

Road/Trails/Landing Closure and Treatment

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

Code 654



Definition

This practice involves the closure, decommissioning, or abandonment of roads, trails and/or landings and associated treatment to achieve conservation objectives.

It should not be used to mitigate or replace best management practices that are required for logging operations. It should be utilized in areas where there are clear impacts to soil and water quality.

Criteria

Installation of this practice will comply with all local, state, and federal regulatory requirements including, but not limited to: Kentucky Forest Practice Guidelines for Water Quality Management.

The timing of this practice may be subject to many factors including the last harvest date, wildlife disturbance dates and other factors.

Determine the appropriate level of treatment based on the associated severity of environmental effects of existing roads, trails, and landings; future access requirements; and short-term disturbance effects during closure and treatment activities. Treatments may include installation of water control measures, planting, grading and shaping or any combination.

Roads, trails, and landings will be designated into one of three levels of treatment:

1. Closure and treatment to a level that facilitates future use for management activities.
2. Closure, treatment, and reconnection to applicable drainage networks (usually involves culvert removal which limits potential for future use).
3. Closure, removal and reshaping to natural contours, treatment and stabilization, and natural landscape and drainage restoration.

The final treatment should look aesthetically pleasing and blend in with the surrounding forest community and topography. It should also minimize erosion from water leaving the site and help improve surface water quality.

Any excavation and reshaping of roads, trails, landings and drainage ways to natural conditions including culvert removal should be done to reconnect the site to existing drainage networks.

Considerations

Carefully consider access to the site; not only from a future use perspective but also from unintended and recreational use. Recreational vehicle access may damage installation of conservation practices and cause further erosion concerns. Permanent or temporary traffic barriers and signage may help with unwanted access.

Any existing topsoil should be saved and stockpiled to be re-spread and in some cases imported.

Consider the need to roll road and cut grades to disperse runoff of selected road and trail segments to be closed.

In some cases nuisance, noxious or invasive species may become established on disturbed areas. Use mechanical (hand-pulling) and chemical methods to keep these species in control. Refer to your local NRCS office for information and assistance in identification and control methods.

Where possible always use personnel familiar with logging operations and best management practices to direct and implement work that is. This practice should be done in consultation with a biologist, engineer, soil scientist and forester as necessary.

Wildlife

Where wildlife is a primary concern use species (woody and herbaceous) that benefit species of wildlife in the area.

Plant woody species that provide cover and food for wildlife. Refer to jobsheets Tree/Shrub Establishment for more information.

Native warm season grasses are beneficial to many species of wildlife and can grow in poorer soils. While these grasses are not the best choice for erosion control, they are the best option for wildlife. These species should be established on flatter grades where the canopy is open and allows more sunlight to reach the forest floor.

Consider the use of soil amendments carefully when wildlife habitat is a primary objective, as they tend to thicken stands and make them unusable for wildlife.



Roads like this will require special consideration due to steepness and erodibility.

Operation and Maintenance

Monitoring and patrolling should be conducted during erosive period(s) as needed until the site is determined to be stable.

Continually monitor the site and control access as necessary. Refer to (472) Access Control if applicable.

Stabilizing measures and additional treatment should be applied when and where necessary.

SPECIFICATIONS

Roads/Trails/Landings Closure – KY Job Sheet

Specifications are prepared in accordance with the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and are listed on the following pages of this job sheet. This information is considered part of the conservation plan. Use additional sheets as necessary.

Client:	Farm #:
Applicable Field(s):	Tract #:
Planned/Designed By:	Date:
Assisting Engineer:	
PURPOSE (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Controlling erosion	<input type="checkbox"/> Restoring land to a productive state
<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablishing drainage patterns that existed prior to construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Minimizing human impacts to meet safety, aesthetic, sensitive area protection or wildlife habitat requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Forest management plan developed by certified forestry TSP or KY Division of Forestry	

PLANNED TREATMENT LEVEL

<input type="checkbox"/> Level 1- Closure and treatment to a level that facilitates future use for management activities.
<input type="checkbox"/> Level 2- Closure, treatment, and reconnection to applicable drainage networks (usually involves culvert removal which limits potential for future use).
<input type="checkbox"/> Level 3- Closure, removal and reshaping to natural contours, treatment and stabilization, and natural landscape and drainage restoration.

See the attached drawings and specifications for engineering components. *Criteria for design of components not addressed in NRCS practice standards shall be consistent with professional engineering practices.*

AREA TO BE TREATED – refer to the conservation plan map for segment identification

Complete as appropriate	Road Segment _____	Road Segment _____	Road Segment _____	Road Segment _____
Length				
Surface width				
Total area (ac) or 1,000 ft ²				
Approximate Slope				
No. of Culverts Required				
Culvert Type				
Water Diversion Structures				
Spacing				
Cut Slope Width (height)				
Cut Slope Length				

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PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS – PLANT MATERIALS ¹					
Species	Seed lbs./ac. or lbs. /1,000 ft. or PLS ²	Lime lbs./ac. or lbs. /1,000 ft.	Fertilizer lbs. /ac. or lbs./1,000 ft.	Mulch lbs. /ac. or lbs. /1,000 ft.	Planting Dates
Erosion Control					
1.					
2.					
3.					
Wildlife					
1.					
2.					
3.					

¹ Species selected should be those outlined in Tables 2-3 through 2-6 of BMP#2 in the Kentucky Forest Practice Guidelines for Water Quality Management

² Utilize pure live seed (PLS) for native grasses only.

Site Prep

- Light - Includes light tillage permanent vegetation including temporary cover and starter fertilizer.
- Medium - Includes moderate tillage for grading, permanent vegetation including temporary cover and starter fertilizer.
- Heavy - Includes light tillage and heavy equipment for grading and shaping, permanent vegetation including temporary cover and starter fertilizer.

Planting Method (select all that apply)

- Broadcast _____
- Drilled _____
- Other _____

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If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Operation and Maintenance

Refer to the portion of this document entitled Operation and Maintenance. Inspect the site annually and after storm events. Repair or replace damaged components as necessary. Maintain vegetation on site. Control any nuisance, noxious, or invasive species and maintain any safety measures and access control. **Additional Operation and Maintenance requirements specific to this plan:**

Certifications			
Job Sheet	Prepared by:	Title:	Date:
	Approved by:	Title:	Date:
Installation	Meets NRCS Standards and Specifications		
	Certification by:	Title:	Date:

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