AG. WATER QUALITY ACT

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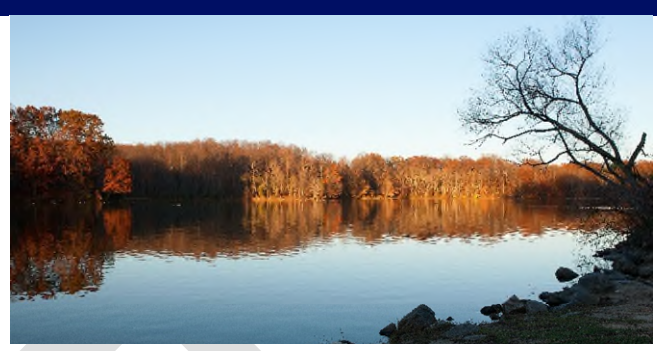

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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	FUNDING ASSISTANCE	IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

ACCESS ROADS, TRAILS & LANDINGS

SILVICULTURE BMP #1

Photo courtesy of Kentucky Logging BMP Field Guide

Description:
Construct and maintain forestry access roads, trials, landings or log yards in a way that minimizes soil erosion and protects nearby water bodies from sedimentation.

AWQA Minimum Requirements:
1) Access roads and trails shall be constructed to minimize grade. 2) Skidders or other logging equipment shall not be operated under conditions that may cause the development of ruts that contribute to water quality degradation and cannot be resurfaced with available equipment. 3) To avoid runoff from entering streams or channels access roads and trails shall be located, constructed, maintained and water control structures installed at appropriate intervals to drain surfaces, reduce erosion of road and trail surfaces and the undisturbed forest floor. 4) Practices shall be implemented to control erosion that can deliver sediment to streams or channels from disturbed ground other than roads, trails, and landings. 5) Landings shall be constructed to drain and avoid runoff from entering streams or channels. 6) Where economically and/or topographically feasible, elevated crossings (ex. bridges, culverts, pole crossings, etc.) shall be used when crossing streams (perennial and intermittent) and ephemeral channels. 7) If it is not feasible to install an elevated crossing, fords with firm and/or protected stream or channel beds shall be used to cross streams and channels at right angles. Avoid depositing soil into the stream or channel. 8) Immediately stabilize disturbed ground associated with crossings (excluding the active trail or road surface) to reduce runoff into streams. 9) On roads, trails, and landings that are temporarily inactive practices shall be promptly implemented to minimize erosion and runoff entering streams or channels. 10) Upon completion of harvesting activities permanent retirement practices shall be implemented on roads, trails, and landings and other areas of disturbed ground to minimize erosion and runoff from entering streams or channels. 11) Permanent retirement practices include the use of appropriate practices including: resurfacing, removing berms and other impediments to allow drainage and correct installation of permanent water control structures to drain surfaces and minimize erosion; removal of temporary stream and channel crossings; correct installation of permanent water control structures to drain surfaces and minimize erosion; and seeding and measures to promote the development of vegetative cover (see BMP 2) that may include one or more of the following; loosening compacted soil, fertilization, mulching, or liming. 12) After silvicultural and harvest activities are completed landowners should restrict vehicle access on retired roads, trails and landings until the site is stabilized.

Technical References

University Publications
- See "Access Roads" in the current version of *Kentucky Forest Practice Guidelines for Water Quality Management* for detailed specifications concerning construction of access roads, skid trails and landings
- See MR 1.1-1.12 in Kentucky Logging BMP Field Guide on page 11 and throughout.

Funding Assistance Options

State Cost Share
- See your local Conservation District to apply.

Kentucky Ag. Development Fund (KADB/KAFC)
- Select from available program options here.

NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Select from available program options here.

Important Considerations

Water Quality Benefit (💧-💧💧💧💧): 💧💧💧