

FORESTRY FACTS



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Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Planning For Forest Management

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Before you build a road, harvest timber, or prepare a planting site, you should have a plan. A good forest management plan includes the use of forestry best management practices (BMPs) that consider the location and timing of forestry activities. This will lead to efficient forestry activities and sustainable forest growth as well as minimizing adverse impacts to streams, lakes and wetlands.

Putting a Plan Together

Wisconsin DNR foresters and consulting or industrial foresters can work with you to develop a forest management plan. Cost-sharing assistance (under the Stewardship Incentive Program) may be available for plans prepared by a consulting forester.

You will want a plan that accurately reflects your goals (or wants) for the property. Make sure that you talk to your forester about your goals - your forester cannot read your mind! You and your family members should devote some time to identifying your goals and then

show the list to your forester. When this is done, the forester's job is much easier and you will be much more pleased with the results.

You will also want the plan to be comprehensive and include the necessary BMPs for each proposed activity. You and your forester should select the best forest management strategy to protect water quality specific to your site.

A logger or other contractor is usually responsible for implementing forestry BMPs. Therefore, a well-conceived and well-written plan will make for easy communication of project details to the operator doing the actual work.

For More Planning Help

**UW-Extension has a publication,
Forestry Fact No. 48, *Getting the Most
From Your Woodland.***

Check List for Planning

Use the following check list to plan your forest management activities:

- Make a list of forestry BMPs, specific for your site, that you will need to protect water quality in all timber sale contracts, timber harvest plans and forest management plans.
- Develop a forest management plan that states your management goals for the site. Plan operations to protect water quality by considering site conditions. Identify on a map the following site conditions:
 - Harvest unit boundary
 - Property boundaries
 - Existing forest road system (roads, skid trails and landings)
 - Sensitive areas: streams, lakes, wetlands, floodplains, habitat areas for known threatened or endangered plant and animal species, steep slopes and erodible soils.
 - Riparian management zones
 - Stream crossings
 - Equipment maintenance and fueling areas
- Conduct on-site evaluations.
- Obtain necessary permits and licenses before beginning management activities. For existing regulations pertaining to forest management activities, see Forestry Fact No. 2, *Do I Need a Permit?*
- Plan to stabilize bare soil as soon as possible after exposing it to prevent erosion into water bodies and wetlands. This is especially important on steep slopes, erodible soils, in riparian management zones, and at stream crossings. Refer to the soil stabilization information in Forestry Fact No. 6, *Forest Roads*.

Maintain a spill containment and cleanup kit appropriate for the materials on the operation. For more information, see Forestry Fact No. 4, *Fuels, Lubricants, Waste and Spills*.

If you know of an endangered or a threatened species existing on your project area, plan operations to ensure that no "take" will occur. For more information, contact the DNR's Bureau of Endangered Resources.

Resources to Help You Identify Site Conditions

- Topographic maps - from Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey and some outdoor and sporting supplies retailers.**
- Aerial photographs - from USDA Farm Services Agency, Wisconsin DNR, and the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service.**
- County soil surveys - from county land conservation departments and the USDA Natural Resources and Conservation Service.**
- Floodplain maps - from county zoning offices.**
- Wisconsin Wetland Inventory maps - from DNR area or district offices, local county zoning offices and the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey.**

Forestry Facts on BMPs are for information only. For details on specific BMPs and their implementation, see the BMP field manual, *Wisconsin's Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality*, DNR Pub. FR-093 2010.