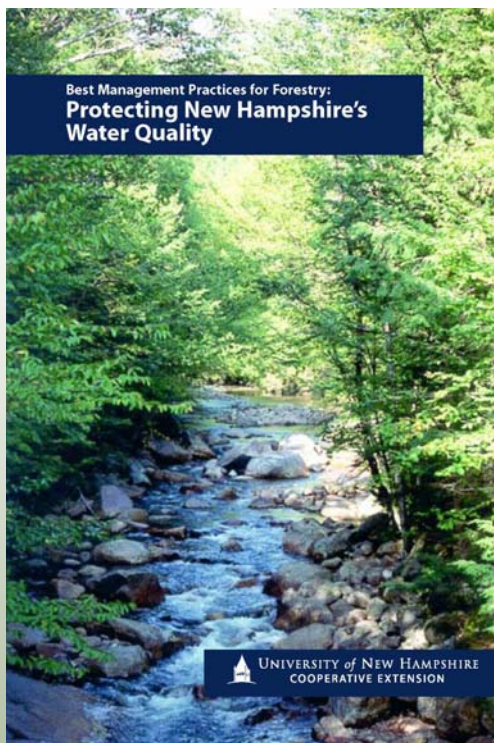


PROTECTING STREAMS, LAKES, AND WETLANDS WHEN WORKING ON YOUR WOODLOT— ESPECIALLY WHEN HARVESTING TIMBER

Every square inch of New Hampshire is a watershed—drop by drop, rainwater seeps and flows into soil, groundwater, wetlands, and streams, making its way to larger rivers and eventually the sea. Forests are a better natural water-purifier than commercial, industrial or residential development and keeping forests as forests protects water quality for all.

New Hampshire is over 80% forested and about 70% of that forest is owned as small woodlots by private individuals and, together with public lands, these woodlots act as the natural water-purifier, protecting water quality. Woodlot owners can work their land and still protect water quality (not to mention wildlife habitat, aesthetics, and recreation) by following some basic recommended practices.



Recommended Practices

Work with foresters and other natural resources professionals.

Lay out timber harvests when the ground is bare (without snow) to identify water and other natural resources. Locate landings, roads and skid trails to minimize stream and wetlands crossings.

Minimize soil disturbance near surface waters and wetlands. Regulations govern harvesting within certain distances of surface waters and wetlands.

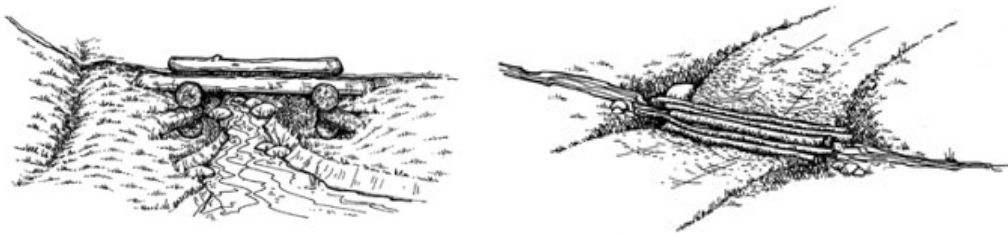
Apply best management practices (BMPs) according to guidelines in *Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations in New Hampshire*.

When stream and wetlands crossings are necessary, follow BMPs and regularly inspect and maintain crossings to make sure they function properly. Stream-crossing structures shouldn't impede streamflow either during or after the harvest.

Monitor sites before, during and after harvesting for visible signs of erosion and sedimentation. Signs may include: cloudy or muddy water; increased growth of algae in streams or ponds (green slime); deposits of silt or muck on rocky or gravel streambeds; and new run-off channels or gullies.

After the timber harvest, install water bars on skid trails, remove temporary stream-crossing structures, seed and mulch embankments, and apply other soil-stabilizing techniques as needed.

Fill and maintain equipment well away from open water or wetlands. Park equipment and oil tanks where they won't leak into water. Keep sawdust or other absorbent material (a spill kit) on the site to soak up accidental spills or leaks.



Stream-crossing structures can be temporary or permanent. Pictured here are two temporary structures. On the left, a skidder bridge and on the right a poled ford.

Where can I learn more?

Information for this fact sheet was adapted from the following sources:

- Bennett, Karen P. editor. 2010. *Good Forestry in the Granite State: Recommended Voluntary Forest Management Practices for New Hampshire* (second edition). University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, Durham, N.H.
www.goodforestry.org
- N.H. Dept. of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands. 2004. *Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations in New Hampshire*. N.H. Dept. of Resources and Economic Development, Division of Forests and Lands.
- Smith, Sarah. editor. 2005. *Best Management Practices for Forestry: Protecting New Hampshire's Water Quality*. UNH Cooperative Extension, Durham N.H.

For a woodlot visit to discuss any of the topics included in this fact sheet, contact your local UNH Cooperative Extension office:

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- Hillsborough County, (603) 673-2409
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