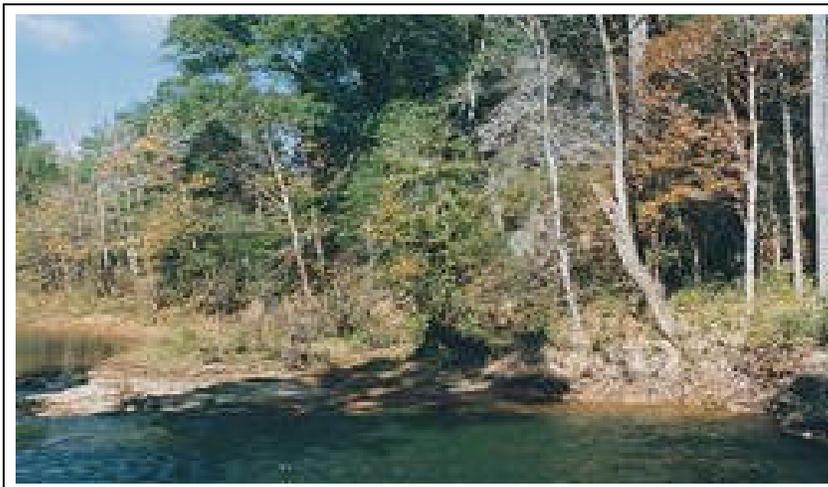


Streamside Management Zones

Bryan Zone Job Sheet - 391



What are Streamside Management Zones?

Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) are narrow strips of relatively undisturbed forestland that border streams, rivers and other water bodies and are managed for the protection of water quality.

SMZ Functions

- Provides an area for sediment to deposit
- Stabilizes stream banks
- Allows for wildlife habitat diversification
- Creates shade to moderate water temperatures
- Provides a harvestable timber crop
- Provides an area for potential infiltration of ground water
- Removes nutrients from surface and sub-surface water flow
- Provides for long-term storage of nutrients
- provides travel corridors for wildlife
- Provides barriers to fire, insects and disease

SMZ Design

SMZs should be maintained along all perennial and intermittent streams as well as around ponds and springs where forest disturbances may occur and erosion may follow. These disturbances include timber harvesting and site preparation for tree planting.

The minimum width on each side of an intermittent or perennial stream and around other water bodies should be 50 feet. Width measurements begin at the stream bank or normal pond water level. Some sites such as those with erodible soils, spring heads, oxbows, and large streams and rivers may require wider zones. SMZs may also be

widened for wildlife and timber production purposes.

Except for stream crossings, access roads, skid trails and logging roads should not be located within the SMZ. Stream crossings should be at or near a right angle to the stream and the number of crossings within an SMZ should be kept to a minimum. Log sets must not be located within this area.

The SMZ should be clearly defined and clearly marked on the ground prior to any forestry activity that might affect water quality.

SMZ Maintenance

During Timber Harvesting

Limit the potential damage from heavy logging equipment to the area by using dispersed skidding, cable and winching, etc. Leave the forest floor as undisturbed as possible. Remove all logging debris from streams. Runoff from roads and ditches should be controlled with devices such as waterbars and wingditches before it reaches the SMZ.

Partial harvesting within an SMZ is acceptable. A minimum of 50% of the original canopy cover, evenly distributed, should be retained within the zone.

During Site Preparation Operations

Mechanical site preparation should be planned to minimize disturbance to the SMZ. If the area is to be burned, the SMZ should be protected with a firebreak. Water control devices such as water bars may be needed on firebreaks to prevent excessive sediment from entering the SMZ. Avoid pushing windrows and piles within the zone. When using herbicides for site preparation, clearly

delineate and describe the SMZ to the applicator in order to protect it from ground or aerial spray.

Wildlife Considerations

Leaving trees of varying sizes along streams provides essential and diverse habitat for many kinds

of birds and animals. Such trees do not have to be the most valuable ones in the area, but should be representative of the area both in size and species. Using SMZs as one means of providing for diversity of plant species and size can be important to maintaining wildlife habitat.

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