

Wildlife Best Management Practices (WBMPs) - Discussion Outline

- Make up of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) - Who drafted the WBMPs?
- Which state imperiled species “touch” the forest and forestry land uses?
- What do WBMPs look like?
- How does the WBMP process work?

Wildlife Best Management Practices for Forestry (WBMPs) - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

- The Technical Advisory Committee for forestry water quality BMPs is composed of:
state and federal agencies, biologists, environmental groups, private & public landowners
- FWC did a literature review on each species and their habitat needs (part of the WBMP process)
- A sub-group of the TAC drafted the WBMPs; the full TAC committee reviewed, revised and approved the WBMPs

Wildlife Best Management Practices for Forestry (WBMPs) - What species are covered?

- Summary of state imperiled species in a forestry context:
 - Total number of species - 16
 - Aquatic species - 10 (62% of the total)
 - Bird species - 4
 - Burrowing animal species - 2
- **Voluntary** WBMPs are used by landowners that desire “coverage” under incidental take rules
- These WBMPs are for forestry (silviculture); **not** for development land uses

Wildlife Best Management Practices for Forestry (WBMPs) - How WBMPs work for Aquatic Species

- For 10 aquatic species (Crystal darter, Harlequin darter, Bluenose shiner, Blackmouth shiner, Tessellated darter, Santa Fe crayfish, Black Creek crayfish, Barbour's map turtle, Georgia blind salamander, Florida bog frog)
- Landowners that follow water quality BMPs are already protecting aquatic habitat by using Streamside Management Zones (SMZs)
- Landowners that manage certified forests (SFI, FSC, ATFS, etc.) **OR** send wood to certified mills are already required to follow water quality BMPs and protect T&E species

SFI = Sustainable Forestry Initiative, FSC = Forest Stewardship Council; ATFS = American Tree Farm System

Wildlife Best Management Practices for Forestry (WBMPs) - How WBMPs work for Bird Species

- For 4 bird species (Little blue heron, Tricolored heron, Florida sandhill crane, Southeastern American kestrel aka sparrow hawk)
- Avoid heavy equipment operation within 330' of **heron rookeries** (Feb-May)
- Avoid heavy equipment operation within 400' of **sandhill crane nests** (found in non-forested wetlands) (Feb-May)
- Avoid heavy equipment operation within 490' of **kestrel nests** (found in open canopy uplands) (Mar-Jun); retain snags

Wildlife Best Management Practices for Forestry (WBMPs) - How WBMPs work for Burrowing Species

- For 2 burrowing species (Gopher tortoise (GT) and Burrowing owl)
- Avoid heavy equipment concentrations near “known and visibly apparent” burrows;
- Burrows do **not** need to be flagged, mapped, etc.
- Avoid direct contact with burrows year round
- Avoid direct contact with burrow aprons May-Sep (GT eggs)
- Minimize heavy equipment during Sep-Oct (hatchling mortality)

Wildlife Best Management Practices for Forestry (WBMPs) - How WBMPs work generally

- All Wildlife BMPs (WBMPs) are **voluntary**
- These WBMPs only apply to forestry uses (silviculture) and **not** development land uses
- Landowners can enroll in WBMPs on a species by species basis and a tract by tract basis
- Landowners notify FDACS they intend to use WBMPs using a Notice of Intent (NOI) form (like water quality BMPs)
- Landowners are then presumed to be compliant with incidental take provisions when following WBMPs

Wildlife Best Management Practices for Forestry (WBMPs) - Timeline

- The subgroup TAC developed and revised the WBMPs in 2013/2014
- The full TAC approved the WBMPs in December, 2013
- Public hearing was held on June 20, 2014
- WBMPs may be available for landowner use soon
- Landowners that manage certified forests (SFI, FSC, ATFS, etc.) **OR** send wood to certified mills are already **required** to follow water quality BMPs and protect T&E species

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Questions and Discussion



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