

<b>Landowner:</b>		<b>Farm #:</b>
<b>Field/Stand(s):</b>	<b>Acres:</b>	<b>Tract #:</b>
<b>Soil Map Unit(s):</b>		<b>County:</b>
<b>Designed By:</b>		<b>Contact Information:</b>
<b>Date:</b>		

**DEFINITION:**

Forest Trails and Landings provide access to forest stands for management, removal and collection of forest products, recreation, and/or wildlife. These areas, whether planned or existing, include developed trails, skid roads, and log landing sites. These trails and landings are generally temporary or infrequently used. Properly constructed or maintained Forest Trails and Landings minimize onsite and offsite damage to resources (including water quality) during periods of access, minimize future maintenance costs, and provide usable infrastructure for future management.

**PURPOSE: (check all that apply)**

- Provide access to forest stands
- Minimize onsite and off-site damage to resources
- Enhance wildlife values

**SPECIFICATIONS:**

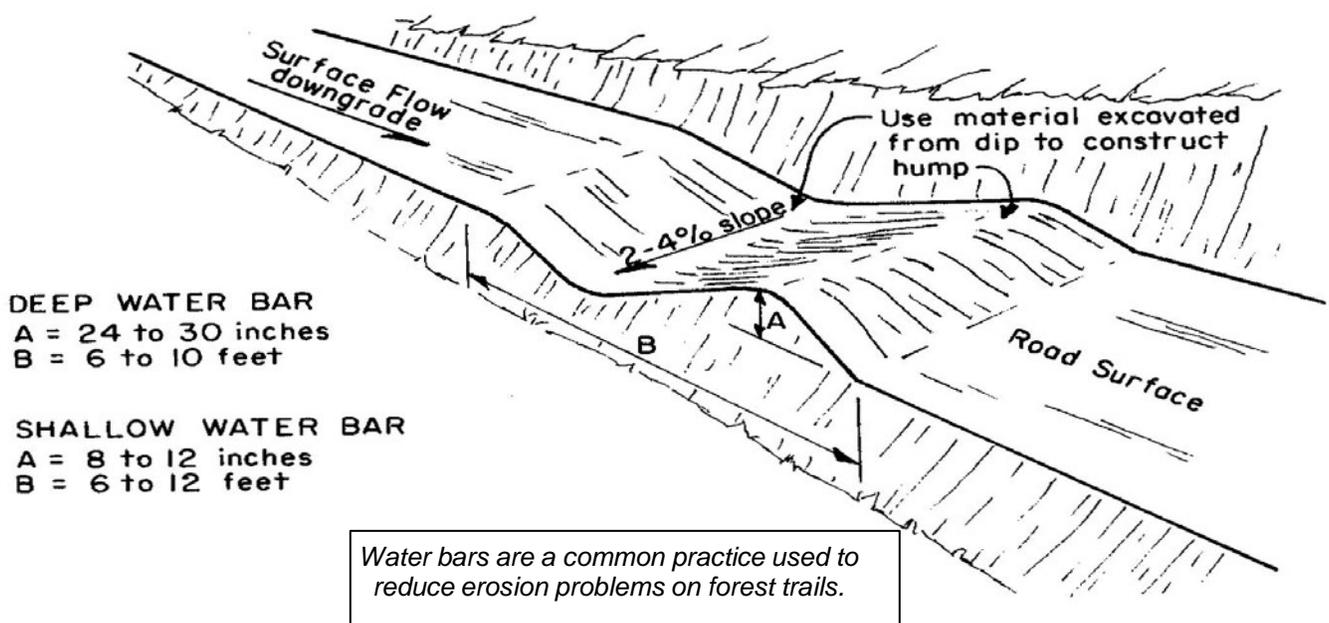
- When placing trails, keep grades as low as possible. Avoid long, steep grades that exceed 15%.
- Minimize the use of stream crossings and remove any temporary bridges and culverts when logging activities are completed. If stream crossing must be used, they should be at narrow points where banks are low and be perpendicular to the stream to prevent future erosion and water quality issues.
- On trails with existing erosion problems, install water bars, rolling dips, and other



*A simple practice such as a conveyor-belt water bar can direct concentrated runoff flow away from a trail where it will not cause erosion.*

drainage measures to route runoff away from the road. Stabilize diversion outlets with stone riprap or brush debris. Crowning the trails will improve drainage. See Table 1 for water bar spacing guidelines.

- On steep ground, water bars will need to be spaced closer than on flat ground. Longer intervals between bars are acceptable on relatively flat portions. Location of the upper most water bar on the slope is the most critical. Position water bars on about a 30 degree angle down slope and extend them beyond the width of the road/trail to move the water into undisturbed areas and to prevent it from running around the end of the bar.
- The installation of appropriate drainage structures, along with the addition of the autumn leaf fall, will often sufficiently protect roads from erosion if vehicular traffic is controlled. Where these measures are not sufficient, add vegetative cover by seeding areas that are still susceptible to erosion.
- Completely close, rehabilitate, and re-vegetate problem areas.
- Locate landing areas on well drained ridge tops, areas close to an all-weather road, or sites close to the stand being harvested.
- Landings should have a slight slope to facilitate drainage. Do not locate landings within 200 feet of streams, ponds, lakes, sinkholes, springs, caves, or wetlands.
- Clear log yard debris from landing areas and, if erosion will not be a problem, seed those areas down to a green browse food plot mixture. Refer to CONSERVATION COVER (327) and UPLAND WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT (645) conservation practice standards.



What is being accomplished under Forest Trails and Landing:

- Layout of trails and landings
- Identification of stream crossings (keep to a minimum)
- Installation of trails and landings and if necessary, stream crossings

**Table 1. Recommended spacing between water bars (Texas BMPs)**

Trail Grade (%)	Distance between water bars (ft)
2	250
5	135
10	80
15	60
20	45
30	35



*Water bars can be installed using traditional logging equipment on site during the harvest operation, however dozers do a better job because of the flexibility of the blade.*

SITE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS: Depends upon  
The action being taken (layout or installation)

For layout, the NRCS, Conservation District personnel or TSP must flag out the trails and landing(s). The distance and widths should be noted in the file.

For installation, the NRCS, Conservation District personnel or TSP must inspect the trail and landing construction to ensure that soil movement is minimized, water bars are constructed if needed, stream crossings are constructed to protect the stream and the landing(s) are accessible for log trucks. Any area that can be vegetated should be seeded with native plant mixes. The trail distances, widths and landing areas should be measured and calculated in feet and/or acres.

**MAINTENANCE: (check all that apply)**

After rehabilitation, close trails where vehicular traffic will cause unacceptable damage. Construct gates or otherwise block the trail with logs, trees, root-wads, etc. to prevent further use.

- Maintain vegetation on especially erosive areas.
- Prevent vehicular traffic when trails are wet and subject to damage if used.
- Rehabilitate water bars and turnouts if they fail to function due to excess sediment buildup or if scour develops at the outflow point.
- Maintain green browse planted on log landings and openings through adequate fertilization and replant as necessary.



Seeded haul road, note a turkey using this opening.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:**

For further information on forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs), see Texas BMP's– Texas A&M Forest Service.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Landowner

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS personnel

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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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. Or attach maps as needed.

Scale 1"=\_\_\_\_\_ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

