

Gathering Information for the BMP for Water Quality Prescription

Before completing this part of the form, be sure you can answer the following questions:

1. Are there water resources on the property? Waterways, lakes, wetlands, dry washes, seeps, etc.
2. Will any roads need to be built or re-constructed?
3. Will any waterways or wetlands need to be crossed by equipment?
4. Will any drainage structures be needed (such as culverts, drainage ditches, broad-based dips, etc.)?
5. Will any permits be needed?
6. Are there any existing erosion or water quality issues on site, such as steep slopes?
7. Will Riparian Management Zones or Wetland Filter Strips be needed?
8. Do you or the logger harvesting the site have a spill kit?

The BMPs for Water Quality section cannot be properly filled in without this information.

In some cases, the answers to this question could be done using aerial photography, the DNR Surface Water Data Viewer, and other online mapping resources. A list of resources can be found in the Planning Chapter of the BMP field manual.

In many cases, the answers to these questions will only be known once a field visit has been conducted.

The main focus of this section of the Cutting Notice is to explain HOW water quality will be PROTECTED.

Items that should be described in this section include:

1. Identified wetlands, waterways, rivers, lakes, ponds, springs or other water resources present.
2. Specific BMPs that will be implemented to mitigate water quality impacts.
3. Permits that are required and/or obtained.
4. Conditions for suitable harvest such as dry ground, frozen ground, implementation of rutting guidelines, etc.).

Even if water resources are not present within the timber sale area, road construction, water drainage, soils, slope, etc. can mean that the timber sale activities could have impacts on water resources within the watershed. Care should be taken to consider the timber sale area as it relates to the surrounding landscape. Simply stating on the Cutting Notice that no water resources are present is not a sufficient narrative.

If water resources are not present, you should still include information such as the slope percentages, the soil types, the soil drainage, etc., so you can think about off-property impacts and provide the reviewer with the same level of information.

Don't forget about the map! The map that is required to be submitted with the cutting notice should include the following:

1. Location of water resources.
2. Proposed and/or existing waterway and/or wetland crossings.
3. Proposed and/or existing forest roads, skid trails and landings.
4. Steep slopes.
5. Other sensitive areas.

If you are modifying the BMPs, document, document, document! Explain on the Cutting Notice WHY the BMP is being modified and HOW the modification will result in equal or greater water quality protection. Refer to Page 14 of the BMP field manual for more information.