

FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 655



FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS -

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

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Forest trails and landings are installed prior to a scheduled harvest to provide a location to assemble and transport harvested logs. The conservation objective is to minimize onsite and offsite damage to the other natural resources.

Planning and application of this practice requires the following considerations:

1. Timing and use of equipment will be planned so that site productivity is maintained and soil disturbance is held to a minimum.
2. Slash, debris and vegetative material left onsite should not present an unacceptable fire or pest hazard.
3. Water bars, dips and other drainage measures for trails should be properly designed.
4. Trails and landings need to be seeded to grass to help control erosion
5. Consider planting vegetation that provides wildlife food and cover
6. Trails and landings should be located to preserve the aesthetic quality of the area.
7. Police trails and landings to remove refuse and garbage.
8. Consider closing the trails after harvest to help control erosion and reduce maintenance costs.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are on file in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.