

## EROSION + SEDIMENT CONTROL

## EVALUATING A SITE

### IDENTIFYING + MONITORING CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN YOUR WATERSHED

IDENTIFY SITE

#### What to Look For:

- Zoning signs - attend County or City Planning Commission meetings to learn about upcoming development,
- Site clearing activities - watch for clearing activities and investigate with your local government,
- Other activities suggesting development,
- Muddy water flowing down/in streets (where is it coming from?),
- Muddy colored streams or waterways that normally do not look muddy (trace upstream to find source)
- Tracking of mud in roads (Is it coming from a construction site?)

#### Locate the Site on a Map

All rain water runs off construction sites to a nearby waterway. It can be very helpful to locate a construction site on a map in order to identify what waterway the site drains. Using a local road map or a topo map (see **Appendix D**) you can identify natural features, such as streams, hills, lakes, etc. Locating the site on a map will help the documentation process of obtaining a true picture of what is happening in the watershed.

### EVALUATING A CONSTRUCTION SITE

EVALUATE SITE

#### Using the Pictorial Field Guide

Once you have decided to document a construction site, remember, **Do Not Trespass**. Access the site either by coordinating a site visit with the local inspector or the public access roads. Look for low points on the site where water flows and problems may occur, i.e. silt fence failures, silt in streams. Think about where the water flows and evaluate your construction site using the **Pictorial Field Guide** and complete the **Site Report Card**.

#### Filling out the Site Report Card

Helpful Hints:

- BMP's are to be used as a system. For example: Silt fences with mulching with basins with check dams. All of the BMP's should work together to prevent sediment from leaving the site.
- Identify the BMP's on the site and answer the questions for each on the **Site Report Card**. (Use the green *Field Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control in Georgia* for additional technical information).

#### Calculating a Grade

- An "A" grade means the BMP is installed correctly and is working as designed.
- A "C" grade means the BMP is installed but needs maintenance, and an "F" grade means not installed, or installed improperly and completely failed.
- The "Grade" for each BMP is subjective based on the BMP required installation and what is actually observed.
- When "grading" the construction site, evaluate the entire site by giving it an OVERALL evaluation based on a summary of all the site BMP's.
- For Overall Grade, remember, this is not "rocket science". Is the approved Erosion and Sediment Plan being followed? Installed and maintained?



# GET THE DIRT OUT

Erosion + Sediment Control

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BMPs	<b>BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES [BMPs]</b>
	<p>BMP's are vegetative measures and structural practices that control erosion of soil and the resulting sedimentation. The law mandates that all BMP's stand up to a 25-year rainfall event or the land-disturber is subject to severe penalties. Good erosion control and sediment reduction does not require a rocket scientist or a "legal eagle". Planners and engineers should be providing Erosion + Sediment Pollution Control Plans [ESPCP] designed to protect the environment. In addition, the key to well-planned land disturbing activities is well-informed managers in the field. The temporary and permanent, structural and vegetative measures should be designed as a system to provide immediate and sustainable erosion + sediment pollution control. A good plan will save as much of the existing vegetation as possible and minimize disturbed areas.</p>
ESPCP OBJECTIVES	<b>OBJECTIVES of the EROSION + SEDIMENT POLLUTION CONTROL PLAN [ESPCP]</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Outlines Best Management Practices (BMP's) and sampling locations</li><li>2) Must be prepared by a design professional</li><li>3) Must be approved by the Local Issuing Authority (if there is one)</li><li>4) Plan must be kept current</li><li>5) Site must be visited by Design Professional within 7 days of beginning land disturbing activity.</li></ol>
	<p>In Georgia the <i>Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control</i> is used for designing the ESPCP and can be obtained from the <a href="http://www.gaswcc.org">www.gaswcc.org</a> website. ☺</p>



Keeping Watch Over Our Waters