



# Best Management Practices Streamside Management Zones (SMZs) *Examples*

Forestry Topic 44

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Streamside Management Zones (SMZs)

- ◆ Proper SMZs protect stream temperature.
- ◆ SMZs provide a filter for water leaving the harvest site.
- ◆ SMZs create corridors for wildlife.
- ◆ Wider SMZs may be necessary for trout streams or steeper topography.

- ◆ All perennial and intermittent streams should have an SMZ.
- ◆ SMZs should be at least 50 feet in width.
- ◆ Harvesting is allowed within the SMZ, 50 percent of the crown cover may be removed.
- ◆ Minimize ground disturbance within the SMZ.
- ◆ Locate all decks, roads and trails outside the SMZ.



Streamside Management Zones (SMZs)

## \$ Savings \$

Leaving proper SMZs could result in a tax credit for the landowner. Under the Riparian Buffer Tax Credit, qualifying landowners may earn a tax credit for each acre of SMZ left on the property. Please contact your local Virginia Department of Forestry representative to discuss qualifications and procedures.



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