Part 5: Skid Trails and Log Decks

BMPs for Skid Trails

There are two general types of skid trails:
--Bladed: terrain is excavated, similar to building a road.
--Overland: trail is directly upon the ground surface.

When possible, overland skid trails should be favored because little to no soil excavation is needed. Controlling runoff, erosion and sedimentation is usually easier on overland skid trails.

Research has shown that frequently applying and crushing in leftover logging debris (slash, laps, etc.) upon the skid trail is very effective at controlling runoff, protecting soil from erosion and reducing soil compaction/rutting.

- Stay out of the SMZ wherever possible.
- Minimize soil gouges or trenches from skidding logs.
- Concentrate skidding on as few skid trails as possible by avoiding widespread and random skidding.
- Where possible, limit primary skid trails to 10 percent of the total working area.
- Minimize placement and use of skid trails in ephemerals.
- Minimize skid trail width and avoid two lane skid trails.
- On sloping terrain, follow the land contour.
- Keep skid trails to less than 25 percent grade if possible.

Drop, spread and pack in logging slash on exposed soil.

This overland skid trail uses slash to control the runoff and erosion on the approach way to the stream crossing.

This overland skid trail needs BMPs to control runoff and minimize sedimentation into the stream.

Bladed skid trails with no diversions or groundcover.

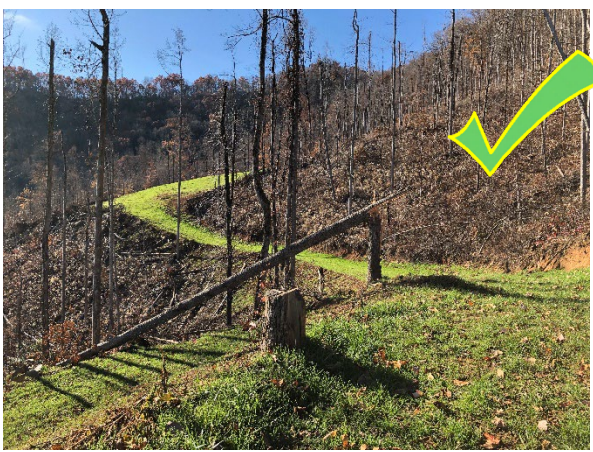
Overland skid trail. Logging slash would help provide soil groundcover.

Shovel logging skid trails in swamps reduce soil impacts.

This rutted, soupy skid trail is a risk to water quality and will likely degrade the soil's condition afterwards.

Above and Below: Two skid trail stream crossing approach ways with slash. Each crossing used bridgemats. At close out, the skid trail was already stabilized so no extra work was needed.

Do not excavate skid trails into the earth!



Set skid trails along the contour on steep ground.

Above and Below: Excellent use of logging slash to cover skid trails and the approach way to a stream crossing.

BMPs for Log Decks

- Keep out of the SMZ. Stay at least 10 feet from stream edge if the deck must be placed in the SMZ.
- Where possible, locate decks out of ephemerals.
- Minimize the number, size and footprint of log decks.
- Minimize soil disturbance.
- Frequently apply and pack down logging debris or woodchips to cover exposed soil.
- Control runoff and capture sediment that flows across or off the deck.

This log deck is on a recently completed job. It is on flat, stable soil. Road pallet mats provided a firm base for log trucks and minimized sedimentation onto the roadway.

Many products are available for access road entrances. This reusable plastic mat is intended to reduce track-out of soil onto the road.

Soil is eroding from this old log deck/truck turnaround. Regrading and stabilization groundcover are needed.