



PERMITTING OPTIONS & CONSIDERATIONS FOR FORD CROSSINGS ON TIMBER HARVESTING OPERATIONS

Ford - A road crossing of a stream utilizing the existing stream bed (as defined by DEP General Permits 7 & 8)

	Waiver 9 - Construction / Maintenance § 105.12(a)(9)	GP7 - Minor Road Crossing	GP8 - Temporary Road Crossing	GP11 - Maintenance, Testing, Repair, Rehabilitation or Replacement of Water Obstructions and Encroachments
Drainage Size Restriction?	Unlimited Drainage Size	Must be under one (1) square mile of drainage	Unlimited Drainage Size	Unlimited Drainage Size
Can be used with HQ Streams?	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Can be used with EV Streams?	No	No	No	Yes
Can be used in Wild Trout Streams?	No	Yes, with black out dates Oct 1 through Dec 31	Yes, with black out dates Oct 1 through Dec 31	Yes, with black out dates Oct 1 through Dec 31
Can it be used in Stocked Trout Streams? (installation/removal)	Yes	Yes, with black out dates Feb 15 through June 1	Yes, with black out dates Feb 15 through June 1	Yes, with black out dates Feb 15 through June 1
Ongoing Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	Yes, as long as it meet waiver conditions	Yes, as long it is O&M to original permit conditions	Yes, as long it is O&M to original permit conditions	Yes, as long it is O&M to original permit conditions
How long is the permit good for?	Perpetual as long as no regulatory changes	Must be installed within three (3) years of permit acknowledgement	One (1) year at permit acknowledgement, with up to one (1) year extension with written request	Will remain in effect unless changed by DEP
Commercial Use?	No, installation and maintenance can not be completed by commercial operation. Operation and maintenance (O&M) is for individual private person	Yes	Yes	Yes
Written Approval Required	No	Yes	Yes	Yes

Things to consider: Skidding through ford crossings is prohibited. If an existing ford will need to be maintained with the placement of stone or the approaches will need graded, it is likely the operation will need a permit to complete that activity. Contact the local conservation district for assistance.

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	Joint PA Water Obstruction and Encroachment Permit and U.S. Army COE Section 404 Permit – Small Project Permit	Additional Requirements for Ford Crossings
Drainage Size Restriction?	Unlimited Drainage Size	** No fill shall be placed in any floodway, watercourse, or body of water, including approaches to a minor road crossing, except as specifically authorized in the General Permit.
Can be used with HQ Streams?	Yes	** Approaches to bridges, culverts and fords should be constructed at original grades where possible. Where necessary, depth of fill in the approaches shall be minimized to allow overflow of the roadway during periods of high water.
Can be used with EV Streams?	Yes	** Fords which are excavated or graded through stream banks must be properly stabilized
Can be used in Wild Trout Streams?	Yes, with black out dates Oct 1 through Dec 31	** Fords used as temporary crossings shall have the approaches adequately blocked and stabilized to prevent future use within five (5) days after termination of its intended use or at the end of the one (1) year period, whichever occurs first.
Can it be used in Stocked Trout Streams? (installation/removal)	Yes, with black out dates Feb 15 through June 1	** Fords are prohibited in watersheds tributary to drinking water intakes or reservoirs for public water supply users, where the ford is within 2,000 feet upstream of such intake or reservoir.
Ongoing Operation and Maintenance (O&M)	Yes, as long it is O&M to original permit conditions	** Whenever the streambed at the site of a ford does not have a rock bottom, a layer of clean rock must be provided. This layer of clean rock must not obstruct the stream flow. In addition, the approaches must: (1) be maintained in a firm and stable condition and (2) enter the stream on less than a 10% grade within 50 feet of the stream with the flow and (3) exit the stream against the flow on the same grade and distance limitation as specified for the entrance.
How long is the permit good for?	Must be installed within three (3) years of permit acknowledgement	
Commercial Use?	Yes	
Written Approval Required	Yes	

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