



Conservation Practice Overview

September 2020

Access Road (Code 560)

An access road is an established route for equipment and vehicles.

Practice Information

An access road is installed to provide a fixed route for vehicular travel to allow management of timber, livestock, agriculture, wildlife habitat, and other conservation enterprises. Access roads range from single-purpose, seasonal-use roads, designed for low speed and rough driving conditions, to all-purpose, all-weather roads.



The design of an access road is based on the soils, climate, topography, drainage patterns, and anticipated operating conditions. Surface treatments vary from bare earth to a hardened surface such as asphalt or gravel. Drainage features associated with the practice could include culverts or surface cross drains.

This practice has an expected life of 10 years. Operation and maintenance of the access road includes inspection of the road surface and the drainage features after every major runoff event, and prompt repair or replacement of damaged components.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Access Road (Code 560) applies to various land uses, including headquarters areas, cropland, pasture, and forestland. Commonly associated conservation practices include NRCS CPSs Critical Area Planting (Code 342), Structure for Water Control (Code 587), Stream Crossing (Code 578), Diversion (Code 362), and Dust Control on Unpaved Roads and Surfaces (Code 373).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.