

Heavy Use Area Protection

North Carolina Practice Job Sheet 561

Prepared for: _____

Prepared by: _____

Farm: _____ Tract: _____ Date: _____



Heavy use area: before.



Heavy use area: after.

DEFINITION

Heavy Use Area Protection is the stabilization of areas frequently used by people, animals, or vehicles by establishing vegetative cover, by surfacing with suitable materials, and/or by installing needed structures.

PURPOSES

Heavy Use Area Protection is used to (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Reduce soil erosion.
- ☐ Improve water quantity and quality.
- ☐ Improve air quality.
- ☐ Improve aesthetics.
- ☐ Improve livestock health.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

All planned work shall comply with Federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Foundation preparation consists of removing and disposing soil and other

materials that are not adequate to support the designed loads. A geotextile fabric is often installed under treatment areas for added stability. The surface treatment is designed to accommodate the expected type of traffic.

When stabilizing heavily used areas consider adjoining land uses and the proximity to residences, utilities, cultural resource areas, wetlands or other environmentally sensitive areas, and areas of special scenic value.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications shall be prepared for the specific field sites in accordance with the Heavy Use Area Protection NC NRCS Practice Standard (561) and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended uses. This plan is attached or will be received.

Do not begin construction without NRCS or District Approval.

Heavy Use Area Protection (HUAP) for Livestock (if applicable).

☐ Not applicable.

Field Number	Type of Livestock Operation	Number of Animals Accessing HUAP	Average Weight of Animals	Approximate Area of HUAP

Plant Materials information for Heavy Use Area Protection (if applicable).

☐ Not applicable.

Species	Permanent (P) or Temporary (T)	Seed (PLS) lbs./ac. or lbs./1000 sq. ft.	Mulch lbs./ac. or lbs./sq. ft.	Planting Dates

A. Fertilizer and Lime

- a. Fertilize and Lime according to current soil tests.

B. Site Preparation

- a. Site preparation (including removal of rocks, stumps and other obstructions) , all be the minimum necessary to ensure close contact of seeds or sprigs with the soil and to ensure safe and efficient operation of equipment.
- b. Herbicide may be used to control competing growth, but it is still critical to keep competing vegetation height to a minimum.
- c. Where conventional tillage seedbed preparation is necessary, prepare the seedbed across the dominant slope.
- d. The conventionally prepared seedbed should be firm enough to permit seed placement at the desired depth and protect against erosion. A firm seedbed should hardly reveal adult footprints. This will allow for placement of the seeds at a depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a inch into the soil.

Heavy Use Area Protection – Operation and Maintenance Requirements

Landowner: _____ Field Number: _____

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

This practice will require periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance. Your operation and maintenance program requirements include:

- ☐ Treatment areas, including curbs and push-off ramps, and associated practices, will be inspected annually for cracks, spalls or separations, and after significant storm events to identify repair and maintenance needs. All surfaces, structures, pipes, drains, and associated accessories will be repaired promptly.
- ☐ Maintain vigorous growth of vegetative coverings. This includes reseeding, fertilization and application of herbicides when necessary. Apply supplemental nutrients as needed to maintain the desired species composition and stand density. Control undesired weed species, especially state-listed noxious weeds.
- ☐ Maintain hardened surfaces in good condition, which includes periodic grading and addition of surface material when necessary. Prevent surface ponding by localized grading or addition of surface materials to remove depressions. Repair of surfaces will be made with material compatible with original construction materials.
- ☐ Remove debris or blockages from associated roads, lots, drainage ditches, drop inlets, culverts, waterways and/or storm water outlets. Maintain pathway drainage capacities.
- ☐ Eradicate or otherwise remove all rodents or burrowing animals. Immediately repair any damage caused by their activity.
- ☐ Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage to surfaces, structures, earthfills, side slopes, drainage facilities, water ways, storm water outlets, or other accessories.
- ☐ This O&M plan will be provided to, and discussed with the operator. For practices that address animal waste concerns, this O&M plan must complement the Animal Waste Management System Plan.
- ☐ For practices that address animal waste concerns, the operational requirements for managing the heavy use area and associated practices including planned scraping intervals, storage, treatment, and/or disposal methods are described below.
 - ☐ Periodic inspection will be performed to ensure that manure, wastewater, contaminated runoff, and other wastes are not flowing leaking, seeping, etc. away from the barnyard/bedded pack.
 - ☐ The livestock will be confined within the barnyard. Livestock will not be allowed to loaf, congregate, stand, etc. outside of the confines of the barnyard at any time.
 - ☐ The barnyard will be scraped on a daily basis whenever possible. A maximum of seven days between scrapings is allowable. The scraping interval may be increased when it is impracticable to scrape due to freezing weather. Scrape immediately once thawing starts. If necessary, frozen and dry manure can be stacked or stored on the barnyard for as long as one week.
 - ☐ The livestock waste from the barnyard will be scraped to an approved waste storage facility or be hauled away to be field stacked or land applied in accordance with the nutrient management plan.

- ☐ Roof gutters, diversions, and other practices installed to divert clean off-site runoff away from the barnyard, shall be frequently monitored and repaired as necessary.
- ☐ Manure shall not be stacked or stored outside the confines of the barnyard, except in designated storage facility.
- ☐ Bedded Pack Facilities:
 - a. The livestock are to be kept within the confines of the bedded pack facility. Livestock shall not be allowed to loaf, congregate, stand, etc. outside of the bedded pack facility at any time.
 - b. Bedding in the form of hay, straw, saw dust, corn fodder, etc. shall be put down on the bedded pack on a daily basis. Bedded pack shall be firm for livestock to stand on. If livestock are observed sinking into the "pack" more than 3 inches, additional bedding must be added to the "pack" immediately. Enough bedding shall also be applied to keep the livestock clean.
 - c. Any excess moisture in the bedded pack must be absorbed by the bedding material. If liquid is observed flowing, leaking or seeping from the facility, additional bedding must be added to the "pack" immediately.
 - d. Watering facilities shall be closely monitored. Additional bedding around watering facilities may be necessary to help dry up excess water from splashing, spillage, etc. Broken and leaking watering facilities shall be repaired immediately.