

ACCESS ROAD

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 560



ACCESS ROAD

An access road is a travelway included in a conservation plan to provide a safe, fixed route of travel for moving livestock, equipment, products and supplies. The practice applies to roads that provide access for proper management of the enterprise, including operation and maintenance of conservation practices. The roads also provide access to farms, ranches, specific fields, woodlands, recreation areas and various kinds of structures.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice is planned when access is needed from a private or public road to and within a conservation enterprise. Access roads are designed to serve a specific purpose(s) and accommodate a specific type(s) of vehicle, or equipment. Visual resources and environmental values shall be considered in planning and

designing the road or system of roads.

Access roads range from seldom used trails constructed for fire protection to all-weather roads used by the public and built to very high standards. Where general public use is anticipated, roads are designed to meet applicable criteria established by appropriate national, state or local agencies.

Roads are planned and designed to assure maintenance requirements are in line with operating budgets of the enterprise. In addition to planning for the intended use, the following criteria is considered:

1. Control and disposal of water
2. Erosion control
3. Include scenic vistas when possible
4. Follow natural contours when possible
5. Consider pollution hazards
6. Road surface treatment in line with use
7. Safe entry on public roads