An Introduction To Florida’s Silviculture Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Presented by: Robin Holland, FL Forest Service
What Are Silviculture BMPs?

BMPs’ Land Management Guidelines Designed to Help Forest Landowners Conduct Forestry Activities Near Waterbodies and Wetlands in a Manner that Is Environmentally Sound.

- FL Forest Service Website
Why Are Silviculture BMPs Important?

They Represent a Balance Between Overall Natural Resource Protection and Forest Resource Use

They are the Minimum Standards Necessary for Protecting and Maintaining:
WATER QUALITY
WETLAND ECOSYSTEMS
When Do Silviculture BMPs Apply?

Silviculture BMPs are Applicable on ALL Bonafide ONGOING Silviculture Activities with a FORESTRY OBJECTIVE!
Silviculture BMPs Are Not Intended for Use on Timber Harvests Preceding a Land Use Change
What Government Agencies are Responsible for Silviculture BMPs?

1972 Federal Clean Water Act

Florida Department of Environmental Protection

5 Water Management Districts (Regulatory) M.O.A. F.D.A.C.S. – F.F.S. (Non-Regulatory)
FL Forest Service
Silviculture BMP Program

- **BMP Development**
  Continuous, Provides for Change Over Time

- **BMP Implementation**
  Conduct Training – Provide Professional Guidance

- **BMP Monitoring**
  Conduct Surveys to Determine BMP Compliance and Verify BMP Effectiveness through Scientifically Reliable Research

Not Responsible for BMP Enforcement!
DOF Website: www.fl-dof.com

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East to South FL BMP Forester – Robin Holland
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Silviculture BMP Development

First Developed in the mid-1970’s

In 1991 a BMP Technical Advisory Committee (pg. 1) was Established to Review & Revise BMPs


Note: Each BMP Manual Revision is Associated with a Different Color Spiral
1980’s Manual

2003 Manual
- Brown

2008 “Current” Manual
- Blue

Best Management Practices
# Florida’s Silviculture BMP Manual – Table of Contents

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Special Management Zones (SMZs)
WELCOME
TWIN RIVERS
STATE FOREST
CLEAN AIR AND WATER
TREES AND PLANTS
WILDLIFE
RECREATION
Wetland Harvesting
Forest Roads
Stream & Wetland Crossings
Site Prep Operations
Herbicide & Fertilizer Applications
Firelines
Silviculture BMP Implementation

F.F.S. Hydrology Section Provides:

- Professional Guidance on what BMPs are Applicable on Planned Forestry Operations
- On-Site BMP Courtesy Checks for Ongoing and Recently Completed Operations
- BMP Training through a Variety of Educational Workshops
On the Ground BMP Surveys are Conducted Every Two Years on a Random Sample of Sites Identified from Fixed-Wing Aircraft. Each Survey Consists of about 200 Sites with Multiple BMP Practices. Landowner Participation in the Survey is Voluntary. 15 Biennial Surveys Conducted Over Past 28 Years (1981-2009), 2011 Survey Ongoing.
Silviculture BMP Compliance Monitoring

Overall Average Compliance = 94%

Survey Year

Compliance %

1981 1983 1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009
So We Know Silviculture BMPs Are Being Used and Are Essential to Good Land Stewardship, But What Are The Consequences if a Forest Landowner Doesn’t Follow Them?
State Water Quality Standards Violations

- Violations are regulated by DEP, Water Management Districts, and some local governments.
- Violations can result in LARGE Fines and Stop Work Orders
- Also a potential backlash during the TMDL process for impaired watersheds.
Silviculture BMP Rule
Rule 5I-6 F.A.C.

Adoption of the Silviculture BMP Manual into Florida Administrative Code Occurred on February 11, 2004

Protects Forestry Operations Under the Right to Farm Act

Provides Forest Landowners the Opportunity to Receive a Presumption of Compliance with State Water Quality Standards
‘Presumption of Compliance’

To Be Eligible for the ‘Presumption of Compliance’ Under Rule 5I-6 F.A.C. the Forest Landowner Must:

- **Submit a Notice of Intent to Use BMPs Form to DOF** (one time submission for the property, until ownership changes)
- **Implement BMPs on ALL of your Forestry Operations**
- **Maintain “Records” to Verify BMP Compliance**
SILVICULTURE

NOTICE OF INTENT TO IMPLEMENT

In accordance with Chapter 403.067(7)(d) F.S. and Rule 51-6.004 FAC, the following information is hereby submitted as verification of my intent to implement silviculture Best Management Practices.

Forest Landowner __________________________ Acres __________

Property Tax ID# (s) _______________________

County(s) ________________________________

Authorized Local Contact __________________

Address _________________________________

Phone _________________________________

Complete the attached silviculture Best Management Practices Checklist and submit it along with this Notice of Intent to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry at the address listed below. Keep the completed Checklist in your files along with a copy of your completed Notice(s) of Intent.

Signature of Forest Landowner or Authorized Agent __________________________ Date __________

Mail this notice and the attached Checklist to: FDACS – DOF
Attn: BMP Program
3125 Conner Blvd
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1650

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SILVICULTURE

Best Management Practices Checklist

Instructions: Place a check beside each sub-category of Best Management Practices (BMP) that are currently being implemented. For those BMPs that are not currently being implemented but planned for the future, enter the year that you expect BMP implementation to occur beside each category and/or sub-category. Use the silviculture BMP Manual for details on individual practices within each sub-category.

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<th>General</th>
<th>Maintenance</th>
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| Canals                                       |         |             |
| General                                     |         |             |

| Sinkholes                                    |         |             |
| General                                     |         |             |

| Forest Roads                                 |         |             |
| Planning                                    |         |             |
| Construction                                |         |             |
| Drainage                                    |         |             |
| Maintenance                                 |         |             |

| Stream Crossings                             |         |             |
| General                                     |         |             |
| Culverts                                    |         |             |
| Hard Surface Crossings                       |         |             |
BMP Notice of Intent

Submission is Voluntary for Landowners – But if Not Submitted then they do Not Qualify for the Presumption of Compliance with State Water Quality Standards even if Silviculture BMPs are Followed

Currently Over 5.3 Million Acres of Private Non-Industrial, Industrial, and Public Lands are Signed Up
Questions?