Wyoming Forestry Best Management Practices

Forestry BMPs
Water Quality Protection Guidelines
The need to safeguard the future of our water resources is essential. With the cooperation of all forest users, and the application of the information on these pages, we can protect the water quality of Wyoming’s forests.

Thank you for doing your best to put BMPs to work in the forest.

Be aware that BMPs can and probably will change. Our knowledge of the forest will increase over time. Forest owners and managers will have new techniques, new equipment, and different needs. The organizations listed on this page can help with information and education.

“The forests of Wyoming are also the headwaters for several major river basins. These lands produce large quantities of high quality water. This water nurtures some of the West’s best fisheries and is used for irrigation, recreation and livestock, as well as sustaining Wyoming’s cities, towns and communities. I applaud the efforts of private landowners, the forest industry and the state and federal agencies that are working together to protect the quality of Wyoming’s water through the implementation of these Forestry BMPs.”

Governor Dave Freudenthal

Wyoming’s forest lands supply beauty, water, wildlife, minerals, recreation, forage, timber and jobs. This book is dedicated to the stewardship of those qualities – especially pure water. Surface water from Wyoming forests supplies 35% of Wyoming’s residents. Described here are Best Management Practices (BMPs) that protect water quality and forest soils. BMPs are voluntary and represent preferred ways to manage forest land that conserve and protect water quality during forest management activities. BMPs are effective. Field audits, conducted in 2004 indicate more than 90 percent compliance. BMPs are intended for all forest lands, including non-industrial private, forest industry, state-owned and federal forests.

If you own forest land, work in the forests or are interested in forests, this publication is for you. It contains BMP guidelines and explains reasons for using BMPs, not just rules.

However, reading these pages is not enough. Maintaining our forests’ productivity and benefits can only be achieved by on-the-ground application of BMPs.

How you apply BMPs in the forest will require practice and personal judgement. Two notations used in this book are intended to help.

The “do not” symbol indicates practices you should avoid.

Indicates BMPs adopted by the State of Wyoming and the corresponding practice number in the 2004 Nonpoint Source Management Plan. The complete text of the Wyoming BMPs can be obtained from Wyoming DEQ or Wyoming State Forestry Division.

Indicates additional recommended practices