AG. WATER QUALITY ACT

Photo courtesy of USDA ARS

Photo courtesy of Creative Commons

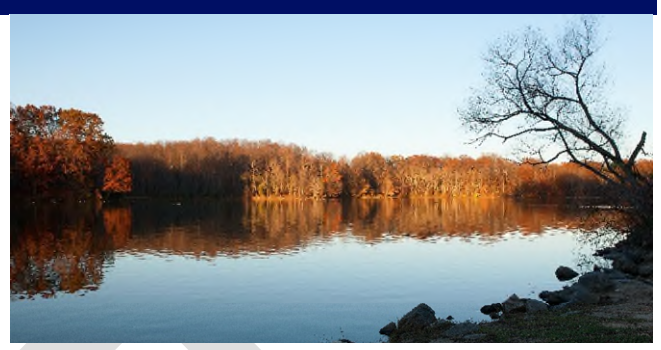

Photo courtesy of USDA ARS

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE | FUNDING ASSISTANCE | IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

SINKHOLES, SINKING STREAMS & CAVES

SILVICULTURE BMP #4

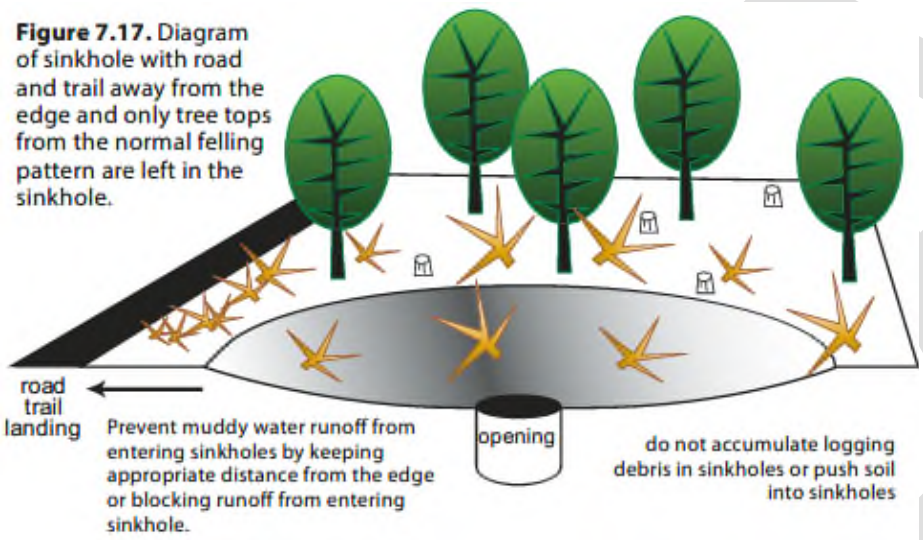

Figure Courtesy of Kentucky Logging BMP Field Guide

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 (💧-💧💧💧💧): 💧

Wildlife Benefits

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

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