

2025 Year in Review

Success Stories & Accomplishments

N.C. Forest Service, Water Resources Branch (WRB)

Nonpoint Source & Water Quality programs



Education, training and outreach

Notable events that included a significant contribution of information on forestry best management practices (BMPs), water quality or forested watersheds:

- Supported N.C. Forestry Association's (NCFA) ProLogger program by training 93 loggers at three base courses.
- Presented at two Surface Water Identification and Training Courses (SWITC) hosted by N.C. Division of Water Resources (DWR) (60 attendees).
- Exhibited and presented during technical sessions at the Water Resources Research Institute's (WRRI) annual conference (more than 300 attendees).
- Presented and participated in the winter meeting of the Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) Water Resources Committee (15 attendees).



ProLogger base course in Marion, NC.



NCFS booth during a career fair held at Virginia Tech.

- Presented and participated in two Sustainable Forestry Teachers Experiences (SFTE) (45 attendees).
- Worked with N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) Information and Education Branch (I&E) to assist with developing and purchasing updated water investigation kits and materials for educational state forests in NC. These items will help educate hundreds of schoolchildren annually about water quality.
- Presented at various other public and private sector, industry or consulting forester professional meetings and training events (225 attendees).
- Exhibited and presented at a post-Helene Q&A session for forest landowners (300 attendees).



NCSU forestry summer camp students visit a logging job.



NCSU BMP Newsletter, 2025 Quarter 3

- NCFS WRB staff led nine lectures and four field labs for two universities to instruct 150 students on forestry nonpoint source pollution topics.
- Published four quarterly BMP Newsletters that focus on the use of forestry BMPs as well as other water related topics that have a notable link to forestry. This publication is distributed quarterly to approximately 1,200 individuals including industry personnel, agency professionals and NCFS staff.
- Instructed the NCFS water quality chapter of ranger training for new agency rangers (48 attendees).



NCSU Piedmont and Coastal Plain region staff (above) and Mountain Region staff (right) in water quality classes for ranger training.

Interagency cooperation

NCFS WRB staff served on many committees and working groups during the year including:



Forest Preharvest Planning Tool (FPPT)

NCFS WRB staff continue to work with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (NCDA&CS) Emergency Programs Division (EP) to improve the FPPT's reliability and usefulness. As of June 17, 2025, the FPPT had 607 registered users. The focus has been on customer and staff suggested improvements. A new version of this online program called FPPT 2.0 was developed during Fall 2025. To help promote this new version, NCFS participated in a NCFA ProLogger film session to record educational material. This session will be part of a ProLogger continuing education training module for 2026.



NCFA ProLogger training module filming.

Temporary Bridgemats for Forestry Crossings Program (TBFCP)

In August 2025, the NCFS WRB was awarded grant funding from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to administer a cost share program for temporary bridges. Funding is sourced from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also referred to as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law [BIL] passed in November 2021 (Section 40804(b)(5)). The funding amount for this grant is \$500,000. The NCFS will develop a contractual sub-award agreement with NCFA. Their role will be to help advertise, develop a contractual rent-to-own agreement between NCFA and program participants, purchase and rent the temporary bridges and submit invoices and supporting documentation to NCFS for reimbursement. Details of this grant process are currently being developed.



Examples of bridgemats being used for skid trail stream crossings.

Water Quality, erosion and sediment control site inspections

For Fiscal Year 2024-25, the following results were observed by the NCFS while conducting inspections of forestry-related, land-disturbing activities to determine compliance with the standards of the *Forest Practice Guidelines Related to Water Quality* (“FPGs”: 02 NCAC 60C .0100 to .0209), as part of the N.C. Sedimentation Pollution Control Act (SPCA).

Type of operation	In-compliance	Out-of-compliance	Total
Timber harvest: Active	1,169	5	1,174
Timber harvest: Completed	588	12	600
Reforestation and site prep	177	0	177
*Other (see below)	112	0	112
Sub-Total	2,046	17	2,063
Re-Inspections, all types			2,117
Total			4,173

*Other includes silvicultural management practices such as precommercial thinning, crop-tree release, herbicide or fertilizer application, prescribed burning or forest road construction not associated with a timber harvest.

Emergency response

NCFS staff have the honor of serving people by responding to natural disasters and emergencies such as wildfires and hurricanes as part of an incident management team (IMT). In 2025, WRB staff assisted on three in-state wildfires and four out-of-state wildfires (Arizona, California, Colorado and Wyoming).



Wildfire in Colorado, August 2025.



Fireline rehab in Polk County, NC.



Sunset Road Fire in Brunswick County, NC.

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