

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

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 forested areas.

CRITERIA

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

Trails and landings will be of a size, gradient, number and location to accomplish the intended purpose(s) and expected users and equipment. They shall be configured to minimize adverse onsite and off-sites impacts. Adverse impacts include, but are not limited to, accelerated erosion, riparian zone degradation, stream channel and streambank damage,

hydrology modification, other water resource damage, and aesthetics. Avoid unacceptable damage to advance regeneration, residual growing stock, wildlife habitat, fragmentation, or to restriction of wildlife movement.

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, and other drainage measures for trails shall be of sufficient size, intervals and gradient for adequate drainage and erosion control.

Trails and landings, where appropriate, shall be sufficiently revegetated to control erosion.

Noxious plants will not be used for revegetation.

Comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including the state's Best Management Practices (BMPs), during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

ADDITIONAL CRITERIA

Access Roads

Guidance for construction of main roads to access the forest trails and landings is contained in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Access Road, Code 560.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Vegetation

Disturbed areas will be established to vegetation immediately after construction. Seedbed preparation, fertilization, liming, seeding and mulching will be in accordance with NRCS Conservation Practice Standard, Critical Area Planting, Code 342.

Temporary vegetation may be used when conditions or seeding dates are not suitable for the established of permanent vegetation.

Native grasses and vegetation that provide wildlife food and/or habitat are the preferred species for establishing permanent vegetation on forest harvest trails and landing.

CONSIDERATIONS

Assure safe ingress and egress to site.

Locate landings and trails to preserve the aesthetic quality.

Police landings and trails to remove refuse and garbage.

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.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

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 can be “put to bed” by removing high maintenance structures such as culverts and bridges, and can be restored to a vegetative cover by planting and seeding.

REFERENCES

NRCS Conservation Practices Standards
Code 560 Access Road
Code 342 Critical Area Planting
Code 645 Wildlife Upland Habitat
Management