

# Simple practical methods that can be applied to help minimize the environmental impacts of forestry operations

## THIS BROCHURE IS A SUMMARY OF THE NEW JERSEY FORESTRY AND WETLANDS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES MANUAL

The purpose of this publication is to introduce you to the NJ Forestry and Wetlands Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual.

The manual is available free on-line by accessing: **NJDEP; Private Lands; Private Lands Management Practices;** and click on **Best Management Practices Manual** or buy it from **FREC at 370 E. Veterans Hwy, Jackson, NJ 08527.**

BMPs are developed from standard silvicultural, soil conservation, and water resource guidelines

## SECTION I — STREAMSIDE

The purpose of a Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) is to protect a water body from adjacent land-use activities by providing a relatively undisturbed vegetative zone to trap and filter out sediments and other pollutants before they enter the resource. Specific recommendations are given which are designed for SMZs.



## SECTION II — FILTER STRIPS

Filter strips are defined as undisturbed areas of natural vegetation and natural litter located between a wetland or water course and truck roads, skid trails and harvest areas. The strips help slow the speed of water runoff so that any heavy sediment load is prevented from washing into the adjacent wetland or water course. Information is given on planning, lay-out, construction and use in the strips.

## SECTION III — STREAM CROSSING

A proper stream crossing provides a stable bottom or surface that allows equipment to cross intermittent or perennial streams without increasing stream sedimentation. Flood Hazard Area Control Act Rules (NJAC7:13) regulate construction within and/or adjacent to the 100-year flood plain of non-delineated streams or the flood hazard area of delineated streams.

In addition to the Manual, information regarding sedimentation control and the construction and use of bridges, culverts, or fords are in publications by the USDA Forest Service and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

## SECTION IV — ACCESS ROADS

When not properly constructed, roads are considered a major source of erosion from forested lands. In addition to increasing erosion they can degrade wildlife and fish habitats. A well planned transportation system can be constructed with minimal forest degradation and can help insure the protection of water quality. Twenty-eight BMPs are presented in the Manual for access road maintenance and construction.

## SECTION V — TIMBER

When managing a forest, it is important to develop a forest management plan that addresses areas to be harvested; any roads to be constructed; and the timing of the activity. The type of harvest system best suited in terms of the landowner's objectives should be determined during the initial planning stage. BMPs recommended for timber harvesting, managing skid trail, log decks and sawmill sites are in the Manual.



Planning for management of your forestland can best be accomplished in a Stewardship plan developed with your input and objectives by a consultant forester.

## Where can landowners get help to manage their forests?

The **NJ Forest Service** maintains an approved list of Consultant Foresters who can design forest management plans for individual, private woodland owners, based on the owners' specific objectives, needs, and property.

Funding to cost-share the creation of the plan and for certain woodland practices is available through the **Natural Resources Conservation Service.**

### The Manual contains:

- Best ways to practice forestry management on your land.
- Simple practical methods to minimize the environmental impact of forestry operations.
- A mix of management practices that can be developed to fit the uniqueness, concerns and constraints of each woodland site.
- Steps to protect New Jersey's Wetlands while practicing forestry activities.
- Regulations and Procedures for Wetlands and Buffers.
- Nine Sections cover the best practices for:
  - Streamside Management
  - Filter Strips
  - Stream Crossings
  - Access Roads
  - Timber Harvesting
  - Site Preparation
  - Use of Forest Pesticides
  - Forest Reforestation
  - Forest Protection

## VI — SITE PREPARATION

Areas harvested occasionally require site preparation techniques to establish a new stand of trees.



Preparation is more often used in the pinelands to establish seedlings and control growth of undesirable vegetation.

Fourteen practices recommended for site preparation are included in the manual.

## VII — FOREST PESTICIDES

Pesticides for forest purposes are valuable, practical tools when used in accordance with the labeling instructions.

The use of pesticides is regulated on both the state and federal level. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) is recommended as a method of reducing exposure to hazardous pesticides while still controlling pests effectively. IPM uses a combination of monitoring, implementing physical, biological, and mechanical controls and applying the least hazardous chemical pesticide to people, property, and the environment.

Ten BMPs are recommended if pesticide use is deemed necessary.

## VIII — REFORESTATION

Reforestation includes the planting of tree seedlings and direct seeding.



Hand planting and direct seeding do not normally cause any type of site disturbance that could produce adverse environmental impacts.

However, machine planting can expose mineral soil, creating a slight concern for erosion. BMPs recommended for reforestation are included.

## VIX — FOREST PROTECTION

Wildfires that burn into areas where fuel loads have been reduced by prescribed burning cause less damage and are easier to control.

Prescribed burning is a silvicultural practice in which controlled fires are used to eliminate or reduce fuels on a forest floor while meeting the needs of both the plant and animal communities.

Permits for prescribed burning are administered by the New Jersey Forest Fire Service. For more information or an application call 609-292-2977.

The New Jersey Forestry and Wetlands Best Practices Manual is available:  
**on-line for free from**  
**New Jersey Forestry Services**  
**or**  
**for \$6.00 each from:**  
**Forest Resources Education Center**  
**370 East Veterans Highway**  
**Jackson, NJ 08527**

## Want To Join NJFA?

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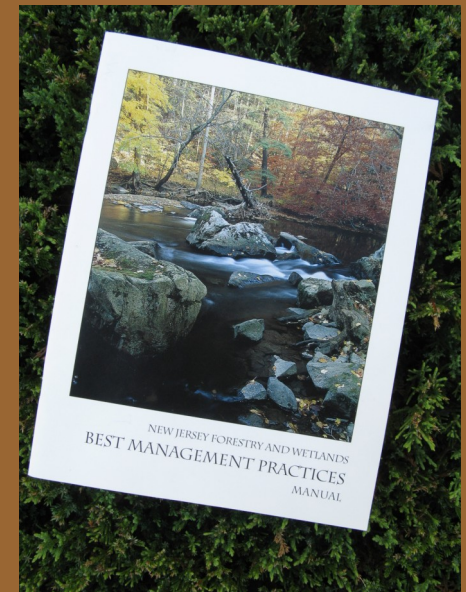
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