

Forest Trails And Landings

North Carolina Practice Job Sheet 655

Prepared for: _____

Prepared by: _____

Farm: _____ Tract: _____ Date: _____



Eroding forest trails reduce site productivity and cause water quality problems.



Stabilized trails improve water quality and increase property values.

DEFINITION

A temporary or infrequently used route, path or cleared area within a forest.

PURPOSE

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

CRITERIA

Minimum access road width will normally be 10-14 feet for a single track. Width will be increased as necessary at curves and turnouts.

Trails and landings will be located and configured to minimize adverse onsite and off-site impacts such as erosion, streambank damage, hydrology modification, etc. (refer to NC Standard 655).

Construct forest trails and landings on areas with adequate drainage.

Trails must not follow the drainage path of any perennial, intermittent, or ephemeral stream.

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

Slash, debris, and vegetative material left on site will not interfere with the intended purpose nor present a fire or pest hazard.

Bridges, culverts, or stable at-grade crossings are to be used when crossing streams. Stream crossings should be made at right angles wherever possible.

Trails and landings shall be revegetated to control erosion.

Protection against locally invasive and noxious plants is required. (Refer to Pest Management Standard 595).

Washed, crushed stone should cover the last 100 ft of a primary trail before it intersects a public paved highway.

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CONSIDERATIONS

On steep terrain, locate landings as high on the slope as practical using a fan pattern of primary ski trails that converge at the landing.

Favor native species when vegetating trails and landings.

Landings and trails may be utilized as firebreaks.

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 outsloping, broad-based dips, water breaks, and pipe crossings.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

- Conduct periodic inspections.
- Restrict traffic and delay hauling when soil moisture conditions become too wet
- Close landings and trails when and where needed for erosion control, safety, liability, and reduced maintenance costs.

Forest Trails and Landings - Specifications Sheet

Landowner _____ Field Number _____
 Farm Number _____ Tract Number _____

Purpose	
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest Management	<input type="checkbox"/> Removal and collection of forest products.

Layout and Dimensions		
Cut Slope	Trail Surface	Fill Slope
Width (Height):	Width:	Width:
Length:	Length:	Length:
Total Length (ft):	Average Width (ft.):	
Å		
Total area (ac) or 1000Ft. ²		
Additional location and layout requirements:		

Plant Materials Information					
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					
1.					
2.					
3.					
Wildlife					
1.					
2.					
3.					

Site Preparation

Planting Method (s)
Broadcast _____ Drilled _____

Maintenance Requirements – Check as Appropriate		
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Breaks Functioning	<input type="checkbox"/> Trails Outsloped	<input type="checkbox"/> Inspect Periodically
<input type="checkbox"/> Trails Properly Graded	<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation Established	<input type="checkbox"/> Access Limited

