

FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS**655****CONSERVATION PRACTICE FACT SHEET****DEFINITION**

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

PURPOSES

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

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PRACTICE INFORMATION

Forest trails and landings are planned prior to a scheduled harvest to provide strategic locations to assemble and transport harvested logs.

The conservation objective is to minimize onsite and offsite damage to the other natural resources.

Planning and application of this practice require the following considerations:

1. Timing and use of equipment will be planned so that site productivity is maintained and soil disturbance is held to a minimum. Usually, sedimentation from logging is less during dry weather. Dry times are the best times to plan logging activities so as to have minimal impacts on soil productivity and water quality.
2. For highly erodible areas, plan the harvest activities so as revegetation efforts occur at the time of the year when it is favorable for vegetation establishment.
3. After the harvest, construct water bars, dips, and wing ditches for skid trails per specifications. Pay attention to slope and soil type as it dictates type of structure and spacing requirements. Usually, a water bar or dip is

constructed at approximately every 5 feet change in elevation.

4. Skid logs on contour or uphill (with front ends of the logs off the ground) as practicable to minimize mechanical displacement of soil.
5. Trails and landings will be set back from water bodies and streams so as not to affect riparian areas or stream side management zones.
6. Direct water flow onto the forest floor and not directly into streams.
7. Remove all temporary fill and significant logging debris from streams.
8. Minimize the number of stream crossings. Always cross streams at a right angle.
9. Trails and landings, particularly after usage, may be utilized and managed for wildlife food and cover plantings.
10. Properly located trails and landings may be utilized and managed as firebreaks.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are on file in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

Refer to Arkansas Best Management Practice Guidelines for Silviculture for further design considerations and diagrams.