



# Memorandum

DATE: September 1, 2010  
 TO: N.C. Division of Forest Resources Field Offices, and others in the forestry profession  
 FROM: Tom Gerow, Jr. - BMP Staff Forester; Forestry Nonpoint Source Branch - Raleigh Central Office  
 SUBJECT: **New BMP Video: "Installing Silt Fence & Erosion Matting"**

Enclosed is a copy of the DFR's latest BMP video, the fourth in a series to demonstrate proper implementation of forestry best management practices (BMPs) in North Carolina. To learn more about our BMP videos, visit the Web site [dfr.nc.gov](http://dfr.nc.gov). Look in the "Water Quality" section; then click on "BMP Video Series."

This latest video, approximately 30 minutes long, demonstrates the installation of two measures that can be used for sediment and erosion control stabilization when closing out a logging job: silt fence and erosion control matting (also known as excelsior matting).

This video will be incorporated into the 2010-2011 annual continuing education training module of the NC ProLogger Program, and is expected to reach an estimated 1,400 loggers statewide. ProLogger is managed and administered by the North Carolina Forestry Association: [www.ncforestry.org](http://www.ncforestry.org).

Video filming and production were accomplished in-house by personnel who are funded by the NCDFR; a USEPA Nonpoint Source Management Program Section 319-Grant; and a grant from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act through the USDA-Forest Service. Special thanks to Mark Bost and Tom James with the DFR for their assistance in producing this video.

## CUSTOMER FEEDBACK SURVEY

After viewing the video, feel free to offer us your feedback below so that we can improve on future BMP-related educational and training projects. You can fax your response to (919)857-4804, or send an email to [forestry.npsunit@ncdenr.gov](mailto:forestry.npsunit@ncdenr.gov).

1)How well does the video offer instructive information about the subject?

POORLY            SATISFACTORY            EXCELLENT    Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

2)How well does the video cover the most important issues related to using these BMPs?

POORLY            SATISFACTORY            EXCELLENT    Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

3)Is the length of time for this video suitable?

TOO LONG        TOO SHORT            JUST RIGHT    Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

4)Did you have technical difficulties with watching/showing the video? If Yes, explain.

NO    YES    Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

5)What BMP topics do you suggest for future training videos: \_\_\_\_\_

6)Other comments?

Video Key Points Handout: "Installing Silt Fence & Erosion Matting" (run time 28 min.)  
North Carolina Division of Forest Resources - August 2010

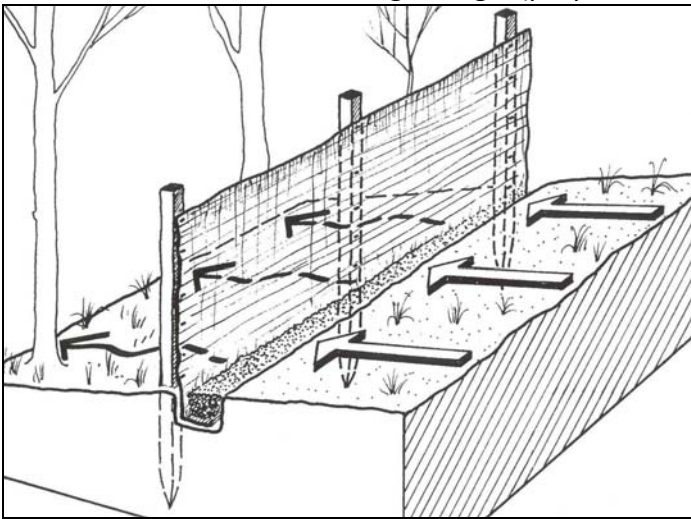
Stabilizing exposed soil in critical areas immediately after completing a timber harvest is an essential Best Management Practice (BMP) for sediment & erosion control. There are several BMPs that can be effective for controlling sediment and other nonpoint source pollution. Two examples are shown in this video: silt fence and erosion control matting. While these methods are typically not the first-choice for BMP stabilization on forestry sites, there are situations in which they can be useful, such as:

- Stream or ditch crossings
- Skid trails, roads, turnouts, or ditchlines on sloping ground
- Steeply sloping road cuts, embankments, or fill-slopes

For more information on BMPs, refer to the North Carolina Forestry BMP Manual at: [www.dfr.nc.gov](http://www.dfr.nc.gov).

### **Key Points for Installing Silt Fence**

- ✓ Silt fence is a temporary measure, and should be used together with other BMPs.
- ✓ Position the silt fence at right-angle (perpendicular) to the direction of surface runoff flow



- ✓ Make sure the stakes supporting the silt fence are on the down-slope (back) side of the fence.
- ✓ Dig a trench at least 4 to 6 inches deep to bury the bottom portion of the silt fence.
- ✓ Bury the bottom portion of the silt fence with soil to make sure no runoff can seep underneath.
- ✓ Keep the silt fence upright and tightly-stretched while installing.
- ✓ Install additional staking or straw bales behind the silt fence to prevent the silt fence from blowing-out.

*Silt fence illustration developed and provided by Maine Forest Service.*

### **Key Points for Installing Erosion Control Matting**

- ✓ Read and follow the instructions that come with the matting.
- ✓ Prepare the soil, and apply grass seed before laying out the matting.
- ✓ When overlapping sections of matting, overlap at least 6 to 8 inches.
- ✓ Secure the matting with adequate staking or landscaping hooks/staples. The matting should be staked down every 12-inches on center if on sloping ground.



Erosion control matting was installed within this turnout that also had check-dams installed to capture sediment runoff. The left photo shows the matting and check dams recently installed. The right photo shows the stabilized turnout and captured sediment.