

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

ROAD/TRAIL/LANDING CLOSURE AND TREATMENT

(Feet)

Code 654

Category I – Road /Trail/Landing Access Restriction

This treatment involves the placement of a permanent or temporary barrier that prevents access to road or trail. This access can be either selective or non-selective with respect to what is allowed on to a road or trail. A road closure may bar roadway vehicles but allow for recreation vehicle use. It may also be selective to only allow for foot traffic and not allow. motorized-wheeled traffic.

Planning considerations include gating access with key or combination locks that allow for motorized traffic for safety, maintenance or future use. Interruption of access may cause a change in traditional use and potential safety issues, consult with local fire officials and adjoining landowners and research deeds and other legal documents that may indicate a prescribed access or other access not know to the present owner.

Specifications-

Gates and Fences can be constructed out of wood or metal. Materials used will meet the following standards.

Wooden materials will be treated for decay and rot through a commercially recognized process such as ACQ with a 0,50 retention.. Wooden post will be a minimum 6 inches in diameter and be placed a minimum of 24 inches in the ground and bedded and back filled with clean gravel. Metal posts will a minimum of 4 inches in diameter and have a wall thickness of ¼ inch.

Commercially purchased gates will be installed according to manufactures instructions. Locally fabricated gates will need the approval of an NRCS

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representative before being allowed for practice installation. Locally fabricated gates will be constructed to meet the intended purpose of the installation.

Non gate/fence barriers will be of sufficient size or construction that prevents movement, removal or destruction by local use or equipment. Use of rocks, boulder or large logs is allowed if they meet the intent of the practice. As a general rule, physical objects used for closure should be secure or of sufficient size that they can not be easily moved by the use that is being restricted.

Berms, Dips and Holes can also be constructed so that the targeted method of access will be restricted and the objective for closure will be met.

Requirement for all closures:

Site will be stabilized to prevent erosion when needed

All installations will be clearly visible and identifiable as to not allow access and will include notice of road and trail closure that is clearly visible to approaching traffic and use where needed.

The use of suspended cables, chains, ropes will not be allowed as part of this installation.

Category II – Road /Trail/Landing Closure – Removal of Structures

Road and trail treatments involving the removal of bridges, culverts and other structures. The structures removed can yield improved stream habitat and riparian area as well as limit travel. The removal can be designed to prevent passage or to permit low water passage by using hardened stream bottom crossings.

Conservation practice specifications are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this specification, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service Alaska [State Office](#), or download it from the electronic [Field Office Technical Guide](#) for Alaska

Code 655 -2

Category II road/Trail/Landing closure can also be accomplished by the installation of a narrow based depression or removal of a segment of road bed, where a structure once existed.

Specifications-

Removal with hardened crossings

Will be designed according to AK standard 578 Stream Crossing

Removal with no intended crossings allowed

- Side slopes will be between 2:1 and 3:1
- Side slopes will be properly vegetated or be conditioned to allow for the natural establishment of native channel vegetation Utilization AK standard 580 Stream bank and Shoreline Protection or Critical Area Planting AK 342 as appropriate.
- Up slope drainages will be diverted before the treated slopes
- Water channel slope and width will be returned to the normal channel grade for that particular reach, it should include associated flood plane plain configurations if deemed to be practical in the design.
- Material in the stream channel will mimic the up slope characteristic of that particular reach

Requirement for all structure removals:

Site will be stabilized to prevent erosion if needed

All installations will be clearly visible and identifiable as to not allow access and will include notice of road and trail closure that is clearly visible to approaching traffic and use, where needed.

Restoration of perennial water channels will occur within the job approval authority of the planner or with consultation with NRCS engineering staff.

Category III Treatment of Road/Trail/Landing Surface

Road surfaces can be treated to decrease compaction, increase infiltration and water holding capacity by mixing the road construction materials with underlying soil materials.

Materials can be brought to the surface through a variety of methods. The end results will be a soil that will support woody vegetation either through planting or natural vegetation.

Specifications

Roads and trails can be treated to allow for either natural or applied revegetation.

Treatment will involve the manipulation of the road surface and or bed by the disruption of soil compaction and the incorporation of fine soil materials into the road building materials.

This can be accomplished through a variety of mechanical methods. At a minimum, the ½ of the road surface will have adequate fines that will allow for water retention and plant growth within 4 inches of the surface. Road compaction will be removed from ½ of the surface area to a depth of 1 foot on at least ½ of the surface area.

Minimum fines percentages in the road bed will be based site conditions and what is needed in terms of vegetation re-establishment.

Considerations

Sites can be left to natural regeneration with or without the aid of fertilization. Area can also be re-seeded or planted to species that will enhance wildlife and beneficial insect habitat or planted to increase forestry production.

Consider the impacts of invasive weeds and plan accordingly to limit the potential spread of non desired species in the these disturbed areas

Category IV – Road Bed Removal and Restoration.

Removal or treatment of road/trail/landing building materials to encourage the development of native vegetation either through planting or natural regeneration.

Specifications-

Road/trail/Landing Surface and/or Base Removal

Removal of road base involves the excavation of the material, with the removal to an off site location or the use of the materials to re-establish the land profile by restoring previous cut and fill areas to a more natural condition. Areas need not be fully restored to the exact conditions that existed before road/trail construction. Materials can be removed and reused for road building or used to fill borrow areas. Road materials can also be used to construct berms to restrict access.

Materials will not be used to fill wet areas or spread over existing forest land other than for the construction of new roads and trails.

Treatment without restoration of grades and profiles and or removal of materials

Considerations: Sites can be left to natural regeneration with or without the aid of fertilization. Area can also be re- seeded or planted to species that will enhance wildlife and beneficial insect habitat or planted to increase forestry production.

Consider the impacts of invasive weeds and plan accordingly to limit the potential spread of non desired species in the these disturbed areas

Planning and Documentation Requirements.

- Specifications will be documented on a 654 Job sheet.
- Include revegetation specifications if needed
- Address noxious weed concerns.
- when working with streams consultation with engineering staff is required when designing stream channels

Operation and Maintenance

Monitor for weeds if there is a concern.

Establish a vegetation maintenance program if the species chosen for planting requires fertilization, mowing or other periodic treatments.

Inspect all water crossing yearly for the life of the practice.