Forest Harvesting in CB Model

Forest Harvesting BMPs Definition

- Forest harvesting practices are a suite of BMPs that minimize the environmental impacts of road building, log removal, site preparation and forest management.

Forest Harvesting BMPs Credit

- Forest Harvesting BMPs get credit for reducing 50 percent of total nitrogen, total phosphorus, and total suspended sediment loading from disturbed forest lands.

State	2012 Forest Harvest BMPs (acres)	% of FH acres w/ BMPs (in model)
DE	2,631	100%
MD	23,957	82%
NY	0	0%
PA	13,289	14%
VA	123,258	93%
WV	14,630	98%

Verification Guidance on Forest Harvesting BMPs

- *Track total acres of forest harvest BMP implementation, or rate of implementation on private land, and conduct site visits after harvest to ensure proper installation. There are several options for tracking BMP implementation:*
  - State forestry agency documents that the project sites were visited and evaluated for forest harvest BMP establishment within 6 months of harvest and submits actual acres to NEIEN annually OR
  - State forestry agency will determine average rate of BMP implementation by on-site sampling (spot-checking) private land harvest sites within 6 months of harvest activity OR…

Verification Guidance on Forest Harvesting BMPs (con't)

…State forestry agency will determine an average rate of implementation by conducting a review of forest harvest records every 5 years. If using a sampling regime to determine rate of BMP implementation, use a confidence level of 80% (+/-5%).

- Forestry staff or Cooperative Extension Offices can assess the overall rate of BMP implementation by using data collected from local forest district offices or county environmental protection offices. Harvest plan reviews provide one such record. BMP implementation rates will only be credited after the first such review has been completed.

- The rate of BMP implementation can be determined by spot-checking a portion of total projects every 5 years. Derived, assumed, or anecdotal information on implementation is insufficient. The number of private acres reported as using Forest Harvest BMPs is calculated by multiplying the annual acres being harvested by the average BMP implementation rate for that 5-year period. A good source of information …SGSF

Verification Guidance on Forest Harvesting BMPs (con't)

- *States should describe their existing and planned inspection programs for Forest Harvest BMPs in Verification Protocols.*

- *Monitor use of forest harvest BMPs for Adaptive Management*
  - Assessing forest harvesting BMP implementation and function, and looking at specific categories of BMP practices, can address issues such as training needs for forestry personnel and forestry practitioners. It can also provide insights about whether BMPs themselves are adequate or need improvement. States should describe how they plan to use adaptive management in verifying the implementation and function of forest harvesting BMPs.

Forest Harvesting Expert Panel

- EPA will fund VATech to pull together a Panel of Experts
- Definition will be reconsidered
- Panel will also make recommendations regarding loading of disturbed forests
- FWG will be part of approval process
- Must be complete by October 2015