



**MDC WATERSHED MANAGEMENT:
Protecting the Water Supply at its
Source**

MDC's WATERSHED MANAGEMENT UNIT

- Responsible for protecting and managing over 30,000 acres of MDC lands in both CT and MA that drain to our supply reservoirs.



- Goal is to provide the cleanest water possible to our water treatment facilities.



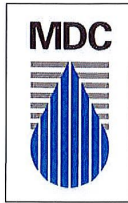
Watershed Forests

Forests are the most desirable land use for protecting drinking water supplies:

- Provide a natural filtration system
- Buffer reservoirs from pollutants
- Intercept runoff, moderate stream flows, stabilize soils
- Reduce the amount and cost of water treatment needed.

Green Infrastructure





The Metropolitan District
Watershed Forest
Management Plan



MDC Water Supply
Watershed Management Unit

MDC's Watershed Forest Management Plan - uses an ecosystem approach and provides information about watershed geology, soils, wildlife, biodiversity, cultural features, as well as a description of the extent and condition of the forest and timber resources. The plan establishes priorities and guides decision-making.



Goal of Watershed Forest Management

Promote a continuous cycle of healthy, diverse forest cover over time. A healthy forest is more resilient and better able to withstand disturbances. This reduces the risk that a single catastrophic event such as a hurricane, insect or disease infestation will destroy the entire forest and degrade soils and water quality. Diversity of tree species and age classes is critical.

Timber Harvest



Clean Water #1 Forest Product

MDC's commercial timber sales are harvested by contract loggers under careful planning, layout and supervision by MDC foresters.

Foresters and loggers are licensed by CT DEEP.



Spill Kits



- Oil absorbent pads
- Oil absorbent booms
- Speedy dry
- Plastic garbage bags
- Empty 5 gallon bucket
- Latex gloves
- Plug n Dike (Bentonite clay for temporarily plugging leaks in fuel tanks)
- Shovel

Management Challenges

- Deer destroy native plant communities
- Prevent tree regeneration and growth
- Eliminate the forest understory
- Increase the risk of soil erosion and runoff, causing water quality degradation
- Reduce biodiversity and affects long-term forest health





Slash Wall



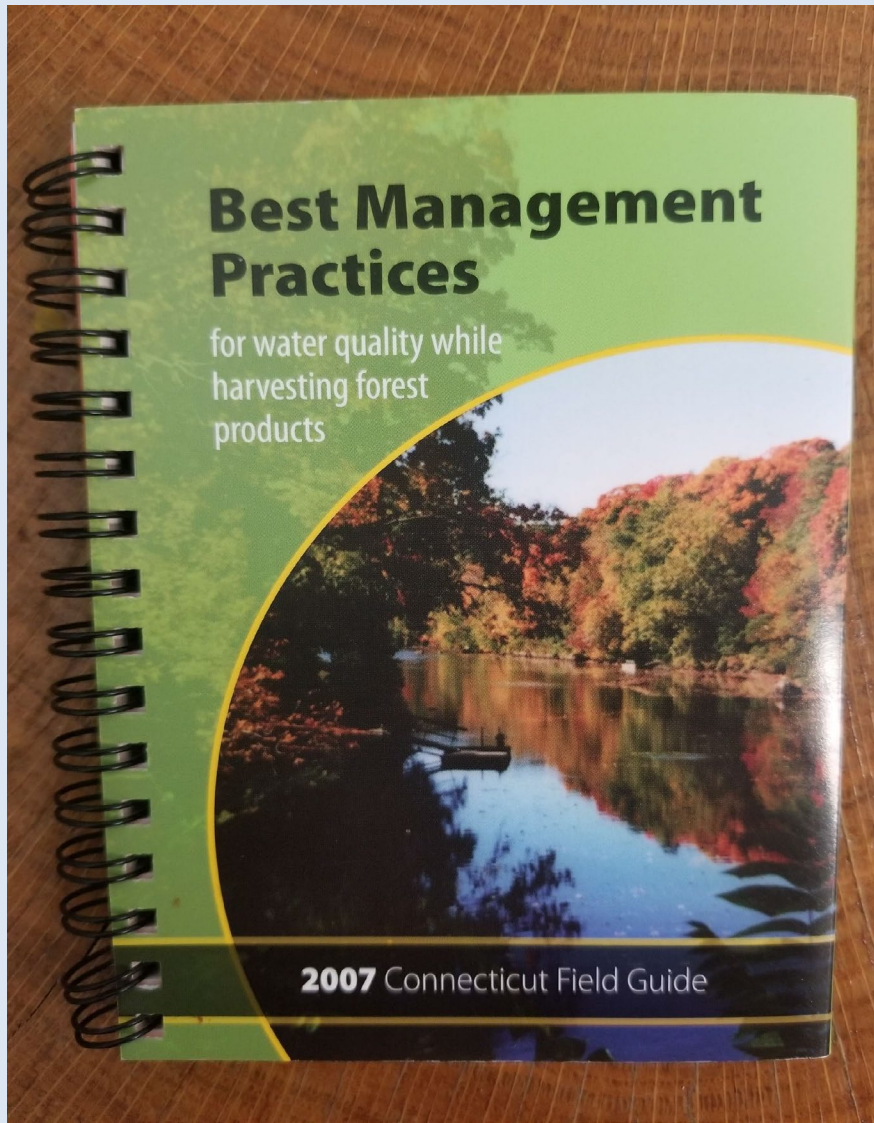
Inspecting Forestry Operations

- Contact Local Land Use Office
- Determine if the project may impact your watershed
- Contact the Forester or logging Contractor and **schedule inspection**
- Always wear high visibility clothing and hard hat while on site



Forestry Best Management Practices

<https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Forestry/Forest-Practitioner-Certification/Best-Management-Practices>



BMP Manual:

- Forestry Regulations
- Log Landings
- Skid Trails
- Stream Crossings
- Vernal pools
- Erosion and Sediment Control Techniques
- Hazardous Materials
- Post Harvest Clean Up

Log Landings



- Fuel Storage, Hazardous Materials, Leaking Equipment
- Tracking Pad

Stream Crossing



Post Harvest Stabilization



Hay and seed skid trails and Landings
Install water bars and straw waddles on slopes

