



Title: Forestry BMP Educational Needs and Assessment

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Theme: Water Conservation and Agricultural Water Management

Situation: Timber harvesting and forest management can potentially degrade water quality. Research and experience show that trained forest managers, using properly installing and maintained best management practices can greatly reduce the negative impacts of forestry site disturbing activities on water quality. Many states have developed forestry BMP training programs and some are assessing training effectiveness and water quality impacts.

Objectives: Forestry BMP education addresses three critical needs. First is the identification of the highest risk components of timber harvesting and forest management activities, including roads, stream crossings, log skidding and intensive site preparation. Second is the pre-planning necessary to assure that the appropriate mix of BMP's is selected. Finally, proper installation and maintenance of BMP's is addressed. The overall objective is to teach forest managers and loggers to protect water quality during all phases of forestry site disturbing activity as evaluated by BMP implementation, effectiveness and compliance surveys.

Methods: Classroom and field trainings are conducted in most states. Many states have developed "named" programs, such as "Pro-Logger" in North Carolina and "Sharp Logger" in Virginia. Training programs are typically private/public partnerships. BMP manuals, videos and training curricula abound. States with compliance and monitoring programs have published impact data.

Partnerships: State agencies, land-grant universities, state forestry associations and individual companies collaborate. Member companies of the American Forest and Paper Association and their wood suppliers are required to comply with "Sustainable Forestry Standards" and BMP training is integral to these standards.

Research: University and agency research guides the design and implementation of effective forestry BMP's. This same research is incorporated in understandable fashion into myriad manuals, videos, notebooks and other educational media. Field demonstrations and applied research are effective tools for BMP education and are commonly used. Cooperative Extension (CES), in partnership with state forestry agencies and industry associations, is often the lead education and outreach agency. CES has done a masterful job of interpreting and integrating research into forestry BMP education and examples are highlighted in this presentation. Also, compliance, effectiveness and educational impact methods and data will be summarized.

Resources: Funding comes from many sources. Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) funds, 319 grants, foundations, Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) funds and general federal and state funding sources are co-mingled to support forestry BMP research and education.

Results: Educated forestry practitioners use well-designed, installed and maintained BMP's. Data in numerous states shows from 85-96% BMP compliance. Such impressive improvement in forestry BMP implementation and compliance is owed largely to an aggressive forestry BMP educational thrust.



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