

EQIP Forest Road Planning Guidelines - FY09

The use of EQIP financial assistance funds for treatment of forest road erosion in Washington will be limited to those road segments that address a water quality resource concern. In addition, the following guidelines have been developed to target our financial and technical assistance to the most critical road segments. These guidelines will be used to assist NRCS staff in determining which road segments are appropriate for inclusion in an EQIP contract.

Forest road segments that are included in an EQIP contract will meet the erosion/sedimentation criteria for Access Road (560) or the full criteria for Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654) practice standards. Complementary practices may include but are not limited to; Critical Area Planting (342), Mulching (484), Water and Sediment Control Basin (638) and Structure for Water Control (587) to assure success of the conservation treatment. In all cases the resource concern addressed is *Water Quality*.

Guidelines

- Contracted roads segments will be no more than 1,000 feet (road distance) from the intersection with a perennial stream or qualified intermittent stream. A qualified intermittent stream is one that is no more than 500 feet upstream from its confluence with a perennial stream.
- Contracted road segments can also include those that are generally parallel to and within 100 feet (slope distance) of perennial streams. Bottom of fill slope will be used to determine distance to stream.
- Road segments considered for closure and treatment will be within 100 feet (slope distance) of a perennial stream. The qualified road segment closure may be part of an overall road closure being pursued by the client. Bottom of fill slope will used to determine distance to perennial stream.
- Contracted road segments will have active and observable erosion sites. This can include eroding ruts, eroding ditches, culvert outlets with rills or concentrated flows, landslides with rills or concentrated flows, and rills or concentrated flow near or entering stream crossings.
- Perennial and qualified intermittent streams can be identified using the Forest Practices Application and Review System (FPARS) mapping website <http://fortress.wa.gov/dnr/app1/fpars/viewer.htm> Select the map "Water Type" and delineate area of interest. Streams classified as "S" and "F" will qualify as perennial streams. "N" type streams are intermittent streams. USGS maps in ARC GIS and can also be used to assist in determining perennial and intermittent streams.

General Requirements

Digital photos will be taken to document existing active erosion and sediment delivery to qualified streams. The conservation plan map will identify the location of contracted road segments. Job sheets or other practice design documents will identify the specific location and type of treatment within the contracted road segment.

Road shaping (reestablishing appropriate outsloping, insloping or crowning), water bars (excavated and rubber type), ditch outs, rolling dips, relief culverts, road and outlet rock (only as needed), and road closure and treatment (only as needed) are acceptable measures. Erosion control seeding as needed on exposed soil surfaces is to be done under Critical Area Planting (342). Access Control (472) is allowed to complement all measures including barriers for treatments involving Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654).

Exclusions

Regular forest road maintenance activities are an on-going responsibility of the landowner. The maintenance activities listed below are part of normal O&M for Access Road (560), for those portions of the road that do not have water quality resource concerns. These maintenance activities should be discussed with the landowner and include in the O & M plan for the Access Road.

- Control of roadside vegetation from ditches and road prism
- Clean out of drainage ditches and relief culverts
- Road grading to maintain crown or slope
- Road access control during excessively wet conditions
- Refreshing road surface material