

Recommended Best Management Practices

We recommend incorporating the following measures into the project design to protect water quality:

- Implement best management practices (BMPs) to minimize erosion and prevent sedimentation of drainages in the project area, both during and after construction.
- Develop an erosion control plan tailored to the site. All erosion controls should be inspected routinely, especially during and immediately following significant rain events, to ensure no impacts to nearby surface waters and aquatic habitat. Immediate corrective action should be taken if erosion or sedimentation is observed.
- Maintain a naturally vegetated buffer (preferably 100 feet or greater) adjacent to any ditches or drainages to reduce erosion and protect water quality.
- Immediately revegetate any disturbed areas with a native species or an annual grass.
- To the extent feasible, complete any work that results in exposed earth during periods when significant rainfall is not predicted.
- Conduct any work that involves clearing large tracts of land in phases, where practicable, with rapid revegetation upon completion of each phase.
- If possible, locate all work at least 100 feet from any nearby intermittent or permanent streams to reduce sediment runoff and subsequent turbidity in the stream and downstream.

For specific techniques, see “The Alabama Handbook for Erosion Control, Sediment Control and Stormwater Management on Construction Sites and Urban Areas” (2003), available from Alabama Soil and Water Conservation Committee or on-line (2002 version) at:

http://www.swcc.state.al.us/pdf/handbook_erosionctrl.pdf.