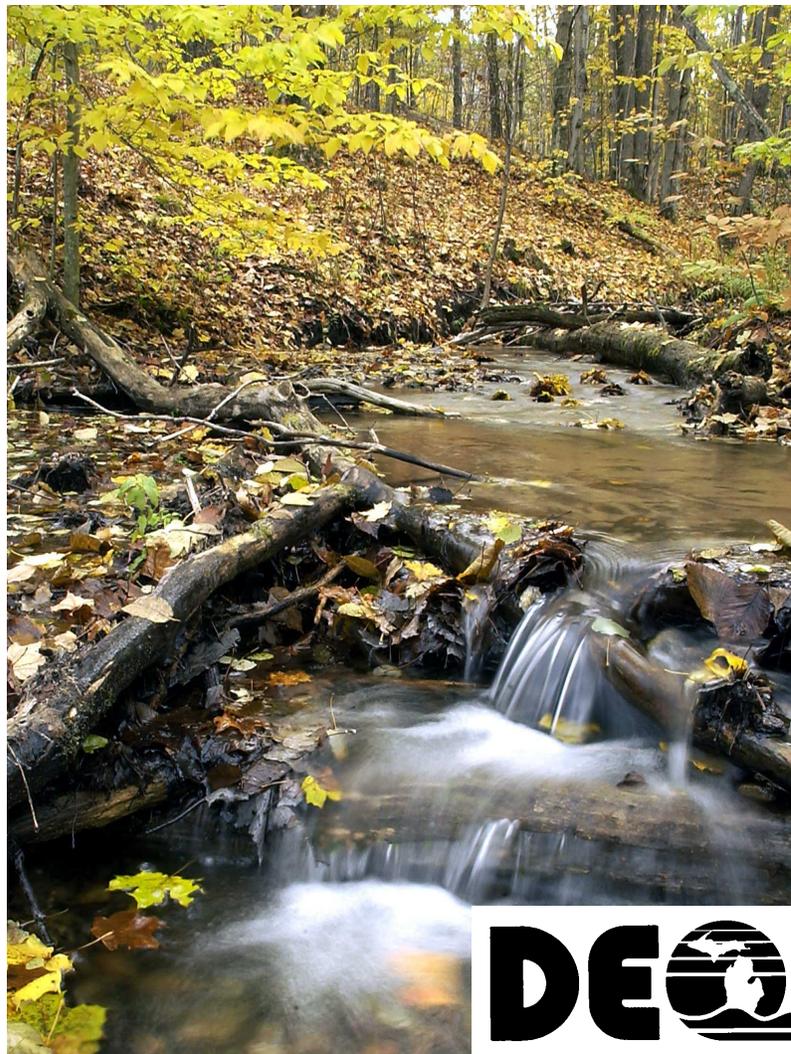




SUSTAINABLE SOIL AND WATER QUALITY PRACTICES ON FOREST LAND



**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

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FOREWORD

Dear Reader and User:

This manual describes the specifications and techniques to properly apply voluntary “Best Management Practices” (BMPs). It also provides information regarding environmental laws and regulations that may apply when forest management activities occur.

This is the first substantial revision of the *Water Quality Practices on Forest Land*, also known as Michigan’s Forestry Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual. The original was published in 1994. It has been reprinted with minor changes to adjust for governmental reorganization and re-codification of environmental and natural resource protection laws. This version supercedes all previous versions.

A key influence in revising the original manual has been the development of forest certification standards. These standards emphasize sustainable forestry principles and practices which include protection of water and soil resources. In the United States, there are two primary forest certification systems: The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and the set of standards developed by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The scope and use of the term “Best Management Practices” has been expanded in this manual. The manual describes BMPs in the context of those practices that not only protect surface water quality, but soil quality too. Two new sections have been added: 1) Forest wetland protection practices to use when constructing roads, and 2) guidance to address rutting. The term “buffer strip” has been changed to “Riparian Management Zone” (RMZ). This term provides a more accurate description regarding the activities allowed in the forested area adjacent to a stream or other water body. Forest management activities within an RMZ are allowed, as long as extra precaution is used and the integrity and function of the RMZ is maintained during and after forest management activities (i.e. logging). The manual has also incorporated information on designated trout streams, vernal pools, and bogs to provide information about such areas. However, the focus remains on water and soil quality rather than wildlife or other broader ecological concerns. For the latter types of information, for example on species of greatest conservation need, see the DNR Wildlife Action Plan on the DNR Website, www.michigan.gov/dnr.

Please note that the BMPs described in previous editions are incorporated into this manual. The specifications have not been changed nor have the statutes governing them.

From a legal standpoint, the use of these BMPs is voluntary. However, properly applying these practices enables the responsible party or parties to meet pertinent environmental protection regulations. Voluntarily applying these practices will, under most weather conditions, prevent sediment or other nonpoint sources of pollution from going into a stream or other open water body.

This manual provides recommended guidance and specifications. It does not cover all situations, as conditions vary from site to site. These practices may be modified for specific site conditions in line with protecting soil and site productivity, and water quality resources.

In addition to DNR and DEQ staff, we wish to thank The Nature Conservancy, Michigan Association of Timbermen, the Forest Management Advisory Committee, and the Michigan Forest Products Council for their collaborative, helpful reviews and comments.


Lynne M. Boyd, Chief
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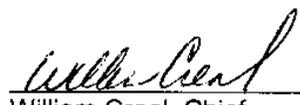

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