

FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 655



FOREST TRAILS AND LANDINGS

A forest trail or landing is a temporary or infrequently used route, path, or cleared area within a forest.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

Forest trails and landings are installed and/or 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.

Planning and application of this practice requires the following considerations:

- Timing and use of equipment to maintain site productivity and minimize soil disturbance
- Management of slash, debris, and vegetative material left onsite so as not to present an unacceptable fire or pest hazard
- Proper design of water bars, dips, and other drainage measures

- Seeding of trails and landings 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

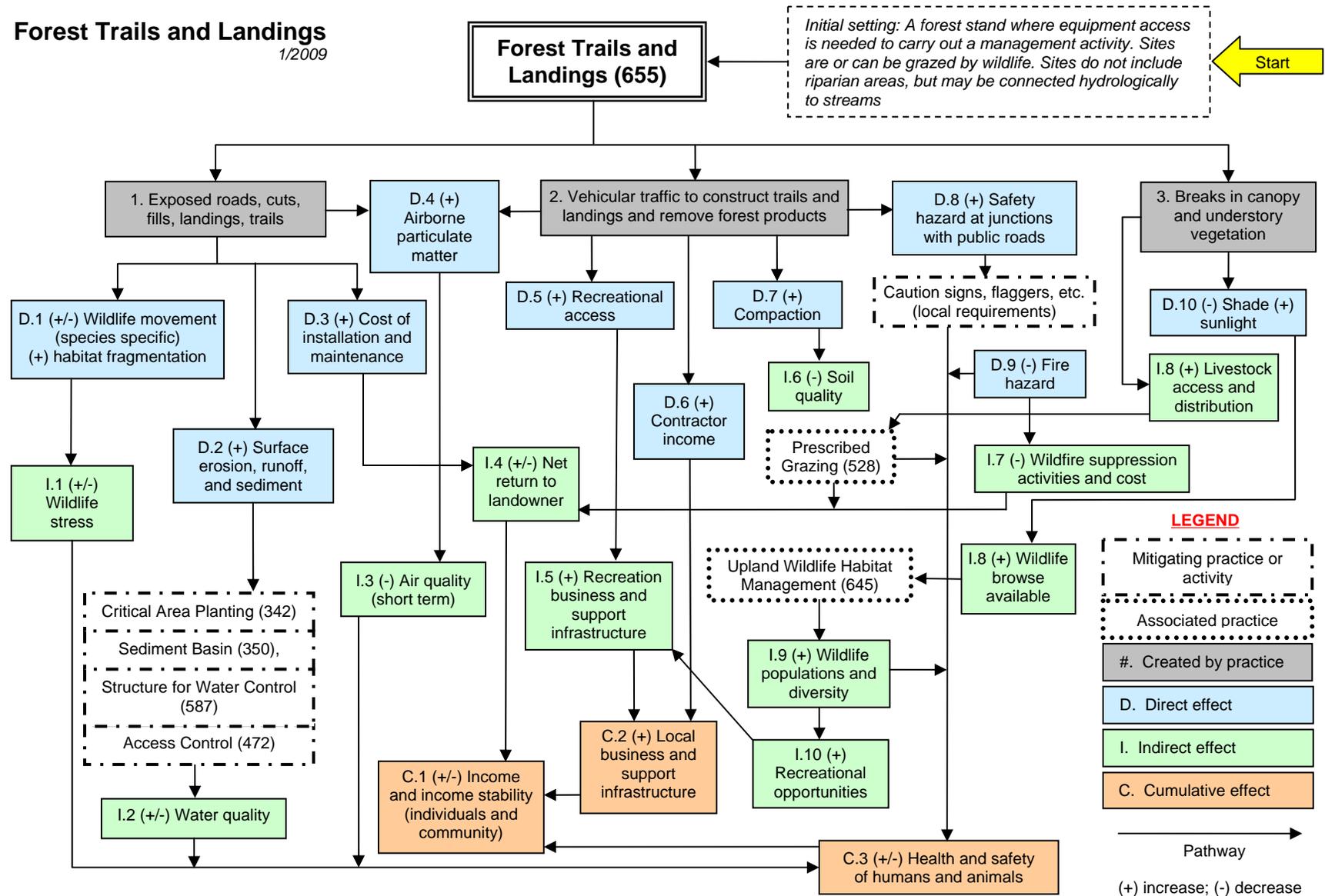
Forest Trails and Landings is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with other practices such as Forest Stand Improvement (666), Tree/Shrub Pruning (660), Firebreak (394), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Forest Slash Treatment (384), Critical Area Planting (342), and others.

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

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

Forest Trails and Landings

1/2009



Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.