

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS

(Acre)

CODE 655

DEFINITION

A route, travel-way, or cleared area within a forest.

PURPOSE

- Provide access to forest stands for management.
- Provide access for removal and collection of forest products.
- Provide access to forested areas for recreation.
- Minimize on-site and off-site damage to resources during periods of access.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On forested areas.

CRITERIA

Trails and landings will be of a size, gradient, number, and location to economically and efficiently accomplish removal and collection of forest products while minimizing adverse on-site and off-site impacts. Adverse impacts include, but are not limited to, accelerated erosion, riparian zone degradation, stream channel and streambank damage, hydrology modification, other water resource damage, or unacceptable damage to advance regeneration, residual growing stock, or wildlife habitat.

Timing and use of equipment will be commensurate with site and soil conditions to maintain site productivity and minimize soil erosion, displacement, and compaction.

Trails and landings should be located to preserve aesthetics of the site.

Slash, debris, and vegetative material left on the site after construction will not present an unacceptable fire or pest hazard or interfere with the intended purpose.

Water bars, rolling dips, timber bridges, rock plunge pools, and other drainage measures for trails shall be of sufficient size, intervals, and gradient for adequate drainage and erosion control.

Trails and landings, where appropriate, should be sufficiently revegetated to control erosion.

Noxious plants will not be used for revegetation.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations.

CONSIDERATIONS

Assure safe ingress and egress to site.

Locate landings and trails to preserve the aesthetic quality.

Landings and trails may be closed for erosion control, safety and liability, and reduced maintenance costs.

Landings and trails may be used for wildlife food and cover plantings.

Landings and trails may be utilized as firebreaks.

Consider cultural resources when planning this practice. This practice may adversely affect cultural resources and should comply with General Manual Title 420, Part 401, during planning, prior to installation, and during maintenance.

Landings and trails should minimize habitat fragmentation and not adversely impact wildlife movement and critical habitat.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans will address proper design of trails and landings.

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

Specifications for revegetation of landings and trails should include species, timing and method of application, and required maintenance to ensure successful establishment.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Periodic inspections of landings and trails will be conducted and where necessary repairs will be made.

Landings and trails utilized as firebreaks will be properly maintained to accomplish this purpose.

Landings and trails no longer needed can be reclaimed by removing high maintenance structures, such as culverts and bridges, and can be restored to a vegetative cover by planting and seeding.

Noxious plants will be controlled in accordance with State law.