



## Georgia Portable Logging Bridge Cost-Share

The Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) has received approval from Georgia Environmental Protection Division (GA EPD) for a Clean Water Act 319(h) grant to be used to **provide cost-share funds toward the purchase of portable logging bridges for loan to loggers**. The bulk of the funding through this grant will go directly toward the purchase price of the portable logging bridges. The grant will be available to cost-share toward the construction of either steel or wooden bridges, however, each individual bridge constructed for the project will need to be maintained at least for the life of the grant, which is just over two years. **The grant is a 60% - 40% match grant, with the 60% being federal funds, and the 40% being in-kind match funds required.** It is important to note that match funds counted toward this grant cannot be from any other federal fund source.

**The GFC is soliciting partners from among Georgia's SFI member companies, as well as non-SFI members and wood dealers, to provide the necessary match funds** for construction and purchase of the portable logging bridges and to house and maintain each bridge so cost-shared and purchased at the bridge purchaser's facilities. Cost-share amount maximums are as follows:

- \$10,000 federal cost share for each steel bridge
- \$4,000 federal cost share for each wooden bridge

### **Portable Logging Bridge minimum specs:**

- Steel: Minimum 12 ft total width; 30 ft total length (one piece or panels); covered middle
- Wood: Minimum 8" oak cants; 12 ft. total width; 20 ft. total length (one piece or panels); covered middle

**\*\*Cost-share will be remitted as a reimbursement\*\***

Bridges will be housed, owned, and loaned out by each partner company as they see fit, but no rental or lease fees may be charged for bridge use. Companies may require refundable deposits.

Companies are required to track usage of the portable logging bridges and make a usage log available to GFC personnel. Tracts on which bridges purchased under this grant are being used at any particular time are subject to a GFC BMP exam to track BMP implementation, which is also part of the grant proposal. GFC will carry out at least six such BMP exams for each bridge purchased under this program, thereby providing a database of BMP exams for use by SFI members companies requesting such information. This BMP implementation information will also be reported back to GA EPD to document increased BMP implementation for forestry stream crossings. This grant is being sought as a way to show that proactive measures are being taken by GFC and its partners in dealing with the issue of BMP implementation at forestry stream crossings.

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