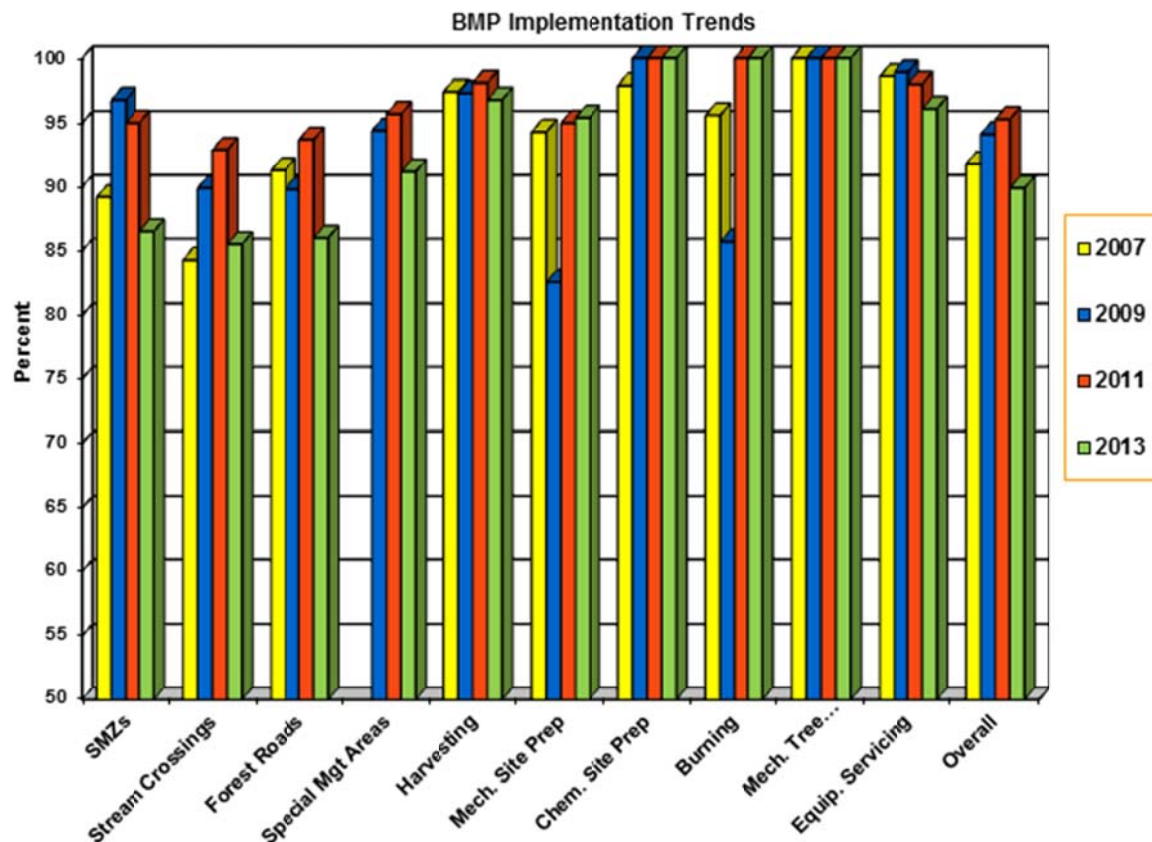




2013 Forestry Best Management Practices Implementation Survey Highlights

General BMP Survey Results

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) has completed its 2013 Forestry BMP Implementation Survey covering 209 randomly selected sites statewide. These 209 sites involve 27,500 acres with 160 miles of forest roads and 135 stream crossings. By ownership, 138 of the sites were located on non-industrial private forest land (NIPF), 47 sites were on forest industry / corporate land and 24 sites were on public land. Overall statewide, BMP implementation for GFC's 2013 BMP Survey is 89.9 percent. BMP implementation is simply the percentage of fully implemented BMPs compared to the total number of necessary or applicable BMPs at the tract, for the practice and overall levels. This represents an approximate five percentage point decline from GFC's 2011 BMP Survey result of 95 percent. BMP implementation results were also calculated for each applicable category of practice for each tract. Categories of practice include Streamside Management Zones (SMZs), Stream Crossings, Forest Roads, Special Management Areas, Harvesting (outside SMZs), Mechanical and Chemical Site Prep and others, as well as an overall category. BMP implementation results for each category are shown in this chart, along with the results from the last three BMP surveys for comparison.



BMP implementation for 2013, shown in green in the chart, declined modestly in the categories of SMZ's, Stream Crossings, and Forest Roads, presenting BMP educational opportunities going forward.

Educational Opportunities

As the chart indicates, BMP implementation for streamside management zones, stream crossings, and forest roads all declined about seven to eight percentage points from the 2011 survey. Therefore, our educational outreach will focus on those categories. In particular, educational opportunities in these categories include:

- Streamside management zones
 - ✓ Stormwater control structure design needs for forest roads in SMZs.
 - ✓ SMZ width and residual forest cover requirements.
 - ✓ Stream classification information for proper recognition of stream type.
 - ✓ Logging slash removal and rehab in stream channels and SMZs following harvest.
- Stream crossings
 - ✓ Culvert crossing design and installation information.
 - ✓ Basic stream crossing design needs, including storm flow and aquatic migration requirements.
 - ✓ Stream crossing approach design and stabilization.
 - ✓ Temporary portable bridge use.
- Forest roads
 - ✓ Stormwater control structure design and placement.
 - ✓ Proper closeout needs following harvest activities.
- Timber harvesting
 - ✓ Information on basic timber harvesting BMPs, including log deck and skid trail stabilization requirements.

Why the decline?

Survey results indicate several reasons for observed declines in BMP implementation.

- Unusually dry weather when harvests were contracted and/or planned
 - ✓ Some streams and other water bodies not apparent, especially intermittent streams.
 - ✓ Streamside Management Zones for these water bodies not appropriately planned.
- Unusually wet weather when harvests were actually carried out
 - ✓ Prolonged wet weather, leaving no alternative in some cases but to harvest under wet conditions.
 - ✓ Many intermittent stream SMZs not protected, clear-cut, choked with logging debris or combination of these three.
- 2013 Survey was first survey carried out since large segment of forest industry lands were fully divested and no longer under corporate management. This divestiture potentially resulted in:
 - ✓ Change of management levels and objectives.
 - ✓ "Parcelization" --- tracts broken up into smaller lots with multiple landowners with a range of personal resources and objectives for ownership.
- Smaller properties result in more roads and stream crossings for access by multiple landowners.

GFC BMP Survey results show that as tract size decreases, so does the percentage of BMP implementation. BMP implementation for tracts over 200 acres is almost 93 percent; for tracts between 100 and 200 acres, BMP implementation is 92 percent; and for tracts less than 100 acres, BMP implementation is 88 percent.