



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

**Temporary Stream/Wetland Crossings
655 - Forest Trails and Landing
Implementation Requirements**

Landowner: _____

Program: _____

Location: _____

Contract Number: _____

Tract Number: _____

County: _____



- Temporary crossings shall be used for stream and wetland (wet area) crossings on forest trails, instead of permanent crossings, when they will meet the resource concern(s).
- The primary purposes of a temporary crossing are: to prevent excessive sediment from entering surface waters, and to prevent habitat degradation.
- Timber mats are required because they provide better protection to the resource than alternatives, are cost effective, and prevent the long-term impact of a permanent crossing.
- If frequent access is required to meet resource needs, a permanent crossing may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Expected Results:

The best possible protection will be provided for stream/wetland crossings, avoiding the negative impact of harvest equipment driving directly through the crossing, the impact of cutting trees and placing them in the crossing for corduroy, and the cost and long term impact of a permanent crossing.

Note: Landowner is responsible for obtaining required permits and/or approvals.

Refer to attached Conservation Plan Map(s) or Location Sketches (show location of practice on property and other notable landmarks for reference)

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Temporary Crossing Requirements Checklist (N/A if not applicable):

- ___ Mats are constructed of squared timbers that are bolted together. (Other portable prefabricated bridge structures may be approved by NRCS)
- ___ Wet areas: Timber mats are placed adjacent to each other to form a continuous mat across the sensitive area.
- ___ Channels with flowing water: Timber mats are installed such that they span the channel to prevent blocking the flow of water and to minimize the movement of soil into the water.
- ___ Streams of considerable volume: Measures are in place to prevent the mats from being moved by high water, especially to prevent them from forming a dam (attach to trees, etc.).
- ___ Skidder: The crossing is a continuous deck the width of the skid trail so logs are not dragged through the crossing.
- ___ Forwarder: When warranted by site conditions, placing mats in the area between the wheel tracks may be waived if agreed upon by the NRCS, the operator and the landowner.
- ___ Corduroy is required for muddy conditions to help remove mud from tires prior to crossing the mat. The minimum length of corduroy at each end of the crossing is one tire/track revolution (tire diameter x 3.2). It may also be installed as needed at the ends of the crossing to help transition onto the mats.

Photograph crossing if possible.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Notes:

Operation and Maintenance:

- The condition of the crossing will be checked daily and accumulated soil will be shoveled off of the crossing as needed to prevent it from going into the water resource.
- Corduroy shall be maintained/added as needed to meet resource concerns.
- Additional mats may be required as the crossing is used or with changing weather/site conditions.
- Remove temporary crossing and stabilize site when the management activity has been completed.

Operators and landowners may be referred to the publication *Best Management Practices for Water Quality While Harvesting Forest Products* for additional information on reducing environmental impacts during forest harvest operations (DEEP Forestry website, Publications, Best Management Practices).