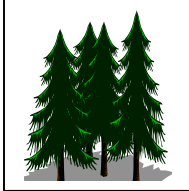


NPS/CZARA FACT SHEET No. 2
Forestry (Silviculture) Management Measures



The SWRCB, CCC, and other State agencies have identified 12 management measures (MMs) to address various phases of forestry operations relevant to controlling nonpoint sources of pollution that affect State waters. The forestry MMs are for the most part a system of practices used and recommended by the Board of Forestry and Department of Forestry and Fire Protection in rules or guidance.

On a national level, silviculture contributes approximately 3 to 9% of NPS pollution to the Nation's waters (USEPA, 1992a). Without adequate controls, forestry operations may degrade the characteristics of waters that receive drainage from forest lands. For example (1) sediment concentrations can increase due to accelerated erosion, (2) water temperatures can increase due to removal of overstory riparian shade, (3) dissolved oxygen can be depleted due to the accumulation of slash and other organic debris, and (4) concentrations of organic and inorganic chemicals can increase due to harvesting and fertilizers and pesticides.

- California's management measures to address silvicultural sources of nonpoint pollution:**
- 2A. Preharvest Planning**
 - 2B. Streamside Management Areas**
 - 2C. Road Construction/Reconstruction**
 - 2D. Road Management**
 - 2E. Timber Harvesting**
 - 2F. Site Preparation/Forest Regeneration**
 - 2G. Fire Management**
 - 2H. Revegetation of Disturbed Areas**
 - 2I. Forest Chemical Management**
 - 2J. Wetlands Forest**
 - 2K. Education/Outreach**
 - 2L. Postharvest Evaluation**

Management Measures:

Preharvest Planning. Pursuant to MM 2A, silvicultural activities shall be planned to reduce potential delivery of pollutants to surface waters. Components of MM 2A address aspects of forestry operations, including: the timing, location and design of harvesting and road construction; site preparation; identification of sensitive or high-erosion risk areas; and the potential for cumulative water quality impacts.

Streamside Management Areas (SMAs). SMAs protect against soil disturbance and reduce sediment and nutrient delivery to waters from upland activities. MM 2B is intended to safeguard vegetated buffer areas along surface waters to protect the water quality of adjacent streams.

Road Construction/Reconstruction. Pursuant to MM 2C, road construction/reconstruction shall be conducted so as to reduce sediment generation and delivery. This can be accomplished by, among other means, following preharvest plan layouts and designs for road systems, incorporating adequate drainage structures, properly installing stream crossings, avoiding road construction in SMAs, removing debris from streams, and stabilizing areas of disturbed soil such as road fills.

Road Management. MM 2D describes how to manage roads to prevent sedimentation, minimize erosion, maintain stability, and reduce the risk that drainage structures and stream crossings will fail or become less effective. Components of this measure include inspections and maintenance actions to prevent erosion of road surfaces and to ensure the effectiveness of stream-crossing structures. The measure also addresses appropriate methods for closing roads that are no longer in use.

Timber Harvesting. MM 2E addresses skidtrail location and drainage, management of debris and petroleum, and proper harvesting in SMAs. Timber harvesting practices that protect water quality and soil productivity also have economic benefits by reducing the length of roads and skidtrails, reducing equipment and road maintenance costs, and providing better road protection.

Site Preparation & Forest Regeneration. Impacts of mechanical site preparation and regeneration operations—particularly in areas that have steep slopes or highly erodible soils, or where the site is located in close proximity to a waterbody—can be reduced by confining runoff onsite. MM 2F addresses keeping slash material out of drainageways, operating machinery on contours, timing of activities, and protecting ground cover in ephemeral drainage areas and SMAs. Careful regeneration of harvested forest lands is important in protecting water quality from disturbed soils.

Fire Management. Prescribed fire practices for site preparation and methods to suppress wildfires should as feasible be conducted in a manner that limits loss of soil organic matter and litter and that reduces the potential for runoff and erosion. Prescribed fires on steep slopes or adjacent to streams and that remove forest litter down to mineral soil are most likely to impact water quality.

Revegetation of Disturbed Areas. MM 2H addresses the rapid revegetation of areas disturbed during timber harvesting and road construction—particularly areas within harvest units or road systems where mineral soil is exposed or agitated (e.g., road cuts, fill slopes, landing surfaces, cable corridors, or skidtrails) with special priority for SMAs and steep slopes near drainageways.

Forest Chemical Management. Application of pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals used in forest management should not lead to surface water contamination. Pesticides must be properly mixed, transported, loaded, and applied, and their containers disposed of properly. Fertilizers must also be properly handled and applied since they also may be toxic depending on concentration and exposure. Components of MM 2I include applications by skilled workers according to label instructions, careful prescription of the type and amount of chemical to be applied, use of buffer areas for surface waters to prevent direct application or deposition, and spill contingency planning.

Wetland Forest Management. Forested wetlands provide many beneficial water quality functions and provide habitat for aquatic life. Activities in wetland forests shall be conducted to protect the aquatic functions of forested wetlands.

Education/Outreach. The goals of MM 2K are to implement pollution prevention and education programs to reduce NPS pollutants generated from applicable silvicultural activities.

Postharvest Evaluation. The goals of MM 2L are to incorporate postharvest monitoring, including: a) implementation monitoring to determine if the operation was conducted according to specifications, and b) effectiveness monitoring after at least one winter period to determine if the specified operation prevented or minimized discharges.