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**Protecting Maine's
Water Quality**

**A Brief Summary of Best
Management Practices
for Forestry**

Fundamental BMPs

1. Define Objectives and Responsibilities

- ✓ Determine harvest objectives with the landowner, forester and logger.
- ✓ Decide who is responsible for BMPs.
- ✓ What legal requirements apply?

2. Pre-Harvest Planning

- ✓ Determine property boundaries and harvest area limits.
- ✓ Identify streams, wetlands, ponds and other areas of concern.
- ✓ Decide on BMPs for the entire harvest area and for close out before the harvest begins.

3. Anticipate Site Conditions

- ✓ Sites that are very wet should be harvested during frozen conditions.
- ✓ Harvests may be limited or avoided during wet conditions.

4. Control Water Flow

- ✓ Understand how water moves through your property.
- ✓ Use BMPs to slow down runoff and spread it out into undisturbed forest floor.

5. Minimize and Stabilize Exposed Soil

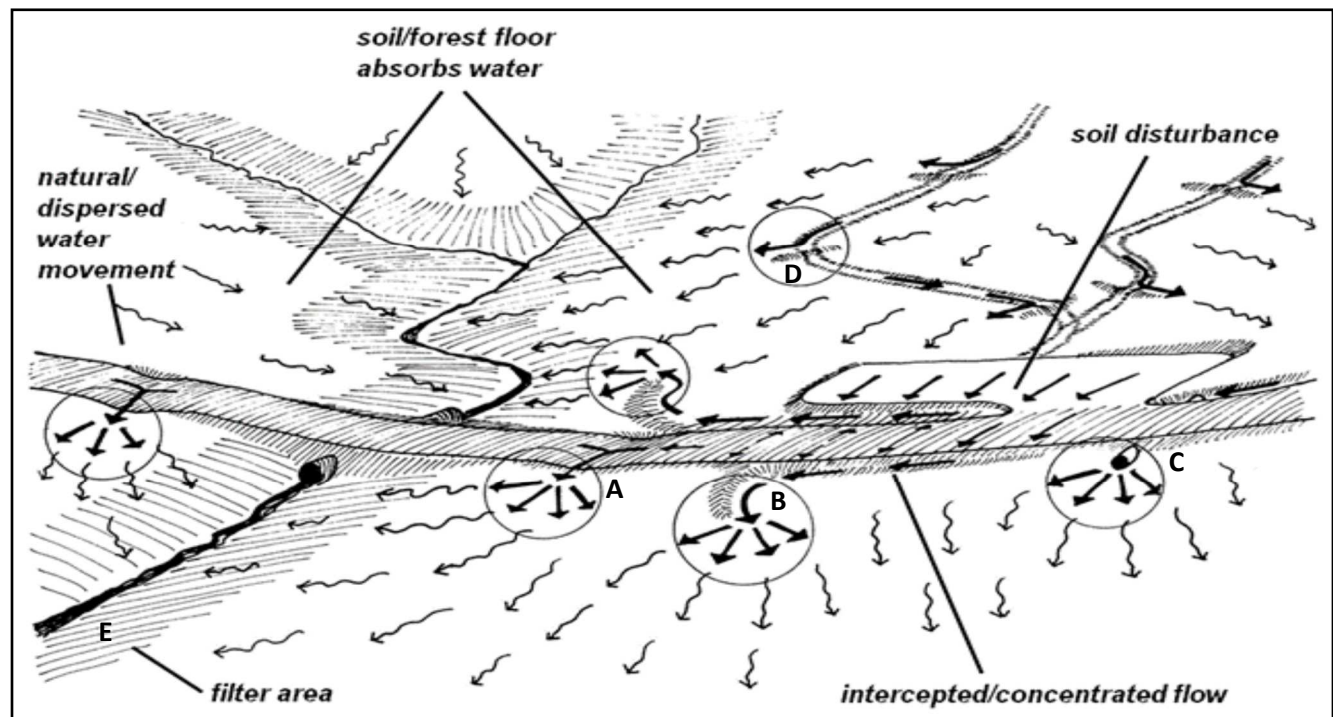
- ✓ Minimize disturbance to the forest floor.
- ✓ Stabilize exposed soils with slash or hay mulch.

6. Protect the Integrity of Waterbodies

- ✓ Protect stream banks and channels.
- ✓ Leave shoreline vegetation undisturbed to protect water quality.

7. Handle Hazardous Materials Safely

- ✓ Loggers should be prepared with emergency response spill kits in case of a spill.
- ✓ Hazardous materials should be used and stored properly.



Divert water off road surfaces into undisturbed forest floor using broad based dips (A), turn outs (B), cross drains (C) or water bars (D). These structures should be in place frequently enough so that water is diverted in **small amounts**, allowing the forest floor to absorb runoff effectively.

Filter Areas

Filter areas (E) are undisturbed forested areas bordering waterbodies used to absorb and filter runoff from the harvest. Filter areas are considered the last line of defense, and are only effective when good BMPs are used throughout the entire site.

Stream Crossings

Plan stream crossings before road construction begins. First determine if a stream crossing can be avoided. If not, will a temporary or permanent crossing be needed? Next, select the best available crossing site. Straight, narrow sections with level or gently sloping banks are best.

Stream Crossings (continued)

In general, a permanent crossing should span the stream channel from bank to bank, allowing for fish passage and flows from large storm events. A temporary crossing may be smaller, but must not be in place for more than 7 months.

Wetland Crossings

Wetlands are areas that are saturated or flooded for most of the year and should be avoided if possible. When unavoidable, crossings should be minimal in length and width and include weight bearing materials such as slash, corduroy or stone. Water should be able to move through the crossing unimpeded. Winter harvesting may be the best option at wetter sites.

More BMP guidance is available in our BMP manual available at www.maineforestservice.gov