Forestry in proximity to water

Passing watercourse

Before a forest machine can pass a watercourse or ditch a bridge has to be made.

The bridge must be made so it doesn't damage the watercourse bottom or the surrounding ground nor be an obstacle for migrating fish and other organisms.

Sludge and clouding can cause problems for aquatic organisms

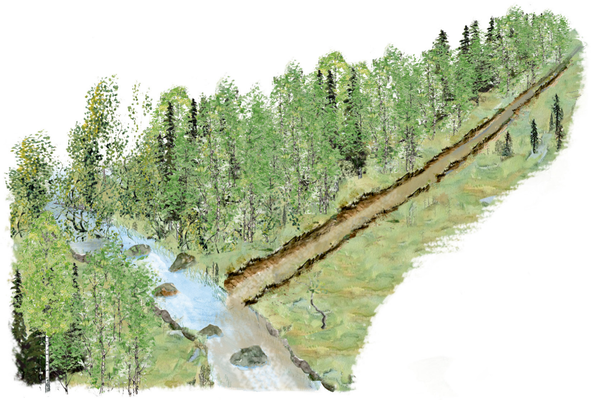
Transport of sludge can cause problems for several aquatic organisms. Many aquatic organisms filter the water to feed, others spin a fine net to catch plankton and small parts of plants. If there is a lot of sludge in the water it will be hard to filter and the fine nets will block and fall apart. In worst case organisms will disappear from the watercourse. For example this may affect the possibility for trout to find food. Sludge can also damage spawning grounds. The roe will die due to lack of oxygen and the spawning grounds cannot be used for many years.

Natural transport of sludge and silt

Transport of silt is an ongoing natural process that can be caused by the spring flood and heavy rainfalls. Most organisms are adjusted to this type of clouding as it only lasts for a short period of time. Many organisms even depend on vegetation falling into the water from the ground surrounding the watercourse. Clouding due to damage caused by forest machines may last for longer periods of time and is therefore more detrimental to the water-living organisms.

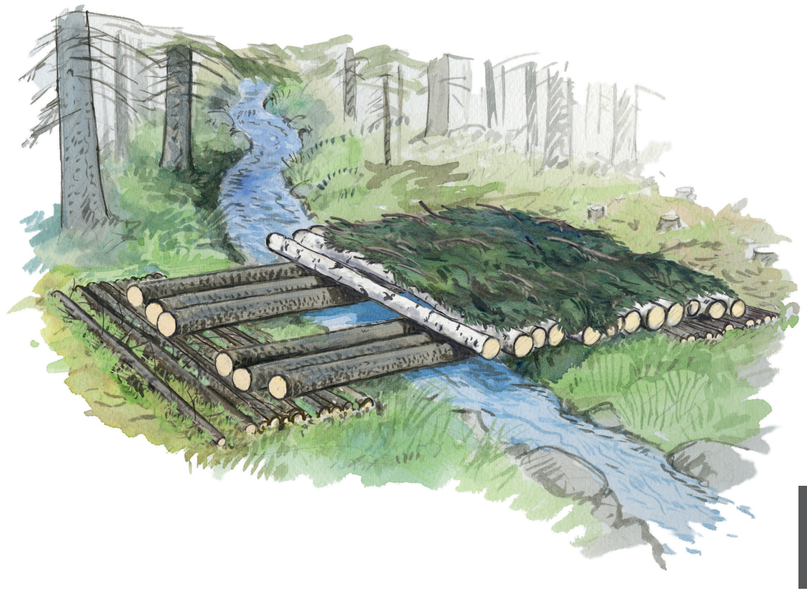
Ditches also need consideration

Tracks and damage to ditches and the surrounding ground have to be avoided. If the ditch is damaged and shredded, erosion can occur. Silt and clouding may be transported to watercourses and lakes. Therefore bridges have to be planned and built in the same way as bridges at watercourses.



Be aware of where the ditch go and where it ends. It is important to know what the ditch looks like where and where it ends in order tto avoid clouding inte the closest watercourse

Illustration: Bo Persson



Excample how a bridge can be built.

Illustration: Martin Holmer

"Do not drive over water-courses and ditches if you can.

If you are driving over a watercourse

Do not drive over watercourses and ditches unless you absolutely have to. If you don't have an alternative route and have to build a bridge, build it at the most convenient place. Build the bridge where you have dry ground and if possible where the terrain is flat. A bridge can be built from wood and logging debris from the area. It's also possible to use mobile bridges. It's very important to protect the ground next to the bridge with for example logs and logging debris.

The bridge shall be left until all the work that follows the harvesting is done, for example scarification. Remove the bridge when all the work is done or leave it if it's built from logs and logging debris

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