



# Twelve Key Forest Conservation Practices for Conserving Water Quality, Attenuating Peak Storm Flows, & Enhancing Flood Resilience in a Rapidly Changing Climate

by

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- ✦ **Retain** as much healthy forest cover as possible.
- ✦ **Monitor** forest health including soil erosion & compaction, water quality, and carbon sequestration & storage. (*Note: Focus on our water commons as a key indicator of forest health just as a blood test gives clues to human health.*)
- ✦ **Limit** access road, trail, and path extent to a total of 5% of the area served. (*Example: A 30-acre stand should have no more than 6,534 linear feet of 10-foot wide access road.*)
- ✦ **Aim** for 7% average grade of access roads, paths, and trails. (*Note: Lines of grace.*)
- ✦ **Build** access roads, trails, and paths, under dry summer conditions.
- ✦ **Use** broad-based dips to drain access roads, paths, and trails to the optimal extent. Avoid culverts when possible.
- ✦ **Install** erosion control at very frequent intervals. (*Note: The distance between erosion control structures in feet can be determined by dividing 700 by the slope of the road segment ---  $700 / 7\% = 100$  feet*)
- ✦ **Out-slope** access trails and paths. Avoid ditches to the optimal practical extent in order to reduce storm flow concentration.
- ✦ **Avoid** building access in areas that are over 35% slope or adjacent to streams and other waterbodies.
- ✦ **Log** under frozen winter conditions.
- ✦ **Use** forwarders rather than skidders to move timber from stump to log landing.
- ✦ **Directionally fell** low value timber across slopes and leave in place to slow, spread, and sink storm flows.
- ✦ **Work** to convert ditched watersheds to spongy catchments.

*May the forest be with you!*

