

AG. WATER QUALITY ACT



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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

FUNDING ASSISTANCE

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

STREAMSIDE MANAGEMENT ZONES (SMZ)

SILVICULTURE BMP #3

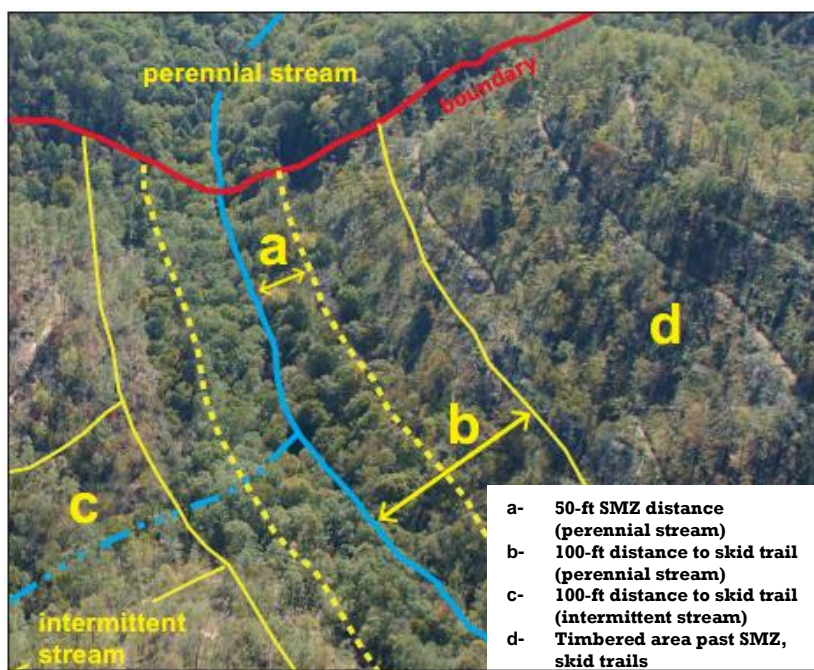


Photo courtesy of Kentucky Logging BMP Field Guide

Description:

A streamside management zone (SMZ) is a strip of woodland located adjacent to a stream or other water bodies used to maintain the integrity of the bank, and reduce the amount of sediment entering the water.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:

In areas adjacent to **perennial** and **intermittent streams**, lakes, or other **water bodies**, the use of **streamside management zones (SMZs)** is required. Management activities are acceptable within SMZs however; SMZ requirements for perennial, intermittent, and coldwater aquatic habitats must be followed. SMZ requirements include maintaining **original overstory trees** and minimum surface distances from the bank, with the exception of designated crossings, where the construction and/or use of roads, trails, and landings is avoided where feasible. 1) Adjacent to perennial streams and perennial water bodies, SMZs require retention of 50 percent of the **original overstory trees** for minimum surface distances of 25 feet on ground with less than 15% slope and 50 feet for ground with more than 15% slope. 2) Adjacent to perennial streams and perennial water bodies, SMZs require minimum surface distances for roads, trails, and landings of 50 feet on ground with less than 15 percent slope, and 100 feet for ground with greater than 15 percent slope. 3) In areas adjacent to designated **coldwater aquatic habitats**, SMZs require the retention of 75 percent of the **original overstory**

trees, and a minimum surface distance for roads, trails, and landings of 100 feet regardless of slope. Disturbance of understory vegetation in coldwater aquatic habitat SMZs should be minimized. 4) Adjacent to intermittent streams or other intermittent water bodies, SMZs require minimum surface distances for roads, trails, and landings of 50 feet on ground with less than 15 percent slope and 100 feet for ground with greater than 15 percent slope. 5) Except at designated crossings, roads, trails, and landings shall be located, where feasible, outside SMZ minimum surface distances. Where it is not feasible to maintain minimum required distances, extra measures are required during and after use to reduce and restrict down slope runoff to streams. These include the appropriate use of the following practices: minimizing road and trail grade; preventing runoff from accumulating at low points along roads, trails and landings; increasing water control structure frequency; and adequate use of logging debris and or other natural or manmade **sediment barriers** to stop or reduce down slope movement of runoff to streams. 6) Disturbed soil or logging slash including tops shall not be left in or have the potential to be washed into perennial or intermittent streams. 7) Logging slash that blocks the flow of water shall not be left in ephemeral channels. 8) Streams and ephemeral channels must not be used as roads, trails, or the loading of logs unless topography or other circumstance leaves no other alternative for access or when use of streams and channels would create less water quality degradation than constructing new or using existing roads and trails. In these circumstances the stream or channel bed should be used only for the minimum distance necessary.

Stream type	Overstory Width		Overstory Retained	Min. Distance to Roads, Trails, and Landings	
	Slope			Slope	
	<15%	>16%		< 15%	>16%
Regular Perennial	25'	50'	50%	50'	100'
Intermittent	0'		0%	50'	100'
CWAH	100'		75%	100'	

Technical References

University Publications

- See "[Streamside Management Zones](#)" in the current version of [Kentucky Forest Practice Guidelines for Water Quality Management](#) for detailed specifications concerning silvicultural activities in SMZs.
- See MR 3.1-3.8 in [Kentucky Logging BMP Field Guide](#) on pages 12-14, 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).