

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

FOREST HARVEST TRAILS AND LANDINGS

(Acre)

CODE 655

DEFINITION

Laying out, constructing and using forest harvest trails and landings.

PURPOSE

To allow for removal of a forest product while minimizing onsite and off-site damage to resources.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On forested areas where harvest operations are scheduled or have been completed.

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.

Harvest trails and landings will be of a size, gradient, number and location to accomplish tree removal and transport while minimizing adverse onsite and off-sites impacts. Adverse impacts include, but are not limited to, accelerated erosion, riparian zone degradation, stream channel and streambank damage, or unacceptable damage to vegetation or habitat.

Slash, debris and vegetative material left on the site after harvesting will not present an unacceptable fire or pest hazard or interfere with the intended purpose.

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

Trails and landings shall be sufficiently revegetated or stabilized by other means to control erosion.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations, including the state's Best Management Practices (BMP's) for Timber Harvesting Operations and Wetland Permit Regulations.

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 and visually check for significant fuel and oil spillage and leaks to protect water quality.

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.

The access system, culverts, fords, bridges, and sediment control structures should be located on the conservation plan map, soils map, or location sketch map. Indicate drainage areas on the map for perennial stream crossings. Large areas for shaping and grading, and critical areas for water bar installation or vegetation establishment should also be shown on the map.

Culverts larger than 24 inches in diameter and bridges shall conform to the standard and specifications for "*Structure for Water Control*", Code 587.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Watercourses and water quality shall be protected during and after removal and transport of trees. Upon completion of harvest, landings and trails will be left in a stable condition.

Periodic Inspections of landings and trails will be conducted with necessary repairs applied.