



Conservation Practice Overview

August 2023

Forest Trails and Landings (Code 655)

Forest trails and landings involves the creation and management of temporary or infrequently used routes, paths, or cleared areas.

Practice Information

Forest trails and landings are installed and maintained for infrequent access to conduct management activities such as forest stand improvement, pruning, fire suppression, or harvest of forest products. The conservation objective is to allow suitable access while minimizing onsite and offsite damage to other natural resources.



Specifications will consider—

- Timing and use of equipment to maintain site productivity and minimize soil disturbance.
- Management of slash, debris, and vegetative material so as not to present an unacceptable fire or pest hazard.
- Proper design of water bars, dips, and other drainage measures.
- Seeding for erosion control.
- Planting of vegetation that provides wildlife food and cover.
- Location of trails and landings to preserve aesthetic qualities of the area.
- Periodic removal of refuse and garbage.
- Closing the trails after the management activity to help control erosion and reduce maintenance costs.

Common Associated Practices

Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Forest Trails and Landings (Code 655) is commonly applied with CPSs such as Access Road (Code 560), Critical Area Planting (Code 342), Firebreak (Code 394), Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666), Fuel Break (Code 383), Mulching (Code 484), Stream Crossing (Code 578), Structure for Water Control (Code 587), Tree/Shrub Pruning (Code 660), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), and Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.