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Title:

Comments: My UVA woodland is managed for areas of old growth, areas of timber harvest, and for clean drinking water. I read recently in the Vermont Woodlands quarterly newsletter that I should perhaps be considering larger buffer zones around my stream and places supporting amphibians (June and September, 2022). The article specifically called for buffers of 200 to 500 feet, restricting creation of any roads or trails. Does the Forest Service follow this guidance? I am under the impression that the Forest Service maintains much smaller buffer zones during timber harvests. Why is this, and why not honor larger buffers particularly with the region in drought / extreme dry conditions for several years now? The second article I read called for buffers around quality bird habitat; again, I do not see this guideline followed by the Forest Service.

These measures would seem to be common sense and good stewardship.