



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection





**Best Management Practices for
Forestry:**

Protecting Water Quality

March 11, 2016

SWCS - Southern New England Chapter

Sturbridge, MA



Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection

What BMPs are not!

- Not the same as regulations
- Not a substitute for knowing laws
- Not a cookbook or complete installation manual for all techniques
- BMP “toolbox”-it’s not enough to describe individual tools and what they do
- Instead, describe an adaptable approach to operations planning to maintain water quality



BMP Approach

- Principles to address WQ outcomes allow a flexible, non-prescriptive approach
- Understanding of background and principles helps users recognize where, when, what type of specific BMPs would be most effective



BMP Principles -“Fundamental BMPs”

1. Define objectives and responsibilities
2. Pre-harvest planning
3. Anticipate site conditions
4. Control water flow
5. Minimize and stabilize exposed soil
6. Protect integrity of water bodies
7. Handle hazardous materials safely



1. Define objectives and responsibilities

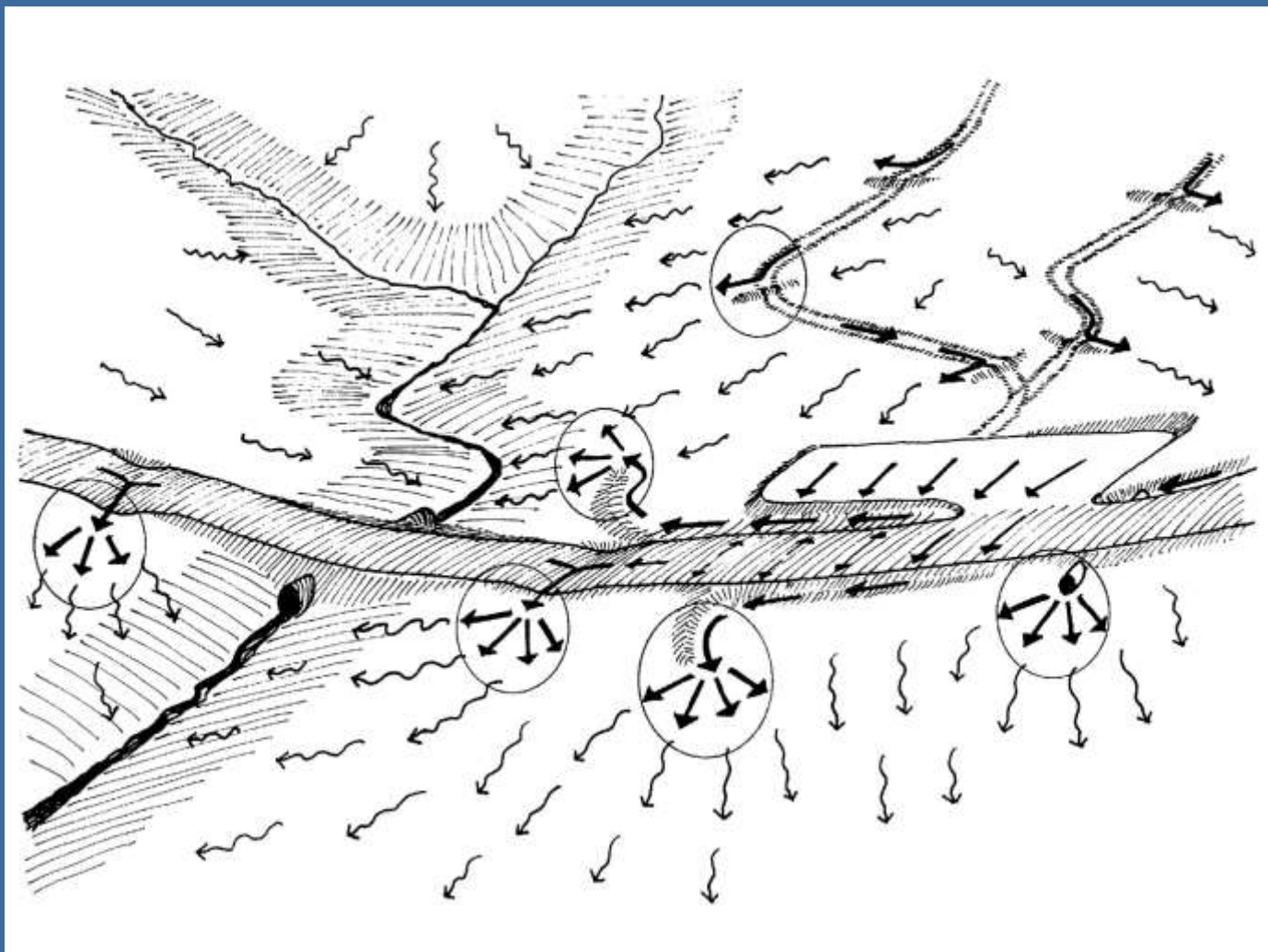
- Determine the harvest objectives with the landowner, forester, and logger
- Decide who is responsible for BMPs
- Find out what legal requirements apply to waterbodies in the harvest area



2. Pre-harvest planning

- Determine the harvest area limits and property boundaries on the ground
- Identify waterbodies: streams, wetlands, ephemeral flows
- Identify the areas where you need BMPs (identify material sources)
- Layout harvest on the ground
- Choose BMPs that are appropriate to the site conditions
- Decide on BMPs for the entire harvest site area and for the closeout before beginning work
- Consider the needs of future operations on the same property...different BMPs will apply





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3. Anticipate site conditions

- Time operations appropriately
- Determine whether previous operations in the harvest area created conditions that are impacting – or could impact – water quality
- Plan to monitor, maintain and adjust BMPs as needed





4. Control water flow

- Understand how water flows in and around harvest area
- Slow down runoff and spread it out
- Protect the natural movement of water through wetlands



5. Minimize and stabilize exposed soil

- Minimize disturbance of the forest floor, especially in filter area
- Stabilize areas of exposed soil within filter areas and in other locations where runoff has the potential to reach filter areas



6. Protect integrity of waterbodies

- Protect Stream channels and banks
 - Avoid blockage
 - Fish Passage
- Leave enough shoreline vegetation to maintain water quality
 - Shade

Maintaining existing chemical, physical, biological integrity of surface waters.



7. Handle hazardous materials safely

- Be prepared for any emergency
 - Spill response kit on site
 - Contact information for fuel, oil, or chemical spills
- Use and store hazardous material properly





Summary

- Plan Ahead
- Build it Right
- Maintain it
- Close it out correctly



The Regulations

For Utility Line Clearing and Maintenance

- Varies based upon Location
- Requires coordination with PURA and Towns
- Influencing factors include temporary or permanent access, exiting easements
- Supporting documents may include, engineering and environmental reports and plans describing the project including impact on the environment, water handling and storm water management





Contact the Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)

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Questions?



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