

Acid Producing Rock Formations

Many rock formations underlying National Forest System lands in western NC contain iron sulfide minerals.

Surface excavation can expose areas of sulfide-rich rocks to weathering which can lead to migration of acid runoff to surface water or leaching of acid runoff to groundwater.



North Carolina Division of Water Quality Standards

- **Avoid** areas underlain by acid rock
- **Minimize** excavation or blasting of acid rock
- **Collect** samples if 50 cubic yards or more are to be removed from an area
- **Test** samples for acid potential and neutralization potential
- **Remove** acid rock and place in a designated waste area in a dry, stable, upland area of the project
- **Treat** acid rock by mixing it with crushed limestone aggregate

Ranger District	Forest Service Road Miles overlaying acid rock formations
Appalachian	26
Cheoah	68
Grandfather	7
Nantahala	205
Pisgah	199
Tusquitee	70
Total	575

