

Important Information Regarding the Contents of this Document

Please note that the policies and information presented in this document are current through the date given below. The documents made available within the [Center's Conservation Districts web pages](#) are intended to serve as a guide for the policies set by each Conservation District. While these policies may in fact be current at the time of your viewing, it is strongly recommended to contact the relevant Conservation District for the most current version.

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6. “Dirty Dozen” Road Assessment Evaluation Criteria from The Center for Dirt and Gravel Road

The 12 criteria below attempt to provide a “pollution potential” rating for each worksite.

Road Sediment in Stream: Overall sediment delivery to stream. Remember that intermittent streams count too.

- None (0): No road sediment in stream. Runoff is buffered before entering stream. (Should it be a worksite?!?)
- Slight (5): Any material from the road area makes it to the edge of the stream
- Moderate (10): Ditches or ditch outlets drain directly into stream. Road sediment may be visible in channel
- Severe / Stream Encroachment (15): Significant road area drains to stream. Include fords, sediment deltas, stream cutting into road, etc.
- _____ (15)

Wet Site Conditions: General water table conditions of the road area. Consider time of year and recent weather.

- Dry (0): Road and ditches are dry. No roadside springs or seeps.
- Saturated Ditches (3): Road ditches are damp. May contain standing water or wetland plants.
- Roadside Springs (5): Springs present on uphill side of road or seeps present under road.
- Flow in Ditches (7): Water moving in ditches from springs and seeps. Significant water problems.
- Saturated Base (10): Significant road area is wet due to springs and seeps in road ditches, banks and base.
- _____ (10)

Road Surface Material: The approximate makeup of the driving surface. (n/a for low volume roads – use (0))

- Hard Gravel (0): Predominantly limestone or sandstone. Not necessarily DSA, just hard gravel.
- Mixed Stone (5): A variety of stone material with no dominant type. Commonly with some hard stone.
- Soft Stone / dust (7): Any other type of dominant natural stone material with some soil, or a light dust problem.
- Stone/dirt / dust (10): A mixture of soft stone and native dirt/earth, or a dust problem and loss of fines.
- Severe dust (15): Earthen material with little to no stone aggregate. Muddy when wet, and dusty when dry.
- _____ (15)

Road Slope (Grade): Measure of the average steepness of the road in feet of rise in height per feet of road distance.

- <10% (0): Relatively flat. Rises less than 1 foot for every 10 feet of road length.
- 10 – 30% (5): Steep slope. Rises 1 – 3 feet for every 10 feet of road length.
- >30% (10): Extremely Steep slope. Rises more than 3 feet for every 10 feet of road length.
- _____ (10)

Road Shape: Cross sectional shape of the road for proper runoff pattern. Good slope is ½" to ¾" per foot.

- Good (0): Needs no grading work for proper runoff patterns. This includes crowned, in-slope, and out-slope.
- Fair (3): Needs grading to reestablish proper runoff patterns. Small wheel ruts/grader berm trap water on road.
- Poor (5): No specific cross section shape or flat. Rutted or showing signs of water being retained on surface.
- _____ (5)

Slope to Stream: Slope of the land from the side of the road to the stream.

- <30% (0): Gentle bank slope from road to stream. Falls less than 3 feet at 10 feet away from road.
- 30 – 60% (3): Fairly steep bank slope from road to stream. Falls 3 to 6 feet at 10 feet away from road.
- >60% (5): Steep bank slope from road to stream. Falls more than 6 feet at 10 feet away from road.
- _____ (5)

Distance to Stream: Distance in feet from the side of the road to the stream. Streams can be any size or even dry!

- >100' (0): Stream stays at least 100 feet away from road.
- 50'-100' (3): Average parallel distance from road to stream is between 50 and 100 feet.
- <50' / crossing (5): Average parallel distance to stream is less than 50 feet or road crosses stream.
- _____ (5)

Outlets to Stream: Location of outlet discharge relative to stream.

- None (0): Significant buffer or filter exists between outlets and stream. No channels are cut to stream.
- Near stream (3): Outlets discharge near stream. Runoff and sediment reach stream without proper filtration.
- Directly to stream (5): Outlets cut channel to stream or enter stream directly from road.
- _____ (5)

Outlet Bleeder Stability: Stability of ditch outlets. Consider slope, flow volume, vegetation, etc,

- Stable (0): Outlet is not eroding. Water enters broader vegetation area with minimal flow velocity.
- Moderate (3): Small channels being cut. Some erosion is visible. Lack of vegetation or rock cover.
- Unstable (5): Noticeable gully with severe erosion and material missing compared to surrounding area.
- _____ (5)

Road Ditch Stability: Stability of ditches on side of road. Consider road slope, # of outlets, ditch material, etc.

- Stable (0): Adequate or no ditches. Minimal erosion. Ditch bottom stable, fine material / vegetation present.
- Fair (3): Minor erosion problems. Some movement of silt and sand. No major downcutting.
- Poor (7): Some erosion with downcutting and evidence of movement of larger size particles.
- Unstable (10): Channel cut and evidence of high velocity flow. Large material (>2") is moved in ditch.
- _____ (10)

Road Bank Stability: Stability of bank on uphill side of road. Consider slope and vegetative or rock cover.

- Stable (0): Minimal erosion. Low to moderate slope, good cover (i.e. <30% slope with 60%+ cover).
- Fair (3): Some erosion potential. Moderate slope with some cover (i.e. 10% - 60% slope with 50% cover).
- Poor (7): Bank is eroding. Low to moderate slope with little cover (i.e. 20% - 60% slope with <40% cover).
- Unstable (10): Obvious bank erosion. Steep slope with little cover (i.e. >30% slope with <30% cover).
- _____ (10)

Average Canopy Cover: Relative amount of shading on road during summer conditions.

- Moderate (0): Road partially (~50%) shaded.
- Minimal (3): Little to no tree cover. Road has minimal shade.
- Heavy (5): Majority of road is shaded.
- _____ (15)

TOTAL SCORE: (165 possible points)