

FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

ME-655



Eroding forest trails reduce site productivity and cause water quality problems

Definition

Forest trails and landings are temporary or infrequently used routes, travel ways, or cleared areas within a forest. They are often steeper than permanent access roads and traffic may be limited or eliminated upon completion of logging or other use.

Purpose

Forest trails and landings are used to:

- Provide infrequent access to forest stands for management activities including fire suppression.
- Provide periodic access for removal and collection of forest products.



Use

Forest trails are used on forested areas where permanent access roads are not needed. They are not appropriate within streamside filter strips or immediately adjacent to water bodies except where needed for crossing. Landings are used for temporary storage of forest products until they are removed from the site.

Wildlife Considerations

Abandoned trails and landings offer an opportunity to provide additional wildlife food plots, bugging areas for birds, and shrubs for food and nesting cover. Areas selected for wildlife plantings include log landings, and gently sloping sections of trails where the soil is suitable for establishing vegetation with normal farming practices.

Criteria

Forest trails and landings usually require structural measures to manage runoff and vegetative treatment to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation. Water flows must be controlled using techniques such as out-sloping, broad-based dips, water bars, and rock plunge pools. Refer to the Stream Crossing Practice Standard and Specifications (578) for installing or repairing water course crossings. Cut and fill slopes and the travel surface must be stabilized with appropriate vegetation or material. Trails that do not concentrate water and have adequate cover usually do not require treatment. New plantings must be protected from traffic with some form of use exclusion.

Water Bars

Water bars can be used on trails up to 25 percent grade and should be installed at a down-slope angle of 30 degrees or less depending on the grade of the trail. Steeper trail grades require less down-slope angle. The outlet of the water break should be open to prevent water from accumulating,

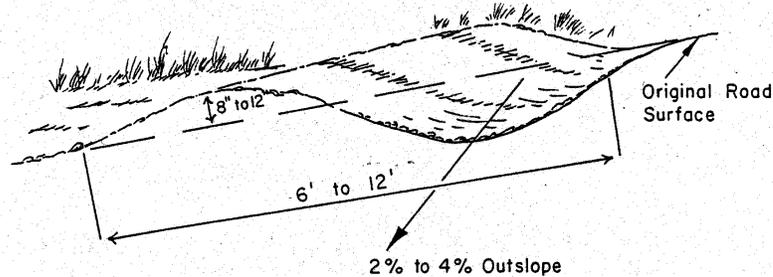
adequate outlet protection, additional practices such as plunge pools will need to be considered. Water bars should be spaced according to the following table as outlet conditions allow.

Percent (%)	Feet
1 - 2	250 - 400
3 - 5	135 - 250
6 - 10	80 - 135
11 - 15	60 - 80
16 - 20	45 - 80
21+	<45

Note: The steeper the slope, the closer together the water bars should be.

Operation and Maintenance

Upon completion of logging, temporary measures should be eliminated or replaced with permanent bars, trails properly graded and out-sloped if needed, and the entire disturbed area seeded following the recommendations on the attached specifications sheet. Trails should be inspected during the establishment period to



SHALLOW WATER BREAK

and be protected by a buffer or filter zone of undisturbed forest floor to clean the sediment out of the water and prevent erosion. When the site does not provide

ensure that drainage systems and structures for water control are properly functioning and that vegetation has attained full coverage.

Forest Trails and Landings - Job Sheet

Name:	County:	Town:
Field(s):	Farm#:	Tract #:
Designed By:	Approved By:	
	Signature:	
Date:	Date:	

Purpose		
Forest Management Logging	Wildlife Habitat Erosion Control	
Layout and Dimensions (Refer to 655 Specification Guide Sheets to complete)		
Water Bars:	No: _____	Spacing: _____
Stream Crossings (from practice Code 578):	No: _____	Type & Size: _____
Cross Culverts (> 15" and <24"):	No: _____	Type & Size: _____ Spacing: _____
Outlet Protection Structures:	No: _____	Type & Size: _____
Landing/Trail - Cut Slope	Landing/ Trail - Surface	Landing/Trail - Fill Slope
Width (Height): Length:	Width: Length:	Width: Length:
Total Length (ft): _____	Average Width (ft.): _____	Total area (ac) or 1000Ft. ² _____
Erosion Control Measures:		
Use Exclusion required:	No: _____	Yes: _____ Type: _____
Additional location and layout requirements:		
If Permit or Review is required, has it been obtained? Y or N _____ Permit No. _____		

Questions regarding forest trails and landings should be directed to [name of technical specialist], at [phone number].

Plant Materials Information (Refer to ME Standard 342 for appropriate species)					
Species	Seed lbs./ac. or lbs./ 1000Ft. ²	Lime Lbs./ac. or lbs./ 1000Ft. ²	Fertilizer lbs./ac. or lbs./1000Ft. ²	Mulch lbs./ac. or lbs./1000Ft. ²	Planting Dates
Erosion Control					
Wildlife					

NEPA requirements met, including cultural resource assessment? _____ Permits required? _____ Permit No. _____ (if Yes)

Site Preparation
Planting Method (s)
Broadcast _____ Drilled _____
Maintenance Requirements – Check as Appropriate
Water Bars Functioning _____ Trails Outsloped _____ Inspect Periodically _____
Trails Properly Graded _____ Vegetation Established _____ Access Limited _____
COMPLETION/CHECKOUT CERTIFICATION

I have job approval authority and certify this practice has been applied and meets design specifications:

NRCS Representative name and title (type or print):		
NRCS Representative Signature:		Date:

As-Built Notes (include date completed by client, treated acres and describe any changes to original design):

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