

ACCESS ROAD

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 560



ACCESS ROAD

Access roads are travelways for equipment and vehicles constructed as part of a conservation plan.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Access roads are installed to provide a fixed route for vehicular travel for resource management activities while protecting the soil, water, air, fish, wildlife and other adjacent natural resources. Access roads range from seasonal-use roads designed for low speed and rough driving conditions to all-weather roads heavily used by the public and designed with safety as a high priority.

Access roads are designed to serve the enterprise or planned use with the expected vehicular or equipment traffic. The type of vehicle or equipment, speed, loads, soil, climatic, and other conditions under which vehicles and equipment are expected to operate must be considered. Planned work must also comply with all Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Where public use is anticipated, roads must be designed to meet applicable Federal, State and local criteria.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

Access Road is applied as part of Conservation Management Systems on various land uses, including headquarters areas, cropland, pasture, and forestland. The practices associated with access roads will vary by land use, but may include Stream Crossings (578), Critical Area Planting (342), Fish Passage (396), and various practices associated with runoff and erosion control.

For further information, refer to the practice standard in the local Field Office Technical Guide and associated job sheet.