

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS

(Ac.)

CODE 655

DEFINITION

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

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

PURPOSE

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

Drainage and erosion control measures for trails shall be used and located to minimize water flows and erosion rates to acceptable levels.

Trails and landings shall be revegetated to control erosion as needed. Refer to the standard Critical Area Planting, 342. Locally invasive and noxious plants will not be used for revegetation.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

Trails and landings are applicable on forested areas. Refer to the standard Access Roads, 560, for travel-ways that will be designed and used frequently or repeatedly for vehicular traffic.

Measures, including the use and treatment of equipment, will be used to control or protect against locally invasive species. If pesticides are used, refer to the Standard Pest Management, 595.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations and follow recognized Best Management Practices (BMPs) developed for Louisiana.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable To All Purposes

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

They shall be located to minimize adverse onsite and off-site impacts such as accelerated erosion, riparian area degradation, stream channel and streambank damage, hydrology modification, aesthetics 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.

CONSIDERATIONS

Assure safe ingress and egress to site.

Locate landings and trails to preserve aesthetic qualities.

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

Favor native species for revegetating trails and landings.

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

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.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Periodic inspections of landings and trails will be conducted and maintained as necessary.

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

Landings and trails shall be closed when and where needed for erosion control, safety and liability, and reduced maintenance costs. Refer to the standard Access Control, 472.

Landings and trails no longer needed, and not used as a firebreak, can be retired. They shall be sufficiently revegetated as needed.