

Subject: Policy on the Use and Application of Conservation Practice Standards 367 – Roofs and Covers, 578 – Stream Crossing, 580 – Streambank and Shoreline Protection, and 655 – Forest Trails and Landings

Purpose: To provide employees statewide policy on the use and application of certain practice scenarios under CPS 367, Roofs and Covers, CPS 578 Stream Crossing, CPS 396 – Aquatic Organism Passage, CPS 580 – Streambank and Shoreline Protection, and CPS 655 – Forest Trails and Landings, in accordance with the New Hampshire Financial Assistance Program Handbook for all financial assistance programs with the exception of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program.

Effective Date: October 1, 2013

Expiration Date: September 30, 2014

Explanation: NRCS employees with the appropriate engineering job approval authority will make all preliminary investigations and evaluations (I&E) needed to support the development of the conservation plan and schedule of operations. If the NRCS employee does not have the appropriate engineering job approval authority, the I&E must be conducted with the assistance of someone who does.

Currently there is no established job approval authority (JAA) for CPS 655 – Forest Trails and Landings. A certified conservation planner must approve all conservation plans and schedule of operations that include CPS 655.

CPS 367 Roofs and Covers (Roofs) – All conservation plans/financial assistance program applications that include this practice (roof) must have followed the proper I&E procedures described above. The program applicant must also provide a NH private engineer (PE) stamped design for this practice prior to contract obligation. Once the contract is approved and obligated, an NRCS engineer will review the design for adherence to NRCS standards and specifications, as well as meeting ASCE codes. The private engineer (PE)/firm that stamped the design shall be required to provide construction inspection services during installation and a statement of certification that the installation was completed in accordance with design and meets NRCS standards and specifications.

CPS 578 Stream Crossing and CPS 396 Aquatic Organism Passage (All Bridge Scenarios) - All conservation plans/financial assistance program applications that include these practice scenarios (bridge) under CPS 578 or CPS 396 must have followed the proper I&E procedures described above and demonstrate that it is the least cost alternative.

CPS 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection (all scenarios) – This practice is ONLY to be used as an associated practice with CPS 578 Stream Crossing (bridge scenario) for scour protection of the bridge abutments. All conservation plans/financial assistance program applications that include this practice must have followed the proper I&E procedures described above and be approved by an engineer.

CPS 655 Forest Trails and Landings – The use of this practice does not include permanent stream crossings. Cross drainage culverts of 12”-15” are allowed. Temporary stream crossings are allowed under this practice provided they are installed and removed following, ‘Best Management Practices for Forestry: Protecting New Hampshire’s Water Quality’ (2005), and/or ‘Best Management Practices for Erosion Control on Timber Harvesting Operations in New

Hampshire' (2004). If permanent stream crossings are determined to be warranted as the least cost alternative during the I&E procedure as described above, follow the Stream Crossing (578) standard.

Questions regarding this process or related to engineering should be directed to the State Conservation Engineer, Jade Nield, at 603-868-9931 x112 or by e-mail: jade.nield@nh.usda.gov. Questions regarding Forest Trails and Landings should be directed to Resource Conservationist, Mike Lynch, at 603-223-6018 or by e-mail: michael.lynch@nh.usda.gov. Questions regarding this process or related to programs should be directed to the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Deb Weymouth, at 603-868-9931 x102 or by email: deb.weymouth@nh.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Richard P. Ellsmore
State Conservationist – New Hampshire