

Post Harvest Wrap-UP

Best Management Practices
*for water quality while
harvesting forest products*

Post Harvest Wrap-Up

INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL THE TIMBER HARVEST IS COMPLETED, INSTALL EROSION CONTROL MEASURES ON ROADS AND TRAILS AS SOON AS THEY ARE NO LONGER NEEDED.

- Smooth ruts on all roads and trails.
- Install water bars where necessary and clean out drainage dips and natural drainage areas (swales). It is better to have more drainage structures than not enough.
- Brush and slash may be placed in skid trails and on slopes to slow water flow and retain sediment.



- Remove culverts, bridges, or other temporary structures placed in watercourses.
- Grade approaches to streams.
- The landing surface should be graded so that the water does not flow onto the access road.
- Seed exposed soil on landings, approaches to stream crossings and steep skid trail sections. Seed mixtures of several species are more likely to protect the soil than a single species.
 - √ Seed mixtures vary with soil and site conditions and intended use. Contact your local extension agent or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for suggestions.
 - √ Seed mixtures should establish quickly, be suited to the soil conditions it is being applied to, develop a solid root mass, and be reasonable in cost.
 - √ A light application of scattered hay over a new seeding on a slope will lessen erosion while the seeds take hold. Excessive hay retards germination and growth.
 - √ Wood chips, sawdust, and hay make excellent cover material for moderate slopes, providing protection from erosion until natural vegetation becomes established.

- √ Caution should be taken to avoid using hay contaminated with seed from invasive species.
- Heavily compacted soils may need to be loosened or roughed up prior to seeding. Raking or dragging a tree top will not only serve to rough up the ground but will blend seed into the soil resulting in more vigorous seeding.
- Continued access to skid roads and trails by off road vehicles may destroy the effectiveness of many BMPs. An effective barrier to off road vehicles is a medium-sized tree felled so that the top is in the skid trail and the butt is still partially connected to the stump. The tree cannot be moved without additional cutting and stays alive for a long time. The tops of harvested trees may also be winched into trails, or large barriers of earth and rocks may be placed in trail entrances.
- Inspect erosion control measures periodically and maintain or remove as needed.

Remember: A small amount of extra effort at the end of the timber harvest operation can go a long way in protecting soil and water resources and in maintaining good landowner and public relations.