* movement can be caused by the preparation for the burns, i.e., *firebreaks*. *Firebreaks* should have water control structures to minimize *erosion*. These structures should not discharge within 50 feet of a *stream* bed or *channel*.
- .13 Any *prescribed burning* within the *SMZ* should be done at a low intensity to reduce the potential of *soil* movement and maintain the filtering capacity of the *SMZ*.

### 7.20 WILDFIRE CONTROL

- .21 The first and foremost concern in *wildfire control* is to prevent damage to people and property. During wildfire suppression, *fireline* BMPs which slow containment efforts must take a lower priority than fire suppression. Potential problems should, however, be corrected as soon as possible and when practical.

### **7.30 WILDFIRE RECLAMATION**

- .31 Actively eroding gullies should be stabilized when possible.
- .32 Stabilize and revegetate *firelines*, if needed, on *grades* in excess of 5% or areas subject to accelerated *erosion* or known sensitive areas.
- .33 Ensure that all road surfaces are left stabilized and protected.

### **7.40 FIRELINE AND FIRELANE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE**

*Fireline* construction and maintenance are essential parts of forest management. They deal with *site preparation* burning, *prescribed burning*, and wildfire defense and control. A number of control practices can be implemented during *fireline* construction to prevent unnecessary *erosion*. Periodic inspection and proper maintenance can prevent potential *erosion* on established *firelanes*.

#### **Fireline and Firelane Construction**

- .41 *Firelines* should be constructed on the perimeter of the burn area and along the boundary of the *SMZ*. The purpose of protecting the *SMZ* from fire is to safeguard the filtering effects of the litter and *organic* matter.
- .42 *Firelines* should follow the guidelines established for *logging* trails and *skid trails* with respect to *waterbars* and *wing ditches* and should be only as wide and as deep as needed to permit safe *site preparation* burns.



- .43 *Firelines* which would cross a drainage should be turned parallel to the *stream* **or** have a *wing ditch* or other structure allowing *runoff* in the line to be dispersed rather than channeled directly into the *stream*.

### **Firelane Maintenance**

- .44 *Firelanes* on highly erodible sites or other problem areas should be inspected periodically to correct *erosion* problems by installing dips, *wing ditches*, *waterbars*, etc., and/or by seeding.
- .45 Mowing, rather than blading, should be used to maintain *firelanes* in order to avoid exposing *mineral soil* to potential *erosion*. When blading is necessary, every effort should be made to minimize exposure of the *mineral soil*.

## 8.0

## SILVICULTURAL CHEMICALS

The following guidelines cover the handling and application of silvicultural chemicals (fertilizers and *pesticides*) to prevent the direct or indirect application of *forest chemicals* to open water sources.

**These guidelines are to complement state or local regulations relating to the sale, transportation, and use of chemicals.**

**Applicable Recommended Specifications: SMZs.**

See also: Section 6.0 Site Preparation/Planting.

### 8.10 PLANNING

- .11 Read and follow all guidelines on the manufacturers' labels before applying silvicultural chemicals.
- .12 Know the chemical characteristics, topography, *soils*, drainage, condition of bridges, weather, and any other factors that might be important for preventing *water pollution* during application.

### 8.20 MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

- .21 No visible leakage of chemicals should be permitted from equipment used for transporting, storing, mixing or applying chemicals.

### 8.30 MIXING

- .31 Water for mixing with chemicals should be carried to the site in tanks used only for the transport of water. The danger of getting a chemical into a ground or surface water supply must be avoided. An air gap is essential in the water intake to prevent back flow. Adding chemicals and mixing should only be done at the application site.

- .32 Mix chemicals and clean tanks only where possible spills will not enter *streams*, lakes, or ponds. Do not mix chemicals or clean/flush tanks near well-heads.

#### **8.40 AERIAL APPLICATION**

- .41 Carefully plan application to avoid direct and indirect entry of chemicals into *streams* and impoundments. Realize that significant portions of the *SMZ* will probably be left untreated. Leave well-marked buffer zones between target area and surface water.
- .42 Chemicals should not be applied when *stream pollution* is likely to occur through aerial drift.
- .43 Use a spray device capable of immediate shutoff.
- .44 Shut off chemical application during turns and over open water.

#### **8.50 Ground Application**

- .51 Carefully plan application to avoid direct and indirect entry of chemicals into *streams* and impoundments.
- .52 Exercise care not to exceed intended or allowable dosages.
- .53 Where feasible, utilize injection or stump treatment *herbicide* methods in areas immediately adjacent to open water.
- .54 Special care should be taken when chemicals are used in the *SMZ*.
- .55 Avoid applying chemicals to vegetation protecting eroded *slopes*, gullies, drainages, and other fragile areas subject to *erosion*.

## 8.60 MANAGING SPILLS

- .61 Should a spill occur, create a dike around the spill. Use absorbent material (kitty litter, slaked lime, sawdust, *soil*, etc.) to soak up fluid. Keep spill from flowing into *streams* or bodies of water.

**Some spills will require notifying appropriate authorities.**

## 8.70 CONTAINER HANDLING AND DISPOSAL

- .71 Before disposal, containers should be rinsed as described in Equipment Clean Up. Containers should be disposed of in accordance with manufacturers' recommendations.

## 8.80 EQUIPMENT CLEAN UP

- .81 Clean up equipment in a location where chemicals will not enter any *stream*, lake, pond, or where *stream pollution* might occur.
- .82 Rinse empty *herbicide* containers and mixing apparatus three times. This rinsate should be applied in spray form to the treatment area, **NOT** onto the ground.

## 9.0 STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONES (SMZs)

Forest management within the area immediately adjacent to *stream channels* should direct specific attention to measures that protect both instream and downstream *water quality*. Under proper management, timber production, wildlife enhancement and *water quality* may all be achieved.

**Applicable Recommended Specifications: Haul Roads, Culverts, Skid Trails, Stream Crossings, SMZs, and Revegetation.**

### 9.10 GENERAL

- .11 The purpose of an *SMZ* is to reduce the potential quantity of *sediment* and *logging debris* reaching the *streams* and to prevent increased water temperatures.
- .12 Management activities that could cause *pollution* or *erosion* should be restricted in the *SMZ*.
- .13 Roads, *skid trails* and *firelines* should be located outside the *SMZ*. Log *landings* should be located at least 50 feet from the edge of the *SMZ*.
- .14 Timber may be logged carefully and selectively in such a way as not to destroy the filtering effects of the *SMZ*.
- .15 If the vegetative cover is removed from a *stream* bank or filter strip, cover should be reestablished as soon as possible (see Revegetation Recommended Specifications on page 65).

### 9.20 PLANNING DESIGN

- .21 *Perennial streams* should have a minimum of 50 feet on each side maintained as an *SMZ*. Specific sites may require an even greater width for the *SMZ* to safeguard

filtering effectiveness and to protect the integrity of other values of the *waterway*. These values may include, but are not limited to, areas with heavy recreation, wildlife, biologically unique ecosystems, and natural hardwood sites.

- .22 *Intermittent streams* should have a minimum width of 50 feet on each side and above the *head* maintained as an *SMZ*. Width measurement begins at the *stream* bank. Some sites (i.e., erodible slopes, spring heads, oxbows, or upland flats) may require establishing an *SMZ* wider than 50 feet.
- .23 The width of an *SMZ* should be a site-specific determination made by foresters or other qualified professionals. *Soil* type, *slope* gradient, vegetative cover, volume of flow, and *stream* classification should be taken into consideration when designing each *SMZ*.
- .24 The *SMZ* should be clearly defined and distinctly delineated on the ground prior to beginning any *forestry* activities which might affect *water quality*.

### **9.30 CANOPY AND VEGETATION CRITERIA**

- .31 Within the *SMZ* of *perennial* or *intermittent streams*, a minimum of 50 square feet of *basal area* per acre should be left to provide adequate shade for the *stream*, lessen impact from raindrops, and to intercept sediment and debris washing toward the *stream*. (Refer to page 108 of the Appendix to properly calculate *basal area*).

# Part II

## 10.0

### Recommended Specifications

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# ACCESS ROADS

**Refer to Section 3.0 Road Construction and Maintenance.**

**Refer to Section 5.0 Harvesting.**

**Definition:** A temporary or permanent access route for vehicles into forestland.

**Purpose:** To provide an effective and efficient transportation system to protect forest land and *water quality* when removing forest products from the harvest site, developing the forest for recreation, accessing the area for forest fire suppression, or other needed forest management activities. Properly located and constructed roads will provide safety, higher vehicle speeds, and longer operating periods while reducing operating and maintenance costs.

**Condition Where Practice Applies:** Where the area to be cut and volume per acre makes it necessary and economically feasible to install a road system.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

1. Roads should follow ridges as much as possible with road *grades* between 2% and 10%. *Grades* steeper than 10% should not exceed 500 feet in length and slopes greater than 15% should not exceed 200 feet in length.
2. On highly erodible *soils*, *grades* should be 8% or less, but *grades* exceeding 12% for 150 feet may be acceptable as long as measures are taken to prevent *erosion*. Graveling the road surface can help maintain stability.
3. *Perennial* or *intermittent streams* should be crossed using bridges, *culverts*, or *rock fords*. Dirt crossings are never recommended and should not be used. Cross as close to a right angle to the *stream* as possible. Structures should be sized so as not to impede fish



passage or *stream* flow (see Pipe Culvert Recommended Specifications on page 40 and Size Chart on page 51).

4. Install water *turnouts* prior to a *stream* crossing to direct road *runoff* water into undisturbed areas of the *SMZ*. Road gradients approaching water crossings should be changed to disperse surface water at least 50 feet from the *stream*. With the exception of *stream* crossings, roads should be located a minimum distance of 50 feet from any flowing *stream*. Distance is measured from the bank to the edge of *soil* disturbance, or in case of fills, from the bottom of the fill slope (see Recommended Specifications for *SMZs* on page 57). *Fords* may be used when *stream banks* are stable and *stream* bottoms hard. Where banks are unstable, stabilize the *stream* bank approach with rock or other material. *Fords* should only be used when vehicles crossing the *stream* do not cause increased sedimentation.
5. *Outslope* the entire width of the road where road gradient and *soil* type will permit. Roads should usually be insloped toward the bank as a safety precaution on sharp turns, road gradients of 15%+, or on clay and/or slippery *soils*. Use cross drainage on insloped or crowned roads to limit travel distance of *runoff* water.
6. Where roads are insloped or crowned, and gradients begin to exceed 2% for more than 200 feet, *broad-based dips* or *rolling dips* should be placed within the first 25 feet of the upgrade.
7. When possible, meander roads along ridge tops or place on the side of ridges, avoiding the level ridge tops and side slopes; also avoid wet flood plain *soils* where drainage is difficult to establish.
8. *Haul roads* that intersect highways should use gravel, mats or other means to keep mud off the highway.
9. Road bank *cuts* normally should not exceed five feet in height. Road bank *cuts* more than five feet high should normally be sloped to at least a 2:1 ratio and seeded to prevent *erosion*. Roads requiring high *cut* banks should be used only when no other

alternative is feasible. Some *cuts* may need to be mulched, fertilized, or limed to establish cover.

10. Ensure good road drainage with properly constructed and spaced *wing ditches*, *broad-based dips*, *rolling dips*, *culverts*, and bridges. *Wing ditches* should be constructed so water will be dispersed and will not cut *channels* across the SMZ. See spacing chart within each specific practice (pages 35, 38, 41, 44, 47, 54).
11. At cross drains (*culverts* or dips), install rip rap or other devices at the outlets to absorb and spread water, if needed.
12. Cut trees along the side(s) of the road where sunlight is necessary to ensure drying of the road.
13. Use brush or *check dams* as needed along road fill areas or other sensitive areas.

## **Road Maintenance**

1. If possible, restrict traffic on roads during wet conditions. Wooden mats and gravel allow operations during wet *soil* conditions when damage may otherwise occur. Haul only during dry weather on normally wet *soils*, erodible *soils* or road gradients exceeding 10%, which do not have *erosion* protection.
2. Close or restrict traffic following maintenance activities on sensitive *primary* and *secondary roads* to allow them to stabilize, revegetate (naturally or after seeding) and heal over.
3. Keep roads free of obstructions, *ruts*, and *logging debris* to allow free flow of water from the road surface.
4. Control the flow of water on the road surface by keeping drainage systems open and intact at all times during *logging* operations.

5. Re-work roads to remove *ruts* when the average rut depth exceeds 6 inches over a distance of more than 50 feet or when *erosion* damage may occur from hauling operations.
6. Inspect the road at regular intervals to detect and correct maintenance problems.
7. When all *forestry* activities are completed, reshape the roadbed if necessary. Ensure that all drainage systems are open, and seed and/or slash all areas of bare *soil* along the *access roads*, main *skid trails*, and log *landings* which are subject to excessive *erosion* (see Revegetation of Disturbed Areas on page 65).

# WATERBARS

**Refer to Section 3.0 Road Construction and Maintenance.**

**Definition:** A cross drainage diversion ditch and/or hump constructed across a road or trail which may be pole-reinforced on sandy soil.

**Purpose:** To intercept and/or divert side ditch and surface runoff from roads, firebreaks, and trails, (which may or may not have vehicular traffic) to minimize erosion and provide conditions suitable for natural or artificial revegetation. On moderate slopes, waterbars will remove water from the road, or firebreak, allowing for adequate natural revegetation within one year.

**Condition Where Practice Applies:** This is a practice that can be utilized on limited use roads, trails and firebreak grades where surface water runoff may cause erosion on the exposed soil.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

1. Specifications for *waterbar* construction on *forest roads*, trails, and *firebreaks* must be site specific and should be adjusted based on existing *soil* and slope conditions.
2. *Waterbars* should be placed at an angle of 30 to 45 degrees to the *road, firebreak* or trail. The *waterbar* should turn *runoff*, not dam it up.
3. Avoid constructing *waterbars* within an SMZ when possible.
4. When cross drains are used, trench depth should equal that of the of the uphill ditch line and be one to three feet below the surface of the road. Spoil materials should be used to develop the height of the *waterbar*.

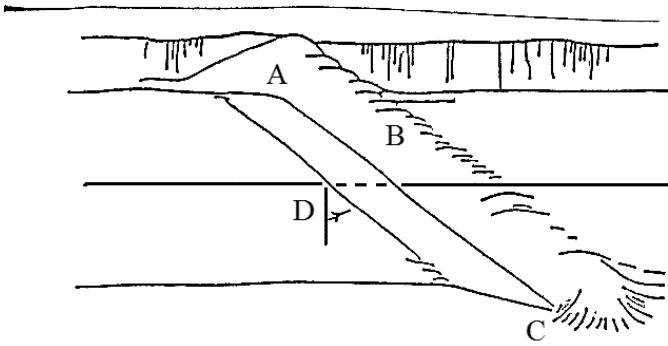
5. To prevent additional *erosion*, *waterbars* used in conjunction with cross drains should be designed for the *soil* and the site.
6. Proper spacing of *waterbars* can be determined from the following table:

Grade of Road (percent)	Distance Between Waterbars (feet)
2	250
5	135
10	80
15	60
20	45
30	35

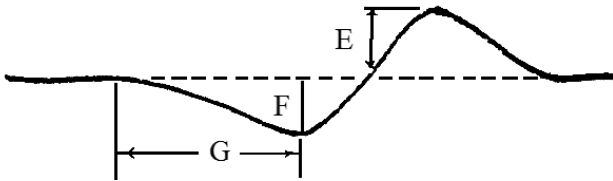
7. To fully intercept any ditch flows, the uphill end of the bar should extend beyond the side ditch line of the road and tie into the bank.
8. The outflow end of the *waterbar* should be fully open and extend far enough beyond the edge of the road or trail to safely disperse *runoff* water onto the undisturbed forest floor. The outlet length should not be excessive.
9. *Waterbars* alone (without cross drains) should be used on sandy, erodible *soils* and other sensitive sites.

10. *Waterbars* should be located to take advantage of existing *wing ditches* and cross drainage. They should be constructed at an angle of 30 to 45 degrees from the center of the roadbed and tied into the *wing ditch* dam (i.e., the *diversion* plug in the borrow ditch). *Waterbars* should be inspected after major rainstorms, and damage or breaches should be promptly corrected.
11. In below *grade* situations *waterbars* should be constructed from material taken from road shoulders. This will help provide an outlet.
12. Ensure that the outlet is open and extends far enough beyond the edge of the road or trail to disperse runoff water onto the undisturbed forest floor. Consider the need for energy absorbers or water spreaders at or below the drain outlet on sensitive areas.

### WATERBAR - TOP VIEW



### WATERBAR - CROSS SECTION



A – Bank tie-in point, cut 1 to 2 feet into the roadbed.

B – Cross drain berm height 1 to 2 feet above the roadbed

C – Drain outlet cut 1 to 3 feet into roadbed.

D – Angle drain 30 to 45 degrees downgrade with road centerline.

E – Approximately 2 feet in height.

F – Depth 1 to 2 feet.

G – 3 to 4 feet.

# WING DITCHES

**Refer to Section 3.0 Road Construction and Maintenance.**

**Definition:** A water *turnout*, or *diversion ditch* to move water away from the road and/or side ditch.

**Purpose:** To collect and direct road surface *runoff* from one or both sides of the road away from the roadway and into undisturbed areas. To slow and channel water away from these roadside ditches and disperse it onto areas adjacent to the road.

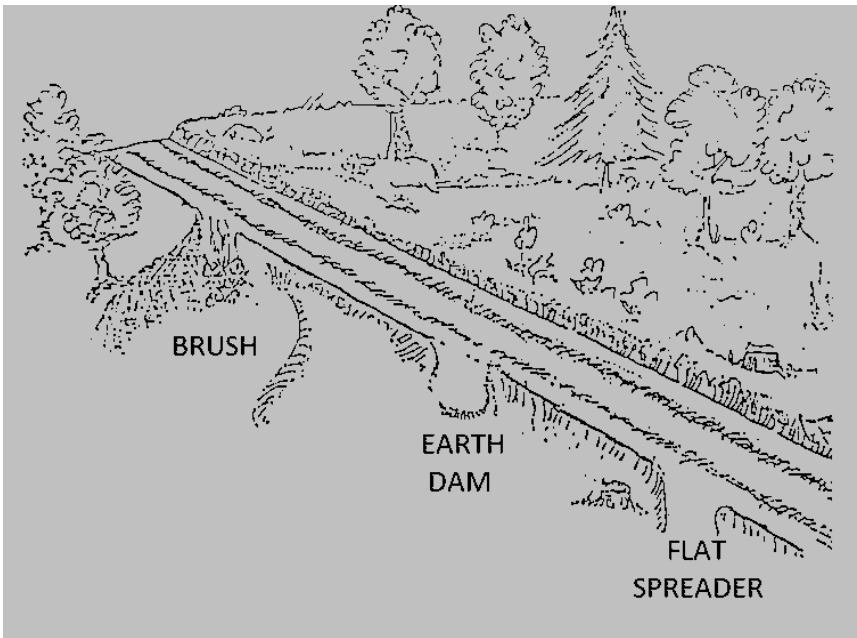
**Conditions Where Practice Applies:** Any road or trail section where water could accumulate or accelerate. The water should be diverted onto undisturbed areas so the volume and velocity is reduced on slopes. Where a buildup of drainage water in roadside ditches can gnaw at roadbeds, scour the road ditch itself, and otherwise move *soil* particles downslope.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

1. The *wing ditch* should intersect the ditch line at the same depth and be *outsloped* to a maximum *grade* of 1% on erodible *soils* and to a maximum *grade* of 2% on stable *soils*.
2. On sloping roads, the *wing ditch* should leave the road ditch line at a 30-to-45-degree angle to the roadbed and be designed to follow the natural *contour*.
3. The spacing of *wing ditches* will be determined by the topography and relief of the area. Generally *wing ditches* should be located no more than:
  - a) 200 feet apart on 2% - 5% *grades*,
  - b) 100 feet apart on 5% - 10% *grades*, and
  - c) 75 feet apart on 10% *grades*.



4. *Wing ditches* should be spaced to permit the roadbed to dry and reduce the volume and velocity of side ditch waters.
5. *Runoff* water should be spread, retained, or filtered at the outlet of the *wing ditch*.
6. *Wing ditches* should not feed directly into adjacent drainages, gullies, or *channels*.
7. Avoid cutting a narrow *channel* to serve as a *wing ditch*. Outlets should be constructed to disperse water over a broad area.
8. Three types of *wing ditch* outlets can be used:
  - a) *wing ditches* into brush,
  - b) *wing ditches* into a well-designed earthen dam, and
  - c) *wing ditches* into a flat spreader that distributes water on the undisturbed forest floor.



Dispersal outlets turn water down slope.

# CROSS DRAIN CULVERTS

**Refer to Section 3.0 Road Construction and Maintenance.**

**Definition:** Corrugated metal pipe, wooden open top *culverts*, or other suitable material installed under *haul roads* to transmit water from the roadside ditch, seeps, and drains.

**Purpose:** To collect and transmit water safely from side ditches, seeps or natural drains under *haul roads* and *skid trails* without eroding the drainage system or road surface.

**Conditions Where Practice Applies:** *Culverts* can be used for any size operation where cross drainage of water is needed. In some cases, a *culvert* is necessary for temporary drainage crossings. Permanent installations should be periodically inspected for obstructions.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

### Pipe Culverts

1. Pipe length should be long enough so both ends extend at least one foot beyond the side slope of fill material.
2. The *culvert* should be placed 1% to 2% downgrade to prevent clogging and installed so the bottom of the *culvert* is as close as possible to the natural *grade* of the ground or drain.
3. The *culvert* should be skewed 30 to 45 degrees downslope.
4. *Erosion* protection should be provided for outflows of *culverts* to minimize *erosion* downslope or downstream of the outfall; it may also be needed on the upstream end of *culverts* on flowing *streams*. This protection can be in the form of headwalls, *rip-rap*, geo-textile filter cloth, large stone, or prefabricated outflow and inflow devices.

5. *Culverts* should be firmly seated and earth compacted at least halfway up the side of the pipe. Cover should be equal to a minimum of half the *culvert* diameter (preferably 1 foot fill per 1 foot *culvert* diameter), but never less than one foot. The distance between pipes in a multiple *culvert* application should be a minimum of half the pipe diameter.

### **Open-Top Box Culvert**

1. Box *culverts* should be installed flush or just below road surface and skewed at an angle of 30 to 45 degrees downgrade.
2. The upper end should be at *grade* with the side ditch and the lower side should extend into the toe of the upslope bank.
3. The outfall should extend beyond the road surface with adequate *rip-rap* or other material to slow the water to prevent *erosion* of fill material.
4. Periodic clean-out maintenance is necessary to keep this type *culvert* working properly.

### **Culvert Spacing**

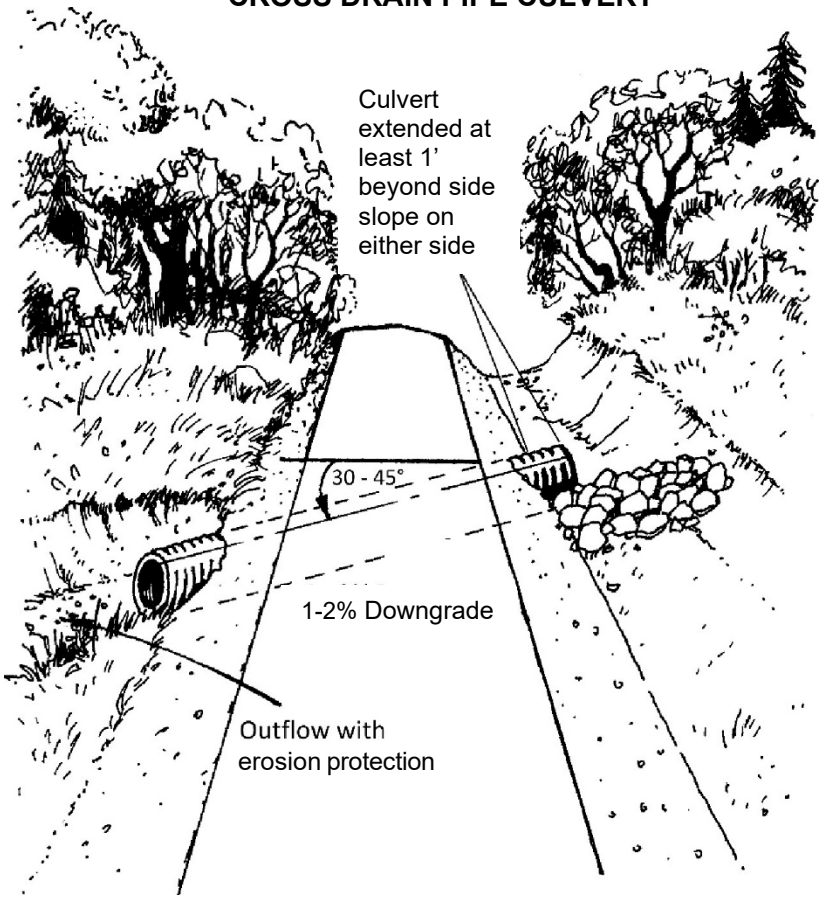
*Culvert* spacing can be determined by the following formula:

$$Spacing = \frac{400'}{Slope\%} + 100'$$

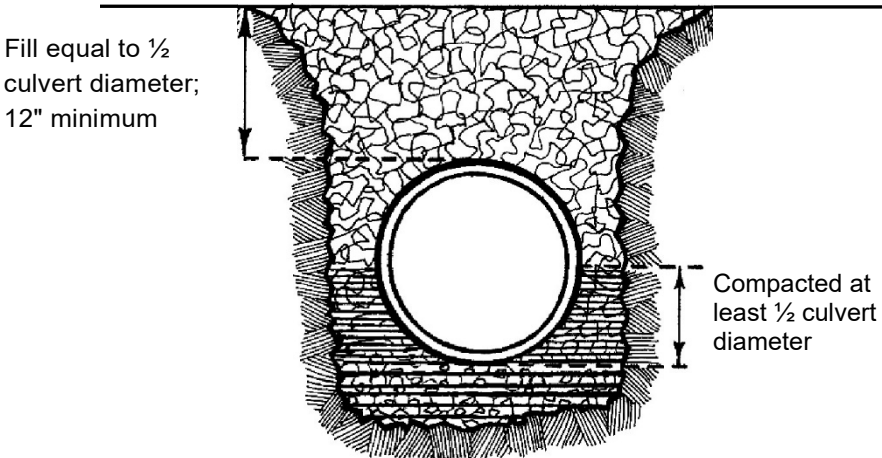
Note: *Slope* in percent expressed as a whole number (i.e., 15% = 15).

Example:  $\frac{400'}{15} + 100' = 127'$  spacing between culverts

# CROSS DRAIN PIPE CULVERT



## ROAD SURFACE



# BROAD-BASED DIPS

Refer to Section 3.0 Road Construction and Maintenance

**Definition:** A dip and reverse *slope* in a road surface with an *outslope* in the dip for natural cross drainage.

**Purpose:** To provide cross drainage on insloped truck roads to prevent buildup of surface *runoff* and subsequent *erosion*. Allows higher vehicle speeds than *rolling dips*.

**Conditions Where Practice Applies:** Used on truck *haul roads* and heavily used *skid trails* having a gradient of 12% or less. Should not be used for cross draining springs, seeps, *intermittent*, or *perennial streams*. May be substituted for other surface water cross drain practices such as *culverts*.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

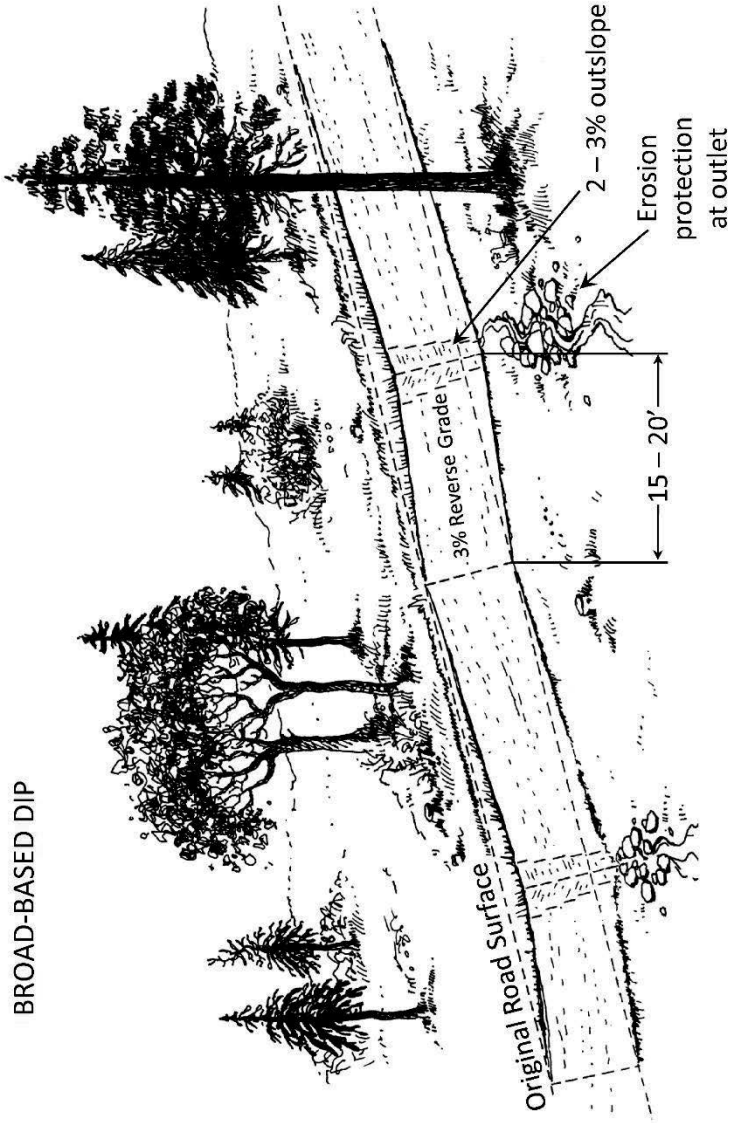
1. Installation should take place following basic clearing and grading for roadbed construction.
2. A 20-foot long, 3% reverse *grade* is constructed into the existing roadbed by cutting from upgrade of the dip location.
3. The cross drain *outslope* will be 2% to 3% maximum.
4. An energy absorber such as *rip-rap* and, in some cases, a level area where the water can spread, should be installed at the outfall of the dip to reduce water velocity thus assuring no *erosion* of cast materials.
5. On some *soils* the dip and reverse *grade* section may require *bedding* with 3-inch crushed stone to avoid rutting the road surface.

6. *Broad-based dips* are very effective in gathering surface water and directing it safely off the road. Dips should be placed across the road in the direction of water flow.
7. Recommended Spacing Table for Broad-Based Dips:

Grade of Road (percent)	Distance Between Dips (feet)
2	300
4	200
6	165
8	150
10	140
12	130

8. An inherent problem in construction of a *broad-based dip* is recognizing that the roadbed consists of two planes rather than one unbroken plane. One plane is the 15-to-20-foot reverse *grade* toward the uphill road portion and outlet. Another plane is the *grade* from the top of a hump or start of a down *grade* to the outlet of the dip. Neither the dip nor the hump should have a sharp, angular break, but should be rounded to allow a smooth flow of traffic. Properly constructed *broad-based dips* do not damage loaded trucks, or slow vehicle speed. Dips require minimal annual maintenance and continue to function years after abandonment. Only the dip should be *outsloped* to provide sufficient break in *grade* to turn the water.

BROAD-BASED DIP



# ROLLING DIPS

## Refer to Section 3.0 Road Construction and Maintenance

**Definition:** A dip and reverse *slope* in a road surface with an *outslope* in the dip for natural cross drainage. Use on steeper *grade* roads than *broad-based dips*.

**Purpose:** Provides cross drainage on in-sloped *haul roads* to channel excessive *runoff* and reduce *erosion*.

**Conditions Where Practice Applies:** Used on *haul roads* and heavily used *skid trails* having a gradient of 15% or less. Should not be used for cross draining springs and seeps, or *intermittent* or *perennial streams*. May substitute for other surface water cross drain practices such as *culverts*.

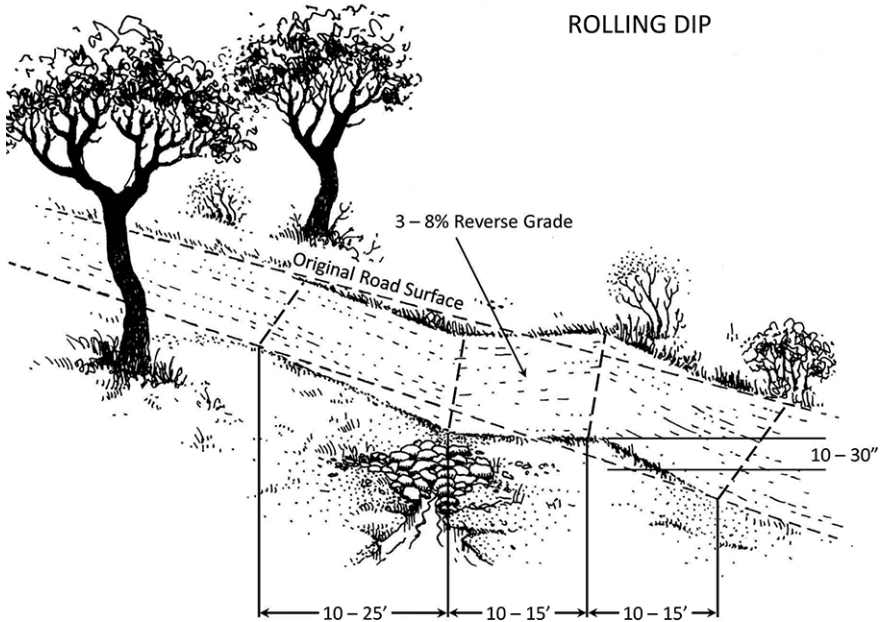
## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

1. Install following basic clearing and grading for roadbed construction or on *skid trails* after *logging* is completed.
2. A 10 to 15-foot long, 3% to 8% reverse *grade* is constructed into the roadbed by cutting from upgrade to the dip location and then using cut material to build the mound for the reverse *grade*.
3. In hills, *rolling dips* are located to fit the terrain as much as possible. They should be spaced according to the *slope* of the planned roadbed.



4. Spacing for *rolling dips* can be determined from the following table:

Grade of Road (percent)	Distance Between Dips (feet)
2 - 5	180
5 - 10	150
10 - 15	135
15+	120



# STREAM CROSSINGS

## Refer to Section 3.0 Road Construction and Maintenance

**Definition:** *Culverts*, bridges, or rock *fords* that enable equipment to cross *streams*, drains and drainage ditches, and insure minimal negative impact to the *stream*.

**Purpose:** To cross *streams* without increasing *stream* sedimentation.

**Conditions Where Practice Applies:** Used for on-going operations where *streams* or drainages must be crossed by *logging*, *site preparation*, road maintenance, or fire suppression equipment.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

### General

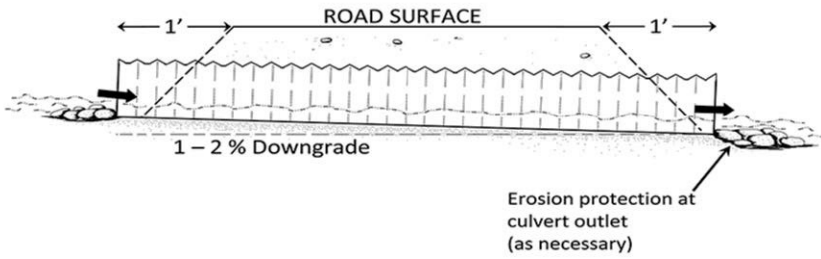
1. Dirt crossings should never be used to cross *streams*.
2. Aggregate or other suitable material should be laid on approaches to *fords*, bridges, and *culvert* crossings to ensure a stable roadbed approach and reduce *sediment* in the *stream*.
3. When necessary, stabilize road surfaces and *cut-and-fill slopes* using effective *erosion* control and water control methods (i.e., seeding, commercial *erosion* control materials, *rip-rap*, etc.)
4. *Stream* crossings will require frequent inspections during operations to determine their functional and safe condition. When necessary, corrective measures should be taken immediately to restore crossings to full functionality.

5. Remove all materials from temporary *stream* crossings upon completion of operations and return the crossing as closely as possible to its original condition.
6. Generally, *waterbars* should not be constructed within 50 feet of a *stream* unless absolutely necessary (on steep *slopes* and/or highly erosive *soils*). This practice should be avoided to minimize disturbing *soil* near the *stream*.

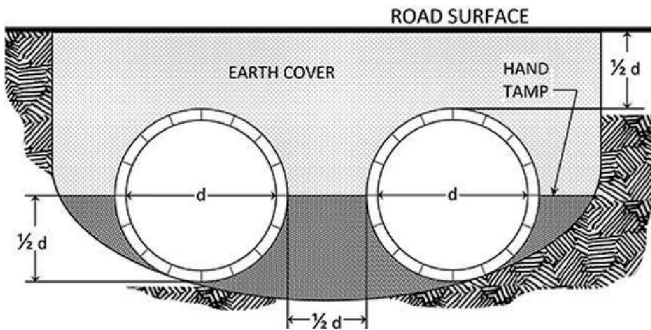
### **Pipe Culvert**

1. Pipe length should be long enough so that each end extends at least one foot beyond the edge of the fill material.
2. Pipe *culverts* should be of the proper type, size, and material to handle maximum *stream* flow (see *Culvert Size Chart* on page 51).
3. The *culvert* should be placed on a 1% to 2% downgrade to prevent clogging, but laid as closely as possible to the natural *grade* of the drain so as to not impede fish passage.
4. *Erosion* protection measures can be installed at the *culvert* outlet to minimize downstream *erosion*. This protection might include *rip-rap*, geo-textile filter cloth, large stone, prefabricated outflow devices, velocity reducers, etc. *Rip-rap*, etc., may be necessary on the downstream and upstream edge of fill or roadbed to prevent washouts during floods.
5. *Culverts* should be firmly seated and *soil* compacted at least halfway up the side of the pipe. Cover, equal to a minimum of half the *culvert* diameter (preferably 1 foot fill per 1 foot *culvert* diameter), should be placed above the *culvert*--but never use less than one foot of cover. The distance between pipes in a multiple *culvert* installation should be a minimum of half the pipe diameter.

# CULVERT



Use aggregate or other materials to stabilize approaches to fords, bridges, and culvert crossings to ensure a stable roadbed approach.



# Culvert Size Chart

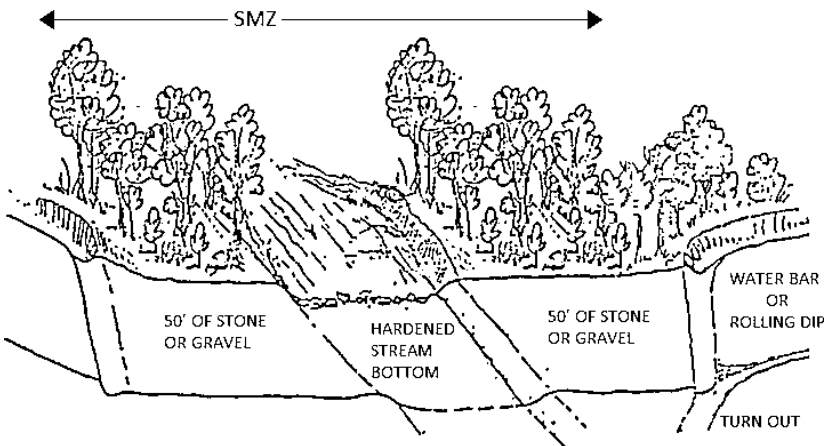
A D C R R A E I S N E D	Light Soils (Sands)			Medium Soils			Heavy Soils (Clays)		
	Flat	Mod.	Steep	Flat	Mod.	Steep	Flat	Mod.	Steep
	0- 5%	5- 15%	15 %+	0- 5%	5- 15%	15 %+	0- 5%	5- 15%	15% +
	<b>Culvert diameter in inches</b>								
5	18	18	18	18	18	24	24	24	24
10	18	18	18	24	24	30	30	30	36
20	18	18	18	24	30	36	36	36	42
30	18	18	18	30	30	36	36	42	48
40	18	18	18	30	36	42	42	48	
50	18	18	18	30	36	48	48	48	
75	18	24	24	36	42				
100	24	24	24	36	48				
150	24	24	24	42					
200	24	30	30	48					
250	30	30	30						
300	30	36	36						
350	30	36	42						
400	36	36	42						

## Bridges

1. Bridges should be constructed with minimum disturbance to the *stream bank*, *channel*, and adjacent *SMZ*.
2. When necessary to protect approaches and roadbed fills near bridges, adequate *erosion* protection should be provided by head walls, wing walls, *rip-rap*, etc.
3. The use of temporary bridges may be necessary to minimize *stream* bank disturbances and provide a means of temporary access to critical areas when permanent structures are not warranted or needed.

## Natural Fords

1. Rock *fords* may be used to cross *streams* when approaches, *stream banks*, and *stream* bottoms are hard enough or sufficiently stabilized to minimize *stream* bottom and bank disturbance.
2. *Fords* should never be used for skidder crossings.



Low-water Crossing

# SKID TRAILS

## Refer to Section 5.3 Skidding

**Definition:** An unsurfaced, single-lane trail or road usually narrower and sometimes steeper than a truck *haul road*.

**Purpose:** To skid logs, tree lengths or other roundwood products from the stump to a common *landing* or concentration area.

**Conditions Where Practice Applies:** This practice is used to concentrate *harvesting* products for sawing or loading on trucks or trailers and where the topography and scale of operation make skidding the primary and most economical means of gathering trees, logs or other roundwood products.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

1. *Skid trails* should be planned to minimize damage to the residual stand, reduce *erosion* and sedimentation, and provide the most economical means for skidding.
2. *Grades* should not exceed 15%, but steeper segments may be required to avoid boundary lines, sensitive areas, or other areas not accessible using skid roads of lesser *grade*. When skidding is dispersed and *mineral soil* is not exposed, steeper *grades* are permissible. If steep *grades* are necessary, use practices which will prevent concentrated water flow that can cause gullying.
3. On *slopes*, use a slant or zig-zag pattern, breaking the *grade* and avoiding long, steep *grades*.
4. *Skid trails* should be located outside the *SMZ* except when crossing a *stream*.

5. *Skid trails* crossing a *perennial* or *intermittent stream* should use a bridge or *culvert* of adequate size, unless natural conditions allow crossing without creating excessive sedimentation. Layers of poles (corduroy), or slash, along an approach can be used to provide temporary bank protection. Temporary *culverts* or bridges should be removed and the site restored immediately after operations cease. *Fords* should never be used as skidder crossings.
6. The approach to crossings should be as near to right angles to the *stream channel* as possible. Cross at straight sections of *streams*.
7. Minimize rutting where the potential for affecting *water quality* through increased sedimentation is present, such as skidding across the *contour* on sensitive, highly erodible sites and when crossing *SMZs*. When *soils* are saturated, skidding should be restricted to prevent excessive *soil* compaction and channelized *erosion*. The effects of rutting caused from skidder and hauling traffic differ depending on *soil* conditions, relief of the site, depth of the rutting, and the angle to the *contour*.
8. Upon completion of skidding, immediately protect areas subject to *erosion*. Usually, the first need is drainage of skid roads and bare-earth *skid trails* by using *waterbars* at these recommended intervals:

Percent slope	Distance apart	Percent slope	Distance apart
2	250 ft.	15	60 ft.
5	135 ft.	20	45 ft.
10	80 ft.	30	35 ft.

9. *Waterbars* should be installed at a 30-to-45-degree angle downslope, with ends open to prevent water accumulation behind them. Permanent vegetative cover should be established upon roads, trails, and *landings* that show bare *soil* and are subject to *erosion*. Scattering *slash* or other *mulch* material to cover the trail may supplement *waterbars* and seeding.



# LOG LANDINGS (DECKS, SETS)

## Refer to Section 5.1 Harvest Design

**Definitions:** Area where logs are collected. This includes *landings* at the end of skid and *haul roads* as well as concentration yards near mills.

**Purpose:** To have a central location where harvested timber products are collected for sorting and/or loading on trucks.

**Condition Where Practice Applies:** An area that is large enough to require concentrating products for loading.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

1. *Skid trails* should be planned to minimize damage to the residual stand, reduce *erosion* and sedimentation, and provide the most economical means for skidding.
2. The number and size of *landings* should be minimized. The following points should also be considered in the location and use of *landings* and concentration yards:
  - a. Locate sites for *landings* and portable mill locations in advance of road construction.
  - b. Locate *landings* and portable mills at least 50 feet from the edge of the *SMZ*.
  - c. *Landings* and yards should have a slight (2 to 5%) *slope* to permit drainage or should be sited on well-drained *soils*.
  - d. Provide adequate drainage on approach roads and trails so that *runoff* does not drain onto the *landing* area and cause pooling of water.

- e. A *diversion ditch* around the uphill side of *landings* can intercept the flow of water and direct it away from the *landing*.
- f. Equipment serviced on-site should have *waste* oil etc., drained into containers and properly disposed of in accordance with current *waste* disposal recommendations. Garbage and trash should be likewise removed and properly disposed of.
- g. Locate residue piles (sawdust, slabs, field chipping residue, etc.) outside of wet weather drainages so that drainage water from residue will not drain into *streams* or other bodies of water.
- h. Disturbed areas should be reshaped to provide adequate surface drainage. Revegetate and/or slash *landings* and portable mill locations within the first 15 days of the next seeding season following completion of *harvesting* operations. Seeding/slashing is not necessary if the landowner plans construction, *site preparation*, or other activity immediately following completion of harvest (see Revegetation Recommended Specifications on page 65).

# STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONES

## Refer to Section 9.0 SMZs

**Definition:** Area on each side of the banks and above the head of *perennial streams*, *intermittent streams*, and other drains or bodies of water where extra precaution in carrying out *forest practices* is needed to protect bank edges and *water quality*.

**Purpose:** To provide a relatively undisturbed zone to trap and retain suspended *sediments* before these particulates can reach the *stream*.

**Conditions Where Practice Applies:** Should be maintained along all *perennial* and *intermittent streams* or areas where forest disturbances may cause substantial *erosion* to follow. Should be maintained around lakes, ponds, flowing natural springs, and all springs and reservoirs serving as domestic water supplies.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

1. The minimum *SMZ* width on each side of a *perennial stream* should be 50 feet and the minimum *SMZ* width on each side and above the head of an *intermittent stream* should be 50 feet. *SMZs* for man-made drainage ditches should be established if appropriate.
2. Limit the potential damage from heavy *logging* equipment by using dispersed skidding, cable, and winch, etc.
3. Partial *harvesting* is acceptable. A minimum of 50 square feet of *basal area* per acre, evenly distributed, should be retained in the *SMZ*. A general rule of thumb that may be used to determine this is leaving 50% overstory *crown cover*.
4. Timber should not be cut in the *SMZ* if the *basal area* is less than 50 square feet per acre, evenly distributed.

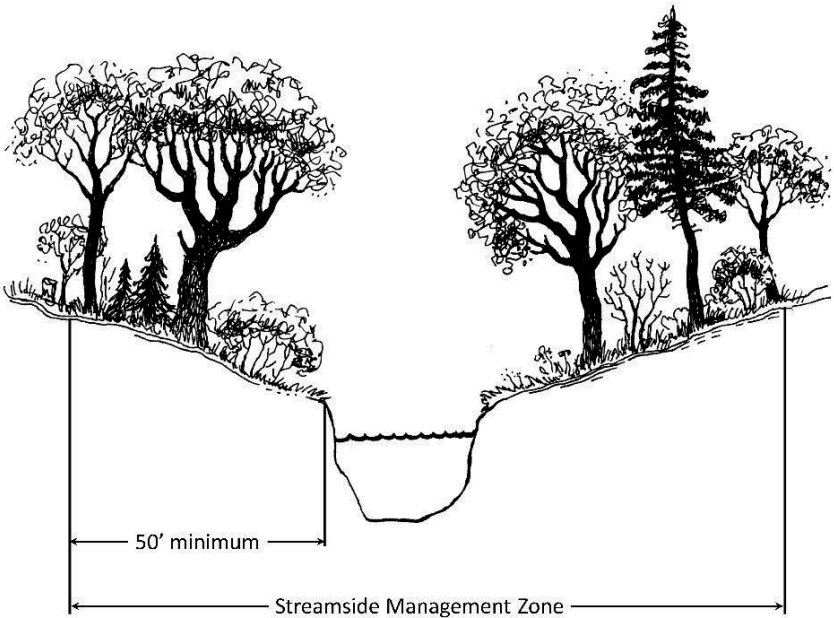
5. Leave the forest floor essentially undisturbed. An existing *organic* litter layer should not be disturbed enough to expose *mineral soil*.
6. Remove all *logging debris* from *streams* immediately. If possible, all trees felled within an *SMZ* should be removed from the *SMZ* prior to skidding.
7. *Access roads* and *skid trails* should cross *perennial* or *intermittent streams* at or near a right angle. Crossings in the *SMZ* should be kept to a minimum.
8. Stabilize all roads, cuts, and fills (greater than or equal to 5% *slope* or subject to *erosion*) in the *SMZ* by seeding, *mulching*, or covering with *logging debris*. Fertilizer use should be limited because of the *pollution* potential (see Revegetation Recommended Specifications on page 65).
9. Drainage structures such as ditches (less than two feet deep), cross drain *culverts*, *waterbars*, *rolling dips* and *broad-based dips* should be used on truck and skid roads before they enter into an *SMZ* to intercept and properly discharge *runoff* waters.
10. *SMZ* horizontal width is measured in linear feet from the pond, lake or *stream* bank to the toe of road, *skid trail*, or other surface disturbance (see illustration on page 59).
11. The width of the *SMZ* should be adjusted for *slope*, *soils*, and cover type and especially when protecting municipal water supplies.

## MINIMUM SMZ WIDTH

Percent Slope:	0 - 10	11 - 20	21 - 45	45+
	Distance (feet)			
Perennial streams, intermittent streams, and lakes	50*	50*	*	*
Municipal water supplies	100	150	150	200

\* Adjust for slope, soil type and cover type.

## STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONE



# STREAM CLASSIFICATION

## Perennial

*Perennial streams will flow at least 90% of the year under normal climatic conditions. If flow cannot be determined, the presence of five or more of the following characteristics should be helpful in recognizing a perennial stream.*

1. Well-defined *channel*.
2. Water pools present, even during dry conditions.
3. A *channel* that is almost always sinuous (winding, snake-like, etc.). The degree of *sinuosity* is specific to physiographic regions. For example, in geographic regions that have mountainous terrain, the *channels* are less sinuous.
4. Evidence of fluctuating high water marks (flood prone width) and/or *sediment* transport. Indicators of a flood prone zone parallel to a *stream* course are *sediment* deposits, *sediment* stained leaves, bare ground, and/or drift lines.
5. Evidence of *soil* and debris movement (scouring) in the *stream channel*. Leaf litter is usually transient or temporary in the flow *channel*.
6. Wetland or *hydrophytic vegetation* is usually associated with the *stream channel*. However, *perennial streams* with deeply incised or "down-cut" *channels* will usually have wetland vegetation present along the banks or flood-prone zone. Examples include sedges, rushes, mosses, ferns, and the wetter/riparian grasses and woody species.
7. *Soils* with gray colors down to a depth of 24 inches with a loamy to clay texture. Red mottles or "specks" are usually present in the gray *soil* matrix.
8. Usually identified as solid blue-lines on USGS topographic maps and as solid black lines separated by one dot on NRCS *soil* maps.
9. *Perennial streams* are considered "*waters of the United States.*"

## Intermittent

*Intermittent streams will have seasonal flows usually 30% to 90% of the year under normal climatic conditions. If flow cannot be determined, the presence of five or more of the following characteristics should be helpful in recognizing an intermittent stream.*

1. Well-defined *channel*.
2. Water pools absent during dry conditions but present during wet conditions.
3. A *channel* that is almost always sinuous. The degree of *sinuosity* is specific to physiographic regions. For example, in geographic regions that have mountainous terrain, the *channels* are less sinuous.
4. Evidence of fluctuating high water marks (flood prone width) and/or *sediment* transport. Indications of a flood prone zone parallel to a *stream* course are *sediment* deposits, *sediment-stained* leaves, bare ground and/or drift lines.
5. Evidence of *soil* and debris movement (scouring) in the *stream channel*. Leaf litter is usually transient or temporary in the flow *channel*.
6. Wetland or *hydrophytic vegetation* is usually associated with the *stream channel* or flow area. *Intermittent streams* with deeply incised or "down-cut" *channel* will usually have wetland vegetation present along the banks of flood prone zone. Wetland vegetation is similar to those discussed in the *perennial stream* section.
7. Predominately brown *soils* with inclusions of gray *soils* (except in *soils* of deep sands and *soils* with extreme red *soil* color). Usually, alluvial type *soils* with loamy to sandy texture.
8. Usually identified as blue lines separated by three dots on USGS topographic maps and as black lines separated by two or more dots on NRCS *soil* maps.
9. *Intermittent streams* are considered "*waters of the United States.*"

## **Ephemeral**

*Ephemeral streams usually have flow less than 30% of the year. If flow cannot be determined, the presence of three or more of the following characteristics should be helpful in recognizing an ephemeral stream.*

1. May have no well-defined *channel*.
2. Absence of water pools.
3. A flow area that is almost always straight and either "flattens" out at the bottom of the *slope* or *grades* into *intermittent* or *perennial streams*.
4. Fluctuating high water marks (flood prone width) and/or *sediment* transport are usually absent.
5. Evidence of leaf litter and/or small debris jams in the flow area.
6. Usually sparse or no wetland (hydrophytic) vegetation present.
7. Side *slope soils* with characteristics typical of the surrounding landscape. *Soil* texture usually more loamy than the surrounding upslope landscape and usually has a clay subsurface.
8. Usually not identified on USGS topographic maps or NRCS *soil* maps.



# SALVAGE & SANITATION IN SMZs

## Refer to Section 9.0 SMZs

**Definition:** *Harvesting* damaged forest products.

**Purpose:** To utilize forest products which have been damaged by insects, disease, or other factors and to reduce or eliminate insect or disease infestations that threaten adjacent forests.

**Conditions Where Practice Applies:** Areas where insect or disease problems pose a threat to adjacent timberland.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

1. Evaluate the potential threat to neighboring forest resources by surveying potential susceptibility, extent of spread, resource damage and economic costs.
2. Consider alternatives in insect and disease control strategies, which may be more economical and have less potential for site disturbance.
3. Locate salvage *haul roads* and *skid trails* outside the *SMZ*.
4. To minimize risk, manage areas adjacent to the *SMZ* to remove potential brood trees, susceptible species, low vigor trees and high-quality stems at or near maturity.
5. Removal of felled timber in the *SMZ* should be by the use of dispersed skidding or by cable retrieval. The forest floor should remain virtually undisturbed.
6. Equipment should not be operated in the *SMZ* for salvage and sanitation purposes when *soils* are saturated.

7. If salvage operations are to be conducted within an *SMZ* following storm, fire, insect, or other damage, every effort should be made to protect and leave those trees not severely damaged to attempt to leave a minimum of 50% *crown cover*. Where more than 50% of the overstory has to be removed, evaluate the ability of the understory to protect *stream* temperatures and determine the need for revegetation or reforestation.
  
8. Small areas or damage spots less than one acre may be completely harvested unless significant *water quality* problems will be created.

# REVEGETATION OF DISTURBED AREAS

**Definition:** The establishment of grass and/or legume vegetation on disturbed *soil* areas not expected to naturally revegetate in time to prevent *erosion*.

**Purpose:** To stabilize the *soil* and minimize the chance of *erosion* with *sediment* being exported to *water courses*.

**Conditions Where Practice Applies:** On areas where activities expose *mineral soil* and where natural vegetation will not suffice; thus, operations may accelerate *erosion* and contribute *sediment* to drainages. Other areas to consider are those with highly erodible soils or those severely eroded or gullied.

## RECOMMENDED SPECIFICATIONS

### Site and Seedbed Preparation

1. All disturbed areas with a *grade* of 5% or greater and/or which are subject to excessive *erosion* should be seeded within the first 15 days of next seeding season after construction as weather permits. These steep *grades* and any other area with high *erosion* potential (*landings, skid trails, haul roads, etc.*) should be identified as soon as the operation is completed.
2. Water control measures and/or shaping of the land should be completed as the operation is finished to guarantee the stability of the site until a ground cover becomes established.

### Seeding

3. Selected seed mixture may be broadcast or drilled. Seeding is usually more successful in the spring and fall. Broadcast seed can be covered by dragging a chain, brush, disk, or harrow or

firming with a roller or cultipacker, or by drilling to ensure seed contact with the *soil* (½ to 1 inch deep). Permanent grasses may be seeded or sprigged into dead cover provided by temporary cover plants. A long-term *perennial*, fine-rooted seed mixture should be used for most effective *erosion* control.

4. The objective of seeding is to quickly establish a ground cover that will hold the *soil* together under most conditions. Seed selection should consider the season, the *soil* type, the availability of sunlight to the area to be seeded, and the cost of the seed. To get the desired results, a combination of seeds may be required.
5. Adapted plants (see page 67 for a list of plants and their adaptation by *soil* types).
6. Planting rates and dates (see page 68).
7. When temporary cover plants such as annual, cool season crops are used, a follow-up to determine the need for permanent vegetation is needed.
8. Legumes should always be used in mixes with grasses.
9. Sprigging methods - Sprigged plants such as Bermuda grass can be planted by sprigging either by hand or machine or broadcasting the sprigs and then disking and firming with a roller.
10. Fertilizing - Apply 600 to 650 lbs. of 13-13-13 (or its equivalent) per acre (these rates are double normal rates) and either mix into the top 2-3" during *seedbed* preparation or at the time of planting. Care should be taken to ensure that the fertilizer does not enter a *stream*. To avoid *stream contamination*, it is recommended that fertilizer not be applied within the *streamside management zone*. On small areas, fertilizer may be broadcast manually with a spreader prior to or at the time of seeding.

**SEED FOR REVEGETATION IN EAST TEXAS**

Vegetation Type	Species	Sands	Loams	Clays
Annual Grass/crops	Millet			
	Brown top	X	X	X
	Foxtail	X	X	X
	Pearl	X	X	X
	Ryegrass		X	X
	Oats	X*	X	X
	Elbon rye	X	X	X
	Wheat	X*	X	X
	Bahia**		X	X
	Perennial Grasses	Bermuda grass		
Alecia		X	X	X
Coastal		X	X	X
Selection3		X	X	X
Sheffield		X	X	X
Common**			X	X
NK-37			X	X
Tall fescue**			X	X
Lovegrass**				
Weeping		X	X	X
Wilman	X	X	X	
Alamo switchgrass		X	X	
Legumes	Singletary peas		X	X
	Hairy vetch	X	X	X
	Arrowleaf clover		X	X
	Subterranean clover	X	X	X

\* Not adapted to very deep sands

\*\* Most shade tolerant

## REVEGETATION - PLANTING INFORMATION

Vegetation Type	Species	Season of Growth	Planting Dates	Planting Rate /acre #
Annual Grass	Millet			
Crop	Brown top	Warm	4/15-8/1	40 lbs.
	Foxtail	Warm	4/15-8/1	30 lbs.
	Pearl	Warm	5/15-8/1	40 lbs.
	Ryegrass	Cool	9/1-11/30	24 lbs.
	Oats	Cool	9/1-11/30	128 lbs.
	Elbon rye	Cool	9/1-11/30	112 lbs.
	Wheat	Cool	9/1-11/30	120 lbs.
	Bahia	Warm	**	30 lbs.*
Perennial Grasses	Bennuda			
	Alecia sprigs	Warm	1/15-6/1	48 bu.
	Coastal sprigs	Warm	1/15-6/1	48 bu.
	Selection 3 sprigs	Warm	1/15-6/1	48 bu.
	Sheffield sprigs	Warm	1/15-6/1	48 bu.
	Common seed	Warm	3/15-5/15	4 lbs.*
	NK-37 seed	Warm	3/15-5/15	4 lbs.*
	Tall fescue	Cool	9/15-11/15	20 lbs.*
	Lovegrass			
	Weeping	Warm	3/1-5/1	4 lbs.*
	Wilman	Warm	3/1-5/1	4 lbs.*
	Alamo switchgrass	Warm	3/1-5/31	7 lbs.*
Legumes***	Singletary peas	Cool	9/15-11/30	70 lbs.
	Hairy vetch	Cool	9/15-11/30	40 lbs.
	Arrowleaf clover	Cool	9/15-11/30	20 lbs.
	Subterranean clover	Cool	9/15-11/30	20 lbs.

\* Pure live seed (% germination x % purity = pure live seed)

\*\* Bahia can be planted year-round if planted with an appropriate cover.

\*\*\* Inoculate legumes before planting.

# Sowing rates are double normal rates to insure maximum cover.

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# NOTES





# Part III

## 11.0

# Texas Best Management Practices For Forest Wetlands

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# Introduction

Timber production is recognized as a land use that is compatible with wetland protection. Although *wetlands* are federally regulated, normal *forestry* operations in *wetlands* such as *soil bedding*, *site preparation*, *harvesting*, and minor drainage are exempt from permit requirements under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act Amendments of 1977, as long as the activity 1) qualifies as "*normal silviculture*," 2) is part of an "established" silvicultural operation, 3) is not part of an activity whose purpose is to convert a water of the United States into a use to which it was not previously subject, 4) follows the fifteen Mandatory Road *BMPs* (see ACCESS SYSTEMS, page 83), and 5) contains no toxic *pollutant* listed under Section 307 of the Clean Water Act in discharge of dredge or fill materials into *waters of the United States*.

A *forestry* activity will require a Section 404 permit if it results in the conversion of a wetland to a non-wetland. Landowners who wish to change land use, who feel an activity may change land use, or who are uncertain about the permit exemption status of a *forestry* activity should contact the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). If the activity is on a farmed wetland or on agricultural land, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the appropriate initial contact.

*BMPs* are designed to help landowners, foresters, loggers, and others protect *water quality* during *forestry* operations. *BMPs* can prevent, or greatly reduce, *nonpoint source pollution* of water from *forestry* activities. The use of *BMPs* is non-regulatory in Texas. If the *forestry* community implements these practices, *wetlands* and wetland-like areas can be protected without strict government regulation.



## ESTABLISHED SILVICULTURAL OPERATIONS

As previously mentioned, *forestry* operations must be part of an established silvicultural operation in order to be exempt from permit requirements under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Determining what constitutes established, or ongoing, operations can be difficult at times. Listed below are some, but not all, indicators of established operations:

- Written management plan
- Past *harvesting* with forest *regeneration/coppice*
- Fire, insect, or disease control to protect timber
- Boundary line maintenance
- Enrolled in a third-party certification program
- *Forest roads* follow *BMP* guidelines

## LEGAL DEFINITION OF WETLANDS

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Federal Register, 1982) and the Environmental Protection Agency (Federal Register, 1980) jointly define *wetlands* as:

*"Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency or duration sufficient to support and, under normal circumstances, do support a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas."*

The three criteria used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in delineating *wetlands* are: 1) *hydrophytic vegetation* (plants that have the ability to grow, effectively compete, reproduce, and/or persist in anaerobic *soil* conditions), 2) *hydric soils* (*soils* that are saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season for anaerobic conditions to develop), and 3) *wetland hydrology* (inundation by water sufficient to support *hydrophytic vegetation* and develop *hydric soils*). All three must be present under normal circumstances for an area to be identified as a jurisdictional wetland.

***"All three criteria (hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology) MUST be present in order for a site to be determined a jurisdictional wetland!"***

## **BENEFITS AND FUNCTIONS OF WETLANDS**

Forest *Wetlands* are among the most productive ecosystems in the world. As a valuable natural resource component of the Texas landscape, forest *wetlands* can improve *water quality* by filtering *sediment* and other *pollutants*, by reducing the potential for *erosion*, and by controlling flooding during periods of heavy rain. *Wetlands* also provide valuable products and amenities for human use such as lumber, wildlife, recreation, and aesthetics.

## **POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF FORESTRY ACTIVITIES ON WETLANDS**

Forest *wetlands* are environmentally sensitive areas. Special attention to the proper use of *BMPs* is essential if *water quality* is to be protected. *Forest road* construction has the potential to disrupt normal drainage patterns and produce *sediment* that may reach *streams* and sloughs. Tree tops or other *logging debris* left in *streams* can obstruct water flow, increase *erosion* of *stream banks*, and decrease dissolved oxygen in the water.

Normal wetland drainage patterns can be altered by severe rutting or by improperly constructed *windrows*. Excessive *soil* compaction caused by careless *logging* can reduce water infiltration, reduce *soil* moisture available to tree roots, and decrease site quality.

## PLANNING

Planning for timber *harvesting* is an often-overlooked step in *silvicultural activities*. When working in *wetlands* or wetland-like areas, planning is essential. Aerial photographs, topographic maps, and *soil* surveys are indispensable when planning activities in and adjacent to *wetlands*.

- ***Identify and mark locations of water bodies and other sensitive areas.***
- ***In choosing a silvicultural system, assess the potential impacts on water quality, erosion, sedimentation, and overall wetland function.***
- ***Locate log landings on slightly sloped areas before establishing a new road system and keep the number and size of roads and landings to a minimum.***
- ***Schedule operations to take advantage of dry periods to avoid rutting and puddling in soils.***
- ***Consider use of special equipment such as wide-tire skidders, forwarders, etc., to minimize soil damage and/or rutting.***

## STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONES (SMZs) and RIPARIAN AREAS

One major function of an *SMZ* is to protect a body of water from possible *pollution* from adjacent *forestry* activities. Since this type of *pollution* often results from the downhill movement of *soil* and water from a nearby upland source, the functions of an *SMZ* in relatively flat wetland and wetland-like areas can be different from *SMZ*

functions in typical uplands with sloping terrain. Because of the flat terrain and relatively low *erosion* potential of wetland or wetland-like areas, *SMZ* widths can sometimes be reduced from the 50-foot recommended width on either side of the *stream* for upland *streams* (see *Intermittent Streams*, page 79). The entire *riparian area* (area that includes the *stream*, banks, and adjacent land) must be considered when determining *SMZ* width. Determining factors include depth to water table, riparian vegetation present, *soil* type, the nature of the hydrologic connectivity of *stream* systems, and other site-specific conditions.

## BOTTOMLAND SYSTEMS

East Texas contains approximately two million acres of *bottom/and* hardwood forests. ***Bottom/ands systems***, which may or may not be jurisdictional *wetlands*, include a major *water course* (either a *perennial* or *intermittent stream*) and associated floodplains, tributary *water courses*, sloughs, and *ephemeral* drains. The predominant timber type is hardwood, but usually includes some pine. Common species found in *bottom/and* systems include baldcypress, water tupelo, swamp tupelo, red maple, overcup oak, willow oak, cherrybark oak, white oaks, loblolly pine and sweetgum.

## PERENNIAL STREAMS

***Perennial streams*** (*streams* that flow at least 90% of the year in a continuous, well-defined *channel*) need the protection of *SMZs*. Because of the potential for *water quality* impacts from *forestry* operations near *perennial streams*, *SMZ* width should be no less than 50 feet on each side of the *stream*. Thinning in *SMZs* according to *BMP* guidelines is acceptable; a minimum of 50 square feet of *basal area* per acre, evenly distributed, should be retained in the *SMZ*. A general rule of thumb that may be used to determine this is leaving 50% overstory *crown cover*. As with all *silvicultural activities* in wetland or wetland-like areas, these thinning operations must occur in accordance with all other *BMP* guidelines. This includes minimizing rutting (see RUTTING, page 87) and removing logging debris immediately.



Perennial streams such as this one require a 50-foot SMZ.

### **Tips for Marking SMZs**

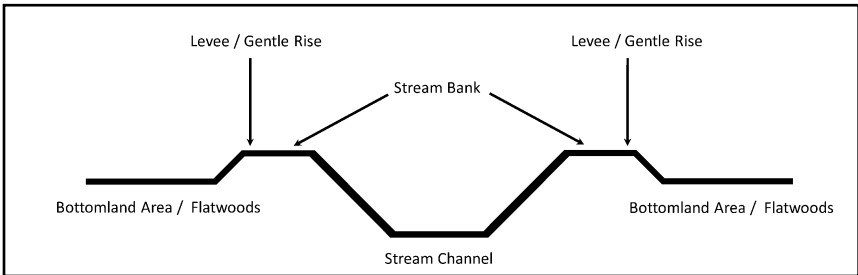
Following are two tips that may help in marking SMZs:

1. Use temporary flagging, ribbon, tape, etc., rather than paint to mark the preliminary *SMZ* boundary. Flagging can be moved and re-tied should you mark a tree too close to the *stream*. This way, the *SMZ* is more likely to be marked at the correct distance from the *stream*. Then paint a permanent *SMZ* boundary.
2. In the flat terrain of *bottom/and* systems, there is often an area next to some *streams* that is covered with water for too long during the year for grass to grow successfully. The boundary where it becomes dry enough for the grass to grow forms a line with grass on one side and no grass on the other. If you're unsure about exactly where the *SMZ* boundary needs to be marked, try using this line as the appropriate point. Just make sure this boundary line meets minimum *SMZ* width requirements.



## INTERMITTENT STREAMS

**Intermittent streams** flow 30-90% of the year in continuous, well-defined *channels*. As in uplands, *intermittent streams* (which themselves are most likely *wetlands*) in *wetlands* or wetland-like areas need the protection of *SMZs*. Since *SMZs* on this type of *stream* in *bottom/ands* with relatively high banks (functioning as a levee) and low, wide floodplains may function more to reduce *thermal pollution* (provide shade to the water) and provide bank stability, *SMZ* widths of less than 50 feet on each side of the *stream* are acceptable during timber *harvesting* operations. Widths can be judged on a site-specific basis by a forester or other qualified individual and must adequately protect the *stream water quality*. For example, an *intermittent stream* running through flat woods with little or no *slope* may need an *SMZ* only 20 feet wide on each side of the *stream*. However, an *intermittent stream* with narrow floodplains and possible impacts from adjacent upslope areas may require a 50-foot wide *SMZ* for adequate protection. Trees should not be harvested from the *stream channel* itself, and bank stability should not be jeopardized. *Logging debris* should be removed from the *stream channel* immediately. These and all other *silvicultural activities* must occur in accordance with all other *BMP* guidelines, including those related to *stream crossings*.



Intermittent streams with relatively high banks and wide floodplains in wetland-like areas generally do not receive runoff from uplands.

## EPIHEMERAL WATER COURSES

**Ephemeral water courses** (*ephemeral* means short-lived or, in this case, carrying water for less than 30% of the year) that are forested **DO NOT** require the protection of *SMZs*. However, timber should not

be cut within the *water course* if there is a likelihood of disturbing the *water course* by rutting. The flow of *ephemeral* water courses is rain-dependent. They are usually recognized by lack of scouring caused by water flow, and by the presence of leaf litter in the *water course* due to lack of consistent and continuous water flow.

## BACKWATER BASINS

***Backwater basins***, areas that hold water from backwater flooding when adjacent water bodies overflow, likewise **DO NOT** require the protection of *SMZs*.

Be aware that it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between *backwater basins* and *intermittent streams* (which actually flow water downstream and therefore do require *SMZ* protection) and *intermittent ponds*. If there is a question on which type of *water body* is present, an *SMZ* should be designated.



***Backwater basins*** hold water from backwater flooding when adjacent water bodies overflow.

In cases where *backwater basins* have well-defined banks, trees should be left or selectively thinned on the bank and inside the basin to maintain bank stability and thermal protection. Even in *backwater basins* that do not have well-defined banks, trees should not be cut within the basin if there is a possibility of disturbing the *backwater basin's* natural flow by rutting or jeopardizing *soil* stability. Severe rutting can change the drainage pattern in *backwater basins*. It is important to recognize the *water quality* functions of bankless *backwater basins* and to consider that group selection, patch clear-cutting (patch clear-cuts are relatively small clear-cuts that are spaced apart from each other, creating a mosaic or patchwork-type pattern), and selective thinning may be prudent.

Again, it is the forester's or other qualified person's responsibility to ensure that harvest intensity in *backwater basins* maintains the protection of *water quality*.

## FOREST SWAMPS

***Forest swamps*** are forested areas that have water at or above the *soil* surface for at least four months of the typical year, usually during the winter. These areas will have water flowing during and immediately after rainfall, but it is normally just standing. The source of water in *forest swamps* is ponding or groundwater saturation.

All operations in *forest swamps* should be conducted as if they were within an *SMZ*, including thinning using recommended guidelines. Group selection or properly spaced patch clear-cuts may be prudent in *forest swamps*. Group selection and patch clear-cutting may be conducted (while adhering to all other *BMP* guidelines) only when the site is dry enough to prevent rutting to the extent that natural water flow and drainage are not changed (see RUTTING, page 87). A forester or other qualified individual must ensure that the harvest intensity in *forest swamps* maintains the protection of *water quality*. *Forest swamps* are not necessarily jurisdictional *wetlands*. Common *forest swamp* species include willow oak, black willow, green ash, overcup oak, baldcypress and tupelo.

## FLATWOODS

**Flatwoods** are forested areas with *slopes* of 1% or less and usually contain mixed pine and hardwood timber. Historically, *bottom/and systems* and *flatwoods* contained much more pine than the current composition. During wet seasons, the *soil* is often saturated, having water at or near the *soil* surface. These forests may include complexes of mounds and inter-mounded *soils*. **Flatwoods DO NOT** require *SMZs*. *Flatwoods* are not necessarily jurisdictional *wetlands*.

Common *flatwoods* species include pine (loblolly, longleaf, and slash), sweetgum, willow oak, sweetbay, redbay, red maple, water oak, cherrybark oak, and white oaks.



*Flatwoods*, mixed pine-hardwood areas with slopes of 1% or less, do not require protection by *SMZs*.

## DRAINAGE DITCHES

*Drainage ditches* that were formerly natural *streams* and have been *dredged* and/or straightened need the protection of an *SMZ* only if they meet the flowing water criteria for *perennial* or *intermittent streams*.

## ACCESS SYSTEMS

Roads provide access for timber removal, fire protection, hunting, routine forest management activities, and other multiple-use objectives. When properly constructed and maintained, roads have minimal impact on *water quality* and other wetland functions.

### MANDATORY ROAD BMPs

As mandated by Amendments to the Clean Water Act, and regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *forest roads* in jurisdictional *wetlands* including "*waters of the United States*" must be constructed and maintained in accordance with the following *Best Management Practices* to retain Section 404 exemption status:

- 1. *Permanent roads, temporary access roads, and skid trails* in waters of the U.S. shall be held to the minimum feasible number, width, and total length consistent with the purpose of specific silvicultural operations and local topographic and climatic conditions.**
- 2. All roads, temporary or permanent, shall be located sufficiently far from *streams* or other water bodies (except portions of such roads that must cross water bodies) to minimize discharge of *dredged* or fill material into waters of the U.S.**
- 3. The road fill shall be bridged, culverted, or otherwise designed to prevent the restriction of expected flood flows.**
- 4. The fill shall be properly stabilized and maintained to prevent *erosion* during and following construction.**

5. Discharges of *dredged* or fill material into waters of the U.S. to construct a road fill shall be made in a manner that minimizes the encroachment of trucks, tractors, bulldozers, or other heavy equipment within waters of the U.S. (including adjacent *wetlands*) that lie outside the lateral boundaries of the fill itself.
6. In designing, constructing, and maintaining roads, vegetative disturbance in the waters of the U.S. shall be kept to a minimum.
7. The design, construction, and maintenance of the road crossing shall not disrupt the migration or other movement of those species of aquatic life inhabiting the *water body*.
8. Borrow material shall be taken from upland sources whenever feasible.
9. The discharge shall not take, or jeopardize the continued existence of, a threatened or endangered species as defined under the Endangered Species Act, or adversely modify or destroy the critical habitat of such species.
10. Discharges into breeding and nesting areas for migratory waterfowl, spawning areas, and *wetlands* shall be avoided if practical alternatives exist.
11. The discharge shall not be located in the proximity of a public water supply intake.
12. The discharge shall not occur in areas of concentrated shellfish population.
13. The discharge shall not occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System.
14. The discharge of material shall consist of suitable material free from toxic *pollutants* in toxic amounts.
15. All temporary fills shall be removed in their entirety and the area restored to its original elevation.

## PERMANENT ROADS

*Permanent roads* are constructed to provide all- or nearly all-season access for *silvicultural activities* and are maintained regularly. Construction of *permanent roads* in *wetlands* and wetland-like areas should be minimized.

- *Plan the access system prior to construction. Whenever possible, avoid crossing streams, sloughs, sensitive areas, etc.*
- *Consider relocating poorly designed or constructed section(s) of an established road system that that may lead to water quality pollution during and after the management activity.*
- *If applicable, construct roads well before the management activity to allow roads to stabilize.*
- *Construct fill roads only when necessary. Road fills should be as low as possible to natural ground level and should include adequate cross-drains for surface water flow.*
- *Borrow pits should be located outside of SMZs and wetlands.*
- *Stabilize soils around bridges, culverts, low-water crossings, etc. When natural stabilization will not occur quickly, fill material should be stabilized with grass, rip rap, etc.*
- *Construct fill roads parallel to water flow, where possible.*
- *Use of a geo-textile or a geo-grid fabric can increase soil bearing capacity and reduce rutting.*
- *Use board-road or wooden mats where needed to minimize rutting.*
- *Stream crossings should be made at right angles to the channel and should not impede stream flow.*
- *Minimize sediment production when installing stream crossings.*
- *Use gates or otherwise restrict traffic on wet roads.*
- *Road ditches should not directly feed into stream channels.*



Use board road or wooden mats where needed to minimize rutting.

## TEMPORARY ROADS

- *Favor temporary roads over permanent roads when possible. When properly constructed, temporary roads will have less impact on the hydrology of forested wetlands than permanent roads.*
- *Temporary road fill should be removed, and the area restored to its original elevation upon completion of operations.*

## SKID TRAILS

- *Concentrate skid trails when soils are saturated to minimize overall soil compaction and disturbance.*

## ROAD MAINTENANCE

- *All drainage structures should be inspected and maintained, especially following unusually heavy rains.*
- *Ditches, culverts, and other water flow structures should be kept free of any debris.*



## HARVEST OPERATIONS

*Harvesting* should be done with consideration to season, stand composition, *soil* type, *soil* moisture, and type of equipment used. When done correctly, *harvesting* can benefit site productivity for future forests, improve *regeneration*, and benefit the overall hydrologic function of a wetland site.

- *Harvest during dry periods, if possible, to minimize rutting.*
- *Use low pressure/high flotation tires or wide tracks where possible (i.e., where excessive damage to residual stand will not occur).*
- *Keep skidder loads light when rutting is evident.*
- *Fell trees away from watercourses if possible.*
- *After harvesting, immediately remove all obstructions in channels that might restrict water flow.*
- *Limit operations on sensitive sites and in SMZs during periods of wet weather. Heavy rutting is indicative of site damage, which is a signal to shut down operations.*
- *All trash (filters, oil cans, etc.) should be removed from the site.*

## RUTTING

*Ruts* should not be present to the extent that they impede, restrict, or change natural water flows and drainages. The determination of excessive rutting is highly subjective and must be made only by a forester or other qualified individual who evaluates rutting extent, depth, *soil* type, direction and position, and other local factors.



Rutting should not impede, restrict, or change natural water flows.

## SITE PREPARATION

The major challenges associated with mechanical *site preparation* involve *soil erosion* and potential sedimentation from *runoff*. In order to maintain the silvicultural exemption, the following six federal requirements must be followed when conducting mechanical *site preparation* for pine plantation establishment (EPA/Corps memorandum to field, 11/28/95):

1. Position shear blades or rakes at or near the *soil* surface and *windrow*, pile, and otherwise move logs and *logging debris* by methods that minimize dragging or pushing through the *soil* to minimize *soil* disturbance associated with *shearing*, raking, and moving trees, stumps, brush, and other unwanted vegetation.
2. Conduct activities in such a manner as to avoid excessive *soil* compaction and maintain *soil tilth*.
3. Arrange *windrows* in such a manner as to limit *erosion*, overland flow, and *runoff*.
4. Prevent disposal or storage of logs or *logging debris* in *streamside management zones-defined* areas adjacent to streams, lakes, and other waterbodies - to protect *water quality*.

**5. Maintain the natural *contour* of the site and ensure that activities do not immediately or gradually convert the wetland to a non-wetland.**

**6. Conduct activities with appropriate water management mechanisms to minimize off-site *water quality* impacts.**

*A permit will still be required, however, if you are converting one of the following wetland types to pine plantation:*

- 1. Permanently flooded, intermittently exposed, and semi-permanently flooded *wetlands***
- 2. Riverine *bottom/and* hardwood *wetlands***
- 3. White cedar swamps**
- 4. Carolina bay *wetlands***
- 5. Non-riverine forest *wetlands***
- 6. Low pocosin *wetlands***
- 7. Wet marl forests**
- 8. Tidal freshwater marshes**
- 9. Maritime grasslands, shrub swamps, and swamp forests**

In addition to the federal requirements for *site preparation*, the following guidelines are designed to protect site and *water quality*.

- *Conduct ground disturbing site-preparation activities such as bedding on the contour of the terrain where slopes are greater than 3%. Otherwise, bed in the direction of sheet water flow.***
- *Do not conduct mechanical tree planting or site preparation within an SMZ.***
- *Locate windrows a safe distance from drainages to avoid material movement into the drainages during high-runoff conditions.***
- *Conduct bedding operations during dry periods of the year.***

- *Minimize soil movement when shearing, piling, or raking.*
- *Do not push or pile any debris into SMZs or stream channels.*

## FIRE MANAGEMENT

Even in the flat terrain of East Texas, there is a chance for *soil* movement, especially if the *organic* layer of the forest floor is removed by fire. *Site preparation* burns are often the most severe (hottest) and have great potential for increasing surface *runoff* and *soil erosion*.

- *Conduct burns in a manner that does not remove the organic layer of the forest floor.*
- *Do not construct firelines that may drain wetlands.*
- *During wildfire emergencies, firelines, road construction, and stream crossings are unrestricted by BMPs. However, BMPs should be installed and remediation begun as soon as possible after the emergency is controlled.*



BMPs should be installed and remediation begun as soon as possible after a wildfire is controlled.

## SILVICULTURAL CHEMICALS

The following guidelines cover the handling and application of silvicultural chemicals to prevent their direct or indirect application to open water sources. These guidelines complement state or local regulations relating to the sale, transport, and use of chemicals.

- *Follow all label instructions to the letter. Be aware that some chemicals are labeled for use in wetlands and some are not.*
- *Use skilled and, if required, licensed applicants.*
- *Identify and establish buffer areas for moving surface waters, especially for aerial applications.*
- *Do not allow spray or rinse water to enter SMZs.*

## **MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE**

***For more help or information on wetlands, forestry, or BMPs, contact one of the following agencies:***

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District  
Regulatory Branch  
P.O. Box 1229  
Galveston, TX 77553-1229  
(409) 766-3869

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Fort Worth District  
Regulatory Branch  
P.O. Box 17300  
Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300  
(817) 886-1731

Texas A&M Forest Service Water Resources  
P.O. Box 310  
Lufkin, TX 75902-0310  
(936) 639-8180

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)  
Find local Service Center; usually located in the county seat

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Nonpoint Source  
1445 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75202-2733  
(214) 665-2200

Texas Forestry Association (TFA)  
P.O. Box 1488  
Lufkin, TX 75902-1488  
(936) 632-8733

# Part IV

## APPENDIX

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## 12.0 GLOSSARY OF FORESTRY/WETLAND TERMINOLOGY

**Access Road** - A temporary or permanent access route for vehicles into forestland.

1. **Permanent Roads** - Primary or secondary roads constructed to provide all, or nearly all-season access for silvicultural activities, and are maintained regularly.
  - a. **Primary Road** - A high specification permanent road which is maintained regularly and serves as a main artery in a network of roads.
  - b. **Secondary Road** - A permanent road that is maintained periodically, installed for transporting wood products and with a secondary use for other forest activities.
2. **Temporary Road** - A road constructed for a specific use or single operation and normally retired upon completion of the operation.

**Backwater Basin** - Area that holds water from backwater flooding when adjacent water bodies overflow.

**Basal Area** - The cross-section area of a tree stem in square feet commonly measured at breast height (4.5 feet above ground) and inclusive of bark. Basal area is usually the collective measurement of trees in order to establish density. A chart designed to aid in the calculation of basal area is located in the How To section of the Appendix (page 107).

**Barriers** - Obstructions to pedestrian, horse, and/or vehicular traffic. They are intended to restrict such traffic to or away from a specific location.

**Bearing Capacity** - Maximum load that a material (soil) can support before failing.



**Bedding** - A site preparation method in which special disking equipment is used to concentrate surface soil and forest litter into a ridge or bed elevated six to ten inches above the normal soil level on which forest seedlings are to be planted.

**Below Grade Road** - Occurs when the road surface becomes lower than the sides (shoulder) of the road. This can occur as a result of natural wear or the practice of continually grading the road down (usually due to wet conditions) to reach a hard surface sufficient to handle the desired traffic.

**Best Management Practices (BMPs)** - A practice or combination of practices (including technological, economical, and institutional considerations) determined to be an effective and practicable means of preventing or reducing the amount of water pollution generated by nonpoint sources.

**Borrow Pit** - That area, usually adjacent and parallel to a road, from which soil is removed to build up the roadbed.

**Bottomland** - A term often used to define lowlands adjacent to streams and rivers.

**Broad-Based Dip** - A surface drainage structure specifically designed to drain water from an access road while allowing vehicles to maintain normal travel speeds.

**Buck** - To saw felled trees into predetermined lengths.

**Channel** - A natural stream that conveys water; or a ditch excavated for the flow of water.

**Check Dam** - A small dam constructed in a gully or other small watercourse to decrease the stream flow velocity, minimize channel scour and promote deposition of sediment.

**Commercial Timberland** - Land capable of producing industrial crops of timber and not excluded from such use by legislation or regulation.

**Contamination** - A general term signifying the introduction of microorganisms, chemicals, organic wastes, or sewage into water, which renders the water unfit for its intended use.

**Contour** - An imaginary line on the surface of the earth connecting points of the same elevation. A line drawn on a map connecting points of the same elevation.

**Coppice** - A hardwood regeneration method in which stems are cut at the base to stimulate the production of new sprouts from the stump or roots.

**Crown Cover** - The percentage of the ground covered by a vertical projection of the outermost perimeter of the natural spread of the foliage of plants.

**Culvert** - A conduit or pipe through which surface water can flow under roads.

**Cut** - Portion of land surface or area from which soil has been removed or will be removed by excavation; the depth below original ground surface to excavated surface.

**Cut-and-Fill** - Process of earth moving by excavating part of an area and using the excavated material for adjacent embankments or fill areas.

**Diversion** - A channel with a supporting ridge on the lower side constructed across or at the bottom of a slope for the purpose of intercepting surface runoff.

**Diversion Ditch** - A drainage depression or ditch built across the top of a slope to divert surface water from that slope.

**Dredged Material** - Material that is excavated or dredged from waters of the United States.

**Duff** - The partially decomposed organic material of the forest floor beneath the litter of freshly fallen twigs, needles, and leaves.

**Ephemeral** - That part of the drainage network, which may or may not have a clearly defined stream channel, which flows only for short periods of time following precipitation.

**Erosion** - The process by which soil particles are detached and transported by water and gravity to some downslope or downstream deposition point.

**Erosion Classes (soil survey)** - A grouping of erosion conditions based on the degree of erosion or on characteristic patterns. Applied to accelerated erosion, not to normal, natural, or geological erosion. Four erosion classes are recognized for water erosion and three for wind erosion.

**Established or On-Going Silviculture** - An operation whose primary purpose is the production, harvesting, and reproduction of forest crops. Indicators may include, among others, evidence of a written management plan; evidence of past harvesting with regeneration; and evidence of fire, insect, or disease control to protect timber.

**Felling** - The process of severing trees from stumps.

**Fill Slope** - The surface area formed where soil is deposited to build a road or trail.

**Firebreaks** - Naturally occurring or man-made barriers to the spread of fire.

**Firelane** - A permanent barrier to the spread of fire which will be maintained over time for the specific purpose of stopping the spread of fire or for access to an area for the control of a fire.

**Fireline** - A barrier used to stop the spread of fire constructed by removing fuel or rendering fuel inflammable by using water or fire retardants.

**Flatwoods** - forested areas with slopes of 1% or less that usually contain mixed pine and hardwood.

**Ford** - Submerged stream crossing where tread is reinforced to bear intended traffic. A place where a stream may be crossed by a vehicle.

**Forest Chemicals** - Chemical substances or formulations that perform important functions in forest management, and include fertilizers, herbicides, repellents, and other chemicals.

**Forest Practice** - An activity relating to the growing, protecting, harvesting, or processing of forest tree species on forest land and to other forest management aspects such as wildlife, recreation, etc.

**Forest Road** - An access route into forest land.

**Forest Swamp** - forested area that has water at or above the soil surface for at least four months of the year.

**Forestry** - The science, the art, and the practice of managing and using for human benefit the natural resources that occur on and in association with forest lands. (SAF interpretation)

**Furrowing** - A site preparation method involving plowing of a trench in preparation for reforestation.

**Grade** - The slope of a road or trail expressed as a percent of change in elevation per unit of distance traveled.

**Gully Erosion** - Erosion process whereby water accumulates in narrow channels, and over short periods of time removes soil from this narrow area to substantial depths (one foot or more).

**Harvesting** - The felling, loading, and transportation of forest products, roundwood or logs.

**Haul Road** - A road system, temporary or permanent, installed primarily for transporting wood products from the harvest site by truck and with a secondary use for other forest activities.

**Headwaters (Head)** - The point on a stream above which the average annual flow is less than five (5) cubic feet per second.

**Herbicide** - Any chemical substance or mixture of substances intended to prevent, destroy, repel, or mitigate the growth of any tree, bush, weed, or algae and other aquatic weeds.

**Hydrophytic Vegetation** - Vegetation growing wholly or partially in water or in soil too waterlogged for most vegetation to survive.

**Intermittent** - That part of the drainage network, with a clearly defined stream channel, which provides flow continuously during some seasons of the year (30-90% of the year), but little or no flow during the remainder of the year.

**Landing (Decks, Sets)** - A place where logs are assembled for temporary storage, loading, and subsequent transportation.

**Logging** - The felling and transportation of wood products from the forest to a delivery location.

**Logging Debris/Slash** - The unwanted, or unutilized and generally unmarketable accumulation of woody material such as large limbs, tops, cull logs, and stumps that remain in the forest as residue after logging.

**Low Water Bridge** - A stream crossing structure built with the expectation that, during periods of high water or flood, water will flow over the structure.

**Mineral Soil** - Organic free soil that contains rock less than 2 inches in maximum dimension.

**Mulch** - A natural or artificial layer of plant residue or other materials covering the land surface which conserves moisture, holds soil in place, aids in establishing plant cover, and minimizes temperature fluctuations.

**Mulching** - Providing any loose covering for exposed forest soil, using organic residues, such as grass, straw, or wood fibers to protect exposed soil and help control erosion.

**Municipal Water Supply** - The specific surface water body that is a municipality's water source.

**Nonpoint Sources** - Sources of water pollution which are:

(1) induced by natural process, including precipitation, seepage, percolation, and runoff; (2) not traceable to any discrete or identifiable point; and (3) best controlled through the utilization of Best Management Practices, including planning and processes techniques.

**Normal Silviculture** - May include activities such as forest road construction, timber harvesting, mechanical or chemical site preparation, bedding, tree planting, timber stand improvement, fire protection, and minor (temporary) drainage.

**Nutrients** - Mineral elements in the forest ecosystem such as nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium usually in soluble compounds that are present naturally or they may be added to the forest environment as forest chemicals, such as fertilizer.

**Ordinary High-Water Mark** - The mark on the shores of all waters, which will be found by examining the beds and banks and ascertaining where the presence and action of waters are so common and usual, and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark upon the soil a distinct character.

**Organics** - Particles of vegetative material in the water which can degrade water quality by decreasing dissolved oxygen and by releasing organic solutes during leaching.

**Outfall Protection** - A rip-rap or aggregate placed at the outlet of a culvert or water-control device to protect that area from erosion damage due to the force or velocity of the outlet of water.

**Outslope** - The downhill side of a road where the side of the road slopes with the hill at or near the natural contour and runoff is allowed to drain down the hill without being channeled into a ditch or other water-control device. Outslopes are usually associated with a road in steep terrain which is literally cut into the side of the hill.

**Perennial** - That part of the drainage network which provides water flow at all times except during extreme drought.

**Permanent Roads** - Primary or secondary roads constructed to provide all, or nearly all-season access for silvicultural activities, and are maintained regularly.

**Pesticides** - Any herbicide, insecticide, or rodenticide, but does not include non-toxic repellents or other chemicals.

**Point Source Pollution** - Sources of water pollution (generally a man-caused pollutant) which can be traced to a specific place or location (i.e., a pipe).

**Pollutant** - "Dredged soil, solid wastes, incinerator residue, sewage, garbage, sewage sludge, chemical wastes, biological materials, radioactive materials, heat, wrecked or discarded equipment, rock, sand, cellar dirt, and industrial, municipal, and agricultural waste discharged in the water." (P.L. 92-500 Section 502(6))

**Pollution** - The presence in a body of water (or soil or air) of substances of such character and in such quantities that the natural quality of the environment is impaired or rendered harmful to health and life or is offensive to the senses.

**Prescribed Burning** - Controlled application of fire to wildland fuels under such conditions of weather, fuel moisture, etc., which allows the fire to be confined to a predetermined area and at the same time to produce the intensity of heat and rate of spread needed to further certain planned objectives (of silviculture, wildlife habitat management, grazing, fire hazard reduction, etc.).

**Primary Road** - A high specification permanent road which is maintained periodically and serves as a main artery in a network of roads.

**Regeneration** - The young tree crop replacing older trees removed by harvest or disaster; the process of replacing old trees with young.

**Residual Trees** - Live trees left standing after the completion of harvesting.

**Rill Erosion** - An erosion process in which numerous small channels only several inches deep are formed. Occurs mainly on disturbed and exposed soils.

**Riparian Area** - Land that borders a creek, stream, or other water body.

**Rip-Rap** - Aggregate placed on erodible sites to reduce the impact of rain or surface runoff on these areas.

**Rolling Dip** - A shallow depression built diagonally across a light duty road or trail to divert surface water runoff from the road or trail.

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

**Ruts** - Depressions made by the tires of vehicles such as skidders, log trucks, pickups, etc., usually under wet conditions.



**Salvage Harvest** - Removal of trees that are dead or imminently threatened with death in order to utilize their wood before it is ruined by natural decay agents.

**Sanitation Harvest** - Removal of trees that are under attack by or highly susceptible to insects and disease in an effort to check the spread of such agents.

**Scarify** - To break up the forest floor and topsoil preparatory to natural or direct seeding (or the planting of seedlings).

**Secondary Road** - A permanent road that is maintained periodically, installed for transporting wood products and with a secondary use for other forest activities.

**Sediment** - Solid material in suspension, being transported or moved from its original site.

**Seedbed** - The soil prepared by natural or artificial means to promote the germination of seed and the growth of seedlings.

**Setting** - The forest land area within an individual harvesting unit in which skidding is directed to one or more landings on a forest road.

**Shearing** - A site preparation method that involves cutting brush, trees, and other vegetation at the ground level using tractors equipped with angled or v-shaped cutting blades.

**Sheet Erosion** - The uniform removal of soil in thin layers, occurring when soil particles are carried evenly over the soil surface by water runoff.

**Sheet Flow** - Runoff from a rainstorm intense enough to cause direct overland flow of water before entering a receiving stream.

**Sidecast** - The material or the act of moving excavated material to the side and depositing such material laterally to the line of movement of the excavating machine.

**Silvics** - The study of the life history and general characteristics of forest trees and stands with particular reference to locality factors, as a basis for the practice of silviculture. (SAF interpretation)

**Silvicultural Activities** - All forest management activities, including intermediate cuttings, harvest, log transport, and forest road construction. (EPA interpretation)

**Silviculture** - Generally, the science and art of cultivating (i.e., growing and tending) forest crops, based on a knowledge of silvics; and more particularly, the theory and practice of controlling the establishment, composition, constitution, and growth of forests. (SAF interpretation)

**Sinuosity** - Curved or curving; refers to the curviness or winding of a stream channel.

**Site Preparation** - A general term for removing unwanted vegetation and other material if necessary and any soil preparation carried out before reforestation.

**Skid Trail** - A route over which logs are moved to a landing or road.

**Slope** - Degree of deviation of a surface from the horizontal, measured as a numerical ratio, percent, or in degrees. Expressed as a ratio, the first number is the horizontal distance (run) and the second is the vertical distance (rise), as 2:1. A 2:1 slope is a 50 percent slope. Expressed in degrees, the slope is the angle from the horizontal plane, with a 90-degree slope being vertical (maximum) and a 45-degree slope being a 1:1 slope.

**Soil** - The unconsolidated mineral and organic material on the immediate surface of the earth that serves as a natural medium for the growth of land plants.

**Soil Conservation** - Using the soil within the limits of its physical characteristics and protecting it from unalterable limitations of climate and topography.

**Soil Productivity** - The output or productive capability of a forest soil to grow timber crops.

**Soil Tilt** - A measure of the health of the soil.

**Stream** - A well-defined natural channel that has a flow anywhere below its headwaters greater than 5 cubic feet per second (CFS) at least 50% of the time (EPA-Army Corp Section 404). A permanently or intermittently flowing body of water that follows a defined course.

- a. "Ephemeral stream" (or drain) means 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.
- b. "Intermittent stream" means a stream that flows only during wet periods of the year (30-90% of the time) and flows in a continuous, well-defined channel.
- c. "Perennial stream" means a stream that flows throughout a majority of the year (greater than 90% of the time) and flows in a well-defined channel.

**Stream Banks** - The usual boundaries, not the flood boundaries, of a stream channel. Right and left banks are named facing downstream.

**Streamside Management Zone (SMZ)** - Forested area immediately adjacent to stream channels. Managed for forest resources with specific attention given to measures that can be taken to protect both instream and downstream water quality as well as other beneficial uses. The purpose of an SMZ is to reduce the quantity of sediment and logging wastes reaching the streams and to provide shade to prevent water temperature increases.

**Temporary Road**- A road constructed for a specific use or single operation and normally retired upon completion of the operation.

**Thermal Pollution** - A temperature rise in a body of water sufficient to be harmful to aquatic life in the water.

**Turnout** - (1) A widened space in a road to allow vehicles to pass one another. (2) A drainage ditch which drains water away from roads.

**Waste** - Materials and substances discarded as worthless to the user.

**Waterbar** - A cross drainage diversion ditch and/or hump in a trail or road for the purpose of diverting surface water runoff into roadside vegetation, duff, ditch or dispersion area to minimize the volume and velocity which can cause soil movement and erosion.

**Water Body** - An area of standing water with relatively little or slow movement (ponds, lakes, bays).

**Water Course** - A definite channel with bed and banks within which concentrated water flows continuously or intermittently.

**Water Pollution** - Contamination or other alteration of the physical, chemical or biological properties of any natural waters of the state, or other such discharge of any liquid, gaseous or solid substance into any waters of the state, as will, or is likely to create a nuisance or render such waters harmful or detrimental or injurious to public health, safety or welfare, or to domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural, recreational, or other legitimate beneficial uses, or to livestock, wild animals, birds, fish or other aquatic life (EPA definition).

**Water Quality** - A term used to describe the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for a particular purpose.

**Water Quality Standards** - Texas Water Quality Standards and criteria contained therein.

**Watershed Area** - All land and water within the confines of a drainage divide or a water problem area consisting in whole, or in part, of land needing drainage or irrigation.

**Waters of the United States** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers defines waters of the United States as all surface waters such as all navigable waters and their tributaries, all interstate waters and their tributaries, all wetlands adjacent to these waters, and all impoundments of these waters.

**Waterway** - A way or channel for water or the movement of water.

**Wetlands** - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency jointly define wetlands as "Those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas."

**Wildfire Control** - Actions taken to contain and suppress uncontrolled fires.

**Wildfires** - Uncontrolled fires occurring in forestland, brushland, and grassland.

**Windrow** - Slash, residue, and debris raked into piles or rows.

**Wing Ditch** - A water turnout or diversion ditch constructed to move and disperse water away from the road and side ditches into adjacent undisturbed areas so that the volume and velocity of water is reduced on slopes.

**Yarding** - Method of log transport from harvest area to storage landing.

## 13.0

## HOW TO CALCULATE BASAL AREA

**Step 1)** Choose a plot. The plot should be representative of the entire tract. For this example, the plot size is 1/25 or 0.04 acre, which is equivalent to a circle area with a 23'6" radius.

**Step 2)** Measure the DBH (Diameter at Breast Height) of each tree within the plot. DBH is measured in inches at 4½ feet above the ground. Write down the number of trees found in each diameter or DBH class. For example:

DBH Class (inches)	Number of Trees Found
4"	2
6"	1
8"	3
10"	5

**Step 3)** Calculate the basal area (BA) for each plot taken. This is done by multiplying the number of trees per DBH class by the BA factor for each DBH class and adding up the individual sums for a total BA for the plot. The BA factor can be found by using the following formula:

$$\text{BA factor (sq. ft.)} = 0.005454 \times (\text{DBH})^2$$

DBH Class	Number of Trees	BA Factor	Total BA per Class
4"	2	0.087	0.174
6"	1	0.196	0.196
8"	3	0.349	1.047
10"	5	0.545	2.725

$$\text{Total BA for Plot} = 4.142 \text{ sq. ft.}$$

**Step 4)** Repeat steps 1-3 until enough plots have been measured to achieve the proper sampling percentage and then use this data to calculate the BA per acre.

Continue example assuming that two more plots have been measured:

<u>Plot</u>	<u>BA per Plot</u>
Plot 1	4.142 sq. ft.
Plot 2	6.233 sq. ft.
Plot 3	4.589 sq. ft.

**Average BA per Plot** =  $(4.142 + 6.233 + 4.589)/3 = 14.964/3$   
= **4.988 sq. ft.**

**BA per Acre** =  $4.988 \times 25 = 124.7$  **sq. ft. per acre** (25 equals the number of 1/25 plots needed to make one acre)

Through these calculations it can be determined that this tract has an average BA of 124.7 sq. ft. per acre.

The following table represents how many trees it takes per DBH class to achieve a determined BA.

### Trees Per Acre by Basal Area and DBH

DBH (inches)	Basal Area (sq. ft.)									
	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	110
4	229	344	458	573	688	802	917	1031	1146	1261
5	146	220	293	367	440	513	587	660	733	806
6	102	153	204	255	306	357	408	458	509	560
7	75	112	150	187	224	262	299	337	374	412
8	57	86	115	143	172	201	229	258	286	315
9	45	68	91	113	136	158	181	204	226	250
10	37	55	73	92	110	128	147	165	183	202
11	30	45	61	76	91	106	121	136	152	167
12	25	38	51	64	76	89	102	115	127	140
13	22	33	43	54	65	76	97	98	108	119
14	19	28	37	47	56	65	75	84	94	103
15	16	24	33	41	49	57	65	73	81	90
16	14	21	29	36	43	50	57	64	72	79
17	13	19	25	32	38	44	51	57	63	70
18	11	17	23	28	34	40	45	51	57	62
19	10	15	20	25	30	36	41	46	51	56
20	9	14	18	23	28	32	37	41	46	50
21	8	12	17	21	25	29	33	37	42	46
22	8	11	15	19	23	27	30	34	38	42
23	7	10	14	17	21	24	28	31	35	38
24	6	10	13	16	19	22	25	29	32	35
25	6	9	12	15	18	21	23	26	29	32
26	5	8	11	14	16	19	22	24	27	30
27	5	8	10	13	15	18	20	23	25	28



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# NOTES

## Slope Calculator

**Instructions:** To measure the slope, thread a string about 12 inches long on the middle ring of the spiral binding, or put a small hole through the cover of the book at the apex of the Calculator and thread the string through the hole.

Tie a small weight to the other end of the string and sit through the binding, keeping the binding parallel to the ground. The string will hang vertically and the slope can be read directly along the line where the string lies.

