

FOREST TRAIL AND LANDING (Water bar)

Georgia Practice Job Sheet-655

Prepared for: _____

Prepared by: _____

Farm: _____ Tract Number: _____ Date: _____



DEFINITION

A hump or small dam-type surface drainage structure used to close abandoned roads, skid trails, and fire lines to apply erosion control practice (water bars).

PURPOSE

Forest trails and landings are used:

- On forested areas.
- Provide access to forest stands for management and recreation
- Minimize on-site and off-site damage to resources during periods of access by controlling erosion during construction, during use, and upon completion of use.

Areas where soil erosion occurs and (water bars) can be applied:

FOREST ROADS

- Roads should be properly planned and located.
- Roads should generally follow the contour as much as possible.
- Grades should be kept below 10 percent where practical.
- Grades of 12 to 25 percent may occur for short distances (200 to 300 feet).

SKID TRAILS AND LANDINGS

- Skid trails should not run straight up and down the slope but along a gradual angle across the slope to reduce the velocity of runoff water.
- The grade of skid trails should not exceed 12 percent except for short sections (300 feet or less)

where the grade may be up to 25 percent.

- Landings should preferably be located on sites with good drainage and slopes of 2 to 5 percent.

FIREBREAKS

- Firebreaks should be constructed on grades preferably 15 percent or less.
- Grades of 15 to 20 percent may occur for short distances (up to 300 feet).

Mechanically Site Prepared Areas

- Mechanical site preparation should be excluded from soils with slopes exceeding 25 percent.
- Disking should be limited to soils with slopes of 10 percent or less and the contour.

CRITERIA

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.

See general criteria for water bar spacing for the following applicable purposes:

Maximum Spacing for Water Bars When Retiring Temporary Access Roads

| Road Grade (percent) | Distance Between Water Bars (feet) |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 2 | 245 |
| 5 | 125 |
| 10 | 80 |
| 15 | 60 |
| 20 | 50 |
| 25 | 40 |

Design and Installation of Turnouts Spacing and Turnouts

| Road Grade (percent) | Spacing (feet) |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 – 5 | 500-300 |
| 6 – 10 | 300-200 |
| 11 – 15 | 200-100 |
| 16 – 20 | 100 |

Spacing of Water Bars on Skid Trails and Firebreaks

Grade of Skid Trail - Distance Between or (Firebreak). (Water Bars).

| (percent) | (feet) |
|------------------|---------------|
| 2 | 250 |
| 5 | 135 |
| 10 | 80 |
| 15 | 60 |
| 20 | 45 |
| 25 | 35 |
| 40* | 30 |

** Use grades of 40% and steeper only for short stretches.*

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, and 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 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
- Georgia's Best Management Practices for forestry – May 2009

Certification Job Sheet:

Prepared by: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Installation:

Circle: Yes or NO to the following:

- Are forest trail & landings (water bars) constructed at approximately 30 degrees?
Circle Yes or No
- Is water being diverted from the road to a vegetative area?
Circle Yes or No
- Are water bars constructed where vehicle can travel across?
Circle Yes or No

I certify that this practice has been installed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications.

Certification by: _____

Date: _____

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