

Landowner _____



WHAT ARE FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS?

Forest trails and landings consist of a temporary or infrequently used route, path or cleared area.

PURPOSE

- Provide routes or infrequent travel by people or equipment for management activities.
- Provide periodic access for removal and collection of forest products.

HOW IT HELPS THE LAND

Forest trails and landings, whether planned or existing, include developed trails, skid roads, and log landing sites to accommodate forestry management. Properly constructed or maintained forest trails and landings minimize adverse onsite and off-site impacts such as accelerated erosion, riparian area degradation, stream channel and streambank damage, hydrology modification, aesthetics, unacceptable damage to advance regeneration, residual growing stock or wildlife.

WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

Forest trails and landings are applicable on forested areas where access is needed for forestry management.

WHERE TO GET HELP

For assistance in planning a conservation crop rotation, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service or Conservation District Office.

APPLYING THE PRACTICE

- Avoid locating trails and landings on poorly suited soils of low-bearing strength and sites such as wetlands, riparian areas, critical wildlife habitat, or other environmentally sensitive areas.
- Locate trails on the contour to the greatest extent possible and incorporate breaks in grade (rolling dips or rolled grades) for trails on slopes.
- Where topography permits, locate trails along the crests of ridges.
- Skid logs uphill or on the contour, as practicable, to minimize mechanical displacement of soil.
- Trails and landings will be set back from water courses.
- Stream crossings will be minimized in size and number. Where practical, stream crossings will be made at right angles to the main channel.

- Landings should be located on well-drained, gently sloping ground in advance of trail construction.
- Locate landings where an optimum trail pattern can be developed to suit the terrain, and utilize maximum skidding distances when locating landings.

MAINTAINING THE PRACTICE

Regularly and timely inspections for adverse effects will be conducted with trails and landings and associated measures maintained or restored as necessary.

Trails and landings no longer needed should be decommissioned.

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