Oct-Nov-Dec 2025

BMP Vol. 2025, Issue No. 4

N.C. Forest Service

A Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Steve Troxler, Commissioner

BMP Newsletter

Best Management Practices for Water Quality & Soil Conservation

Focus on fords

Not cars or trucks. We are talking about a ford on a forestry operation. These pictures show examples of what a properly installed ford looks like. For more information on ford BMPs, see chapter 6, page 70, in the NC BMP Manual.

A. Photo courtesy of NCFS

B. Photo courtesy of NCFS

C. Photo courtesy of NCFS

Inside this issue:

Hurricane Helene: A look back

In western North Carolina, many of our communities, families and lives were impacted by Hurricane Helene Friday Sept. 27, 2024. It's hard to believe the one-year anniversary of this devastating storm has passed by us. From a forestry standpoint, many landowners, loggers, timber companies and agencies are still working to clean up the aftermath in our forests.

The picture shown was taken on the Cane River near Pensacola in Yancey County. This is just one example of many streams that were negatively impacted by Helene. The number of trees, vegetation and rock that were washed along the streambanks was and still is unbelievable.

For forestry best management practices (BMPs), this can be very challenging. Without the normal trees and native vegetation, it's important to do additional preharvest planning for forestry operations. Consider the following: leave wider streamside management zones (SMZs), establish native vegetative ground cover and plan ahead to save funds for managing invasive species in the near future.

Photo courtesy of NCFS

New hire - Adam Hayes

We are pleased to announce Adam Hayes as the division's new water quality forester for N.C. Forest Service (NCFS) Districts 1 and 9. He is a N.C. State University alumnus with a bachelors degree in forest management. For the past three years, he was a forester for F&W Forestry, spending much of his time in Alabama, Mississippi and Tennessee. Please join us in welcoming Adam to our agency. He can be reached at 828-808-0965 or adam.hayes@ncagr.gov.

What's wrong with this picture?

Photo courtesy of N.C. Forest Service

Operating on saturated ground without proper BMP implementation led to excessive widespread ruts across this tract. Following a few simple BMPs for skid trails may have prevented this issue.

- Concentrate skidding on as few skid trails as possible by avoiding widespread and random skidding.
- Where possible, limit primary skid trails to 10% of the total working area.
- Frequently pack down leftover logging debris atop primary skid trails to minimize soil disturbance and provide erosion control.

FPG Spotlight of the Quarter

02 NCAC 60C .0204 Access Road Entrances

A forest access road entrance that intersects a paved road shall be installed and maintained to prevent visible sediment or other debris from being deposited onto the paved road to the extent that the visible sediment or other debris would enter an intermittent stream, a perennial stream, or a perennial waterbody.

Not all rock is created equal

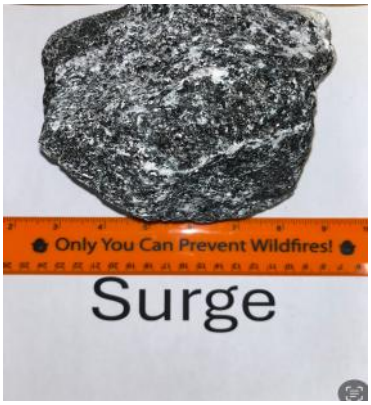
When you find yourself needing to order rock for a logging operation, you will need to do some homework. The size "name" of certain rock can vary depending on the quarry that you purchase from. It's important to be familiar with your local quarry and what they have to offer. Some rock sizes are more suitable for certain needs than others. Below are four common types of rock size along with a description that may help next time you need to place an order.

ABC: Commonly used on access road entrances and to repair drive-ways after the hauling is complete. It's a mix of fines and various sizes similar to 57 and smaller.

57: Commonly used on driveways or to dress up a logging road entrance. It's typically 1-1.5 inches in size.

3 inch: Commonly used for a haul road entrance that needs rock larger than 57, especially when moist soil is present. Just like the name states, it's typically 3 inches in size.

Surge: Commonly used on culvert crossings for headwall and tail wall erosion control. It's mostly in the 6 to 8 inch size range.



Forestry education news

On Sept. 10 and 11, 2025, the North Carolina Forestry Association (NCFA) held it's Western Prologger base course at McDowell Technical Community College in Marion. This was the third and final base course for 2025. Previous courses were held earlier in the year at Wayne Community College and Montgomery Community College.

Per the NCFA website, the ProLogger program began in 1994. In a cooperative effort directed by the NCFA, Forestry Mutual Insurance Company, the N.C. Department of Labor, N.C. State Highway Patrol and the NCFS share teaching responsibilities during the ProLogger base course. The ProLogger program promotes three pillars of success including safety, business and environmental awareness. Anyone who wants to become a trained ProLogger must complete the base course which includes one day of classroom discussion and one field day.

The portion of the course about forest management and the environment included five chapters on the following topics and a portion of the field day.

- ⇒ **Forestry appearance and perceptions**
- ⇒ **Soil health**
- ⇒ **Harvest planning**
- ⇒ **Forest health and threatened and invasive species**
- ⇒ **Water quality regulations**

For more information about NCFA and the ProLogger program, please reach out to the NCFA at 919-834-3943 or visit their website at ncforestry.org.

NCFA info and logos used with permission from NCFA. Photos courtesy of NCFA and NCFS.

Terminology today

Check dams

Check dams are short, hardened barriers established within inside ditch lines to slow the speed of runoff and capture sediment. Check dams can also be useful to control the runoff that comes from the outlets of water diversions like turnouts. Stone is frequently used as the check dam, but they can also be built from sand-bags, sacks of concrete, logs or other hardened materials.

Figure 1, photo courtesy of NCFS

Figure 1: Check dams installed within a turnout from a forest road. Picture note: These rock check dams provide sediment capture within a turnout that drains a graveled forest road. Note the sediment accumulation captured. Some sediment removal may be needed to maintain functionality. The area is well vegetated and stabilized.

NCFS online Forest Preharvest Planning Tool (FPPT) update coming soon!

Due to technology advancements and user feedback, the NCFS and NCDA&CS Emergency Programs are working together to update the Forest Preharvest Planning Tool (FPPT). Stay tuned for the next newsletter for further details on a transition timeline. Until then, the current version is still available for use online at N.C. Forest Service-Online Forestry Preharvest Planning Tool.

N.C. Forest Service - Water Quality
https://www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service/water-quality

Healthy trees, healthy lives
www.healthytreeshealthylives.org

N.C. Forest Service

WATER RESOURCES BRANCH

1616 Mail Service Center. Raleigh, NC. 27699-1600

Protect, manage and grow your forest
www.ncagr.gov/divisions/nc-forest-service

Purchase NCFS tree seedlings
www.buynctrees.com

NCDA&CS Agricultural Services
www.ncagr.gov

Keep your home safe from wildfire
www.resistwildfirenc.org

Go out and learn in the forest
www.ncesf.org

Locate North Carolina farm products
www.ncfarmfresh.com
www.gottobenc.com