

# AG. WATER QUALITY ACT



Photo courtesy of USDA ARS



Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

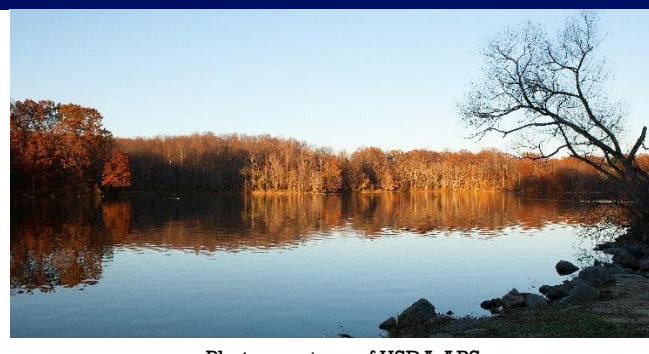


Photo courtesy of USDA ARS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FUNDING ASSISTANCE

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

## SINKHOLES, SINKING STREAMS & CAVES

### SILVICULTURE BMP #4

**Figure 7.17.** Diagram of sinkhole with road and trail away from the edge and only tree tops from the normal felling pattern are left in the sinkhole.

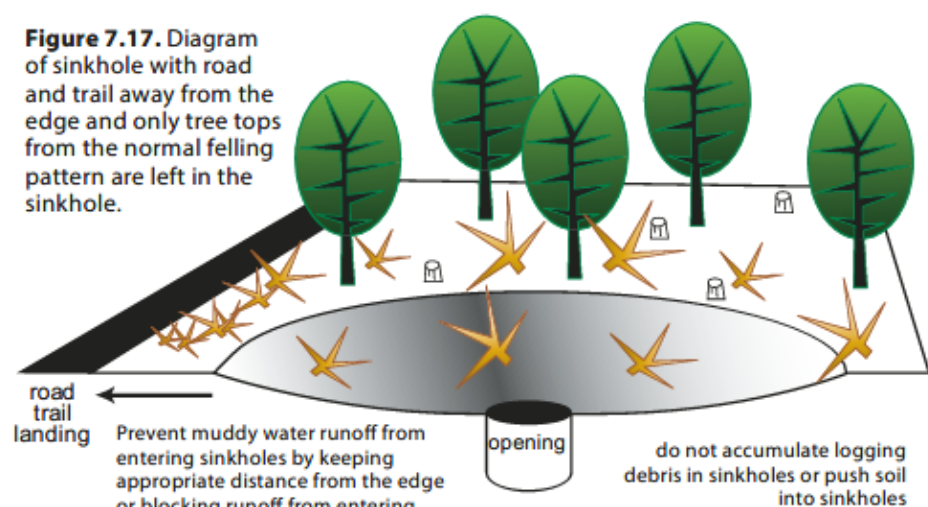


Figure Courtesy of Kentucky Logging BMP Field Guide

#### Description:

Protect sinkholes, sinking streams, caves, and other depressions in karst topography from disturbance or runoff.

#### AWQA Minimum Requirements:

1. Runoff from roads, trails, and landings shall not drain into **sinkholes, sinking streams, or caves**. (Note that if runoff does enter a sinkhole, a UIC (Underground Injection Control) permit may be required.)
2. Soil and logging debris shall not be concentrated or actively accumulated in a sinkhole.

#### Recommendations:

Disturbing soil in sinkholes with open swallets should be avoided. However, each case can be evaluated individually. Reestablish vegetation on disturbed areas as quickly as possible. Divert runoff away from openings in sinkholes.

#### Technical References

##### University Publications

- See “[Sinkholes](#)” in the current version of [Kentucky Forest Practice Guidelines for Water Quality Management](#) for detailed specifications regarding silvicultural activity near sinkholes.
- See MR 4.1 & 4.2 in [Kentucky Logging BMP Field Guide](#) on page 14 and throughout.

#### Funding Assistance Options

##### State Cost Share

- See your local Conservation District to [apply](#).

##### Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)

- Select from available program options [here](#).

##### NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Select from available program options [here](#).

#### Important Considerations

Water Quality Benefit (🌊-🌊🌊🌊🌊): 🌊🌊🌊🌊  
(KEY: 🌊=good, 🌊🌊🌊🌊=best: see [STEPL Model](#))

##### Wildlife Benefits

- Contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife’s [Habitat Improvement Program](#) on how to improve wildlife habitat with select BMPs (1-800-858-1549).