

Stream Crossing Permitting Guidance for Timber Harvesting Activities - Quick Reference Chart

For use for stream crossings on skid trail and land management roads only.

The Natural Resources Protection Act (NRPA)

The regulatory framework for any stream crossing, statewide.

Permit by Rule (PBR): Required for any permanent stream crossing spanning a river, stream or brook in organized municipalities. A Maine Forest Service (MFS) **PBR** form must be submitted to MFS including all attachments. A PBR may be found online at: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/rules_and_regulations.html.

Temporary crossings: No permit required. Stream crossings are considered temporary when they are in place for no more than 7 months in a calendar year. Any crossings involving fill in and adjacent to a river, stream or brook, such as culvert crossings, are not considered temporary.

Timing: If the crossing involves trenching or disturbance of substrate in a river, stream or brook between **October 2 and July 14**, the applicant must also submit a **Request for Approval** form to IFW. This form must be signed by IFW and submitted to MFS along with a PBR. This form may be found online at: https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mfs/rules_and_regulations.html.

Exemptions: Maintenance, repair and replacement of an existing crossing of a river, stream or brook is exempt from NRPA permitting provided that the crossing does not block fish passage in the water course and any replaced culvert meets current sizing standards, is not more than 25% longer than the culvert being replaced and is not longer than 75 ft.

Statewide Standards (SWS) aka Ch. 21

The regulatory framework in shoreland areas, in addition to the NRPA, in organized towns that have adopted SWS under Options 1 or 2.

Option 1 towns: Permanent stream crossings require a PBR.

Option 2 towns: Permanent stream crossings require a PBR. There may also be **local permitting requirements** for timber harvesting activities and/or the construction of land management roads.

Town Ordinance

The regulatory framework in shoreland areas, in additional to the NRPA, in towns that have not adopted SWS.

Permanent stream crossings require a PBR. There may also be **local permitting requirements** for timber harvesting activities and/or the construction of land management roads.

Ch. 27 Rules (Unorganized Territories)

The regulatory framework, in addition to the NRPA, in unorganized territories.

New permanent stream crossings on PSL-2 streams must be declared in a **Forest Operations Notification (FON)** and identified on a map, submitted as an attachment to the FON. In addition, a **Forest Operations Permit (FOP)** is required in the following subdistricts: P-MA, P-SG, P-RT and P-UA. A FOP may also be required in P-RR or P-FW subdistricts in some cases. Please contact MFS to verify.

A **Bridge Construction Permit (BCP)** is required for PSL-1 streams, great ponds and non-forested wetlands, as well as any crossing in the following subdistricts: P-AL, P-AR, P-FP, P-MA, P-RT, P-SG, and P-UA. A BCP may also be required in P-RR and P-WL subdistricts in some cases. Please contact MFS to verify.

Please contact MFS for additional guidance

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