

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD  
RHODE ISLAND**

**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 onsite and off-site damage to resources during periods of access.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On forestland.

**CRITERIA**

***General Criteria Applicable To All Purposes***

**Laws and Regulations.** All Federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations, including local inland wetland agency regulations, governing the construction and use of this practice as well as setbacks from wells, surface water and property boundaries shall be followed. Planned work shall comply with all federal, state, and local laws and permit conditions and requirements. **The landowner shall obtain all necessary permits prior to construction or any land clearing activities.**

Trails and landings will be of a size, gradient, number and location to economically and efficiently accomplish the intended purpose

and expected users and equipment. They shall be configured to minimize adverse onsite and off-site impacts such as accelerated erosion, riparian zone degradation, stream channel and streambank damage, hydrology modification, other water resource damage, aesthetics or unacceptable damage to advance regeneration, residual growing stock, wildlife habitat, fragmentation, or restrict wildlife movement.

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

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 shall be sufficiently revegetated to control erosion.

Select plants that according to federal, state, or local regulations are not considered invasive or noxious.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

Native plant species or mixes that are adapted to the site and have multiple values should be considered.

## **CONSIDERATIONS**

Assure safe ingress and egress to site.

Locate landings and trails to preserve aesthetic qualities.

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 and environmental concerns such as threatened and endangered species of plants and animals, natural areas and wetlands.

## **PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans and specifications shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose. Plans and specifications shall include construction plans, drawings, job sheets or other similar documents. These documents shall as a minimum, specify the requirements for installing the practice and include the kind, quantity and quality of materials to be used.

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.

To the extent practical, specifications shall conform to NRCS National Engineering Handbook Parts 642 and 643 (Section 20).

## **AS BUILT DRAWINGS**

As built drawings shall be prepared which show all pertinent elements and elevations as actually installed. A copy shall be provided to the owner / operator upon construction completion.

## **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

An Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plan shall be prepared for, reviewed and signed by the landowner or operator. The plan shall specify that the treated areas and associated practices are inspected annually and after significant storm events to identify repair and maintenance needs.

The O&M plan shall detail the level of repairs needed to maintain the effectiveness and useful life of the practice.

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

Landings and trails no longer needed shall have high maintenance structures, such as culverts and bridges removed, and have vegetative cover restored by planting and seeding.