



Equipment Operation and Site Closeout

Mechanized equipment is regularly used to achieve land management objectives. While it is extremely important to properly plan and layout management activities, the manner in which the operation is conducted is also critically important. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are state-of-the-art, non-regulatory (voluntary) methods designed to prevent erosion and protect water resources during and after land management operations. BMPs should be implemented on all land management operations and can include operating on the contour, maintaining stream buffers along waterways, avoiding saturated soils, and minimizing soil disturbance.

Once the operation is complete, site closeout is a vital last step. Since many years may pass between management operations, problems that are not corrected can result in detrimental impacts to water resources, site productivity, and land access. Before leaving the site, pay close attention to potential erosion problems, restore and stabilize disturbed areas, and clean up any trash or waste generated from the operation.

Equipment Operation and Site Closeout Guidelines

- Use available planning tools and field reconnaissance to identify potential sensitive areas on your property, including streams, wet areas, steep slopes, and erodible soils.
- Before starting operations, make sure that property boundaries and other sensitive areas are clearly marked or otherwise recognizable.
- Avoid conducting operations on saturated soils. Delay or discontinue operations if substantial rutting occurs or the site becomes too wet to operate.
- Conduct operations on the contour to minimize excessive soil disturbance.
- Minimize soil compaction and damage to residual trees.
- Avoid crossing streams and operating in sensitive areas as much as possible.
- Maintain stream buffers (SMZs) along waterways. A minimum width of 50 feet is recommended on each side of perennial and intermittent streams.
- Brush, debris, and other organic material should not be pushed into drains, streams, or other waterbodies.
- Restore and stabilize rutted areas, stream crossings, or potential erosion problems resulting from the operation.
- Clean up and properly dispose of any trash or waste generated from the operation.

For more information please visit <http://tfsweb.tamu.edu/water> or contact your local Texas A&M Forest Service office.



Marking property boundaries and sensitive areas so they are easily recognizable is a critical step before starting any management operation.



Trash and waste generated from management operations should be cleaned up and properly disposed at an approved facility.