



Forest Service

Black Hills National Forest

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File Code: 2450
Route To:

Date: May 25, 2022

Subject: Revised Traffic Control Plan
To: Black Hills Timber Purchasers

Dear Purchaser,

The Black Hills National Forest has developed an updated Traffic Control Plan outline with consultation from Regional and Forest Engineers. This updated plan is designed to supersede the letter issued by Contracting Officer Greg McGranahan in 2011. This foundational outline was presented to Purchasers using traffic control devices in early 2022 and brought up again at the spring Purchaser/Sale Administration operations meeting held in April 2022.

There was a consensus that this document is suitable for use as a baseline for developing Traffic Control Plans under B6.33 Safety. This example provides more flexibility in signage/language than the previous letter. There are also more specific details on sign placement and mounting which should help clarify requirements for haul, harvest, and road maintenance operations.

Sale Administrators will begin using this plan as part of Traffic Control Plan Agreements. Contracts with existing agreements do not necessarily need to be amended to include this document but I would highly encourage the discussion based on the Engineer's recommendations within the plan and the ever-increasing public use in Timber Sale Areas.

Thank you for your attention to this important topic and the feedback we received during development. As always, the safety of your personnel, agency employees, and the public is paramount to accomplishing good business in the field. Please find a copy of the update attached to this letter and feel free to call me or your Sale Administration staff with any further questions.

X 

Signed by: JACOB JACKSON
JACOB JACKSON
Timber Sale Contracting Officer

Enclosure: Traffic Control Plan Safety B(T)6.33, G(T).3.3 (01/22)



**Traffic Control Plan
Safety-B(T)6.33, G(T).3.3
01/2022**

LOGGING AND MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS SIGNING STANDARDS

All signs must be manufactured & installed as specified in the latest version of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) "**Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices**" (MUTCD) 2009 MUTCD with Revisions 1 and 2, May 2012 - Knowledge - FHWA MUTCD (dot.gov) and the FS publication "**Standards for Forest Service Signs & Posters**"(EM 7100-15) stelpd3810021.pdf (usda.gov) . Specific information regarding temporary traffic control can be found in Chapter 4 of the EM 7100-15 or Part 6 of the MUTCD.

SIGN STANDARDS

SHAPE & COLOR: Generally, signs for logging and maintenance operations are considered temporary traffic control and are either diamond-shaped or rectangular. All signs shall have a black legend and border on an orange retroreflective background unless shown otherwise. Hand-painted, homemade signs are not acceptable. Fluorescent paint is not reflectorized.

SUBSTRATE: Sign substrate material may be High Density Overlay (HDO) Plywood, Aluminum, Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic, Corrugated Plastic or Roll-up Fabrics.

LEGEND: All lettering shall be minimum Series "C" alphabet, conforming to Standard Alphabets for Highway Signs. Letter size is also a function of speed - use letter size and word messages as specified in MUTCD and EM-7100-15.

SIGN PLACEMENT

Signs are to be installed in locations as agreed to in the Traffic Control Plan. All signs are to be removed, covered, or folded when operations are not in progress or the sign message is not applicable. Signs should generally be located on the right-hand side of the roadway. When special emphasis is needed, signs may be placed on both the left and right sides of the road. Sign message shall be clearly visible to road users, mounted on posts or portable sign stands.

SIGN LOCATION

Signs must be located 100-500 feet prior to the temporary traffic control activity based on speed, (both ends if a through road) to warn traffic and allow for adequate perception and reaction time of the driver as listed in Figure 2: Table 4A.1 (EM7100-15). These numbers are intended for guidance purposes only and should be applied with engineering judgement.

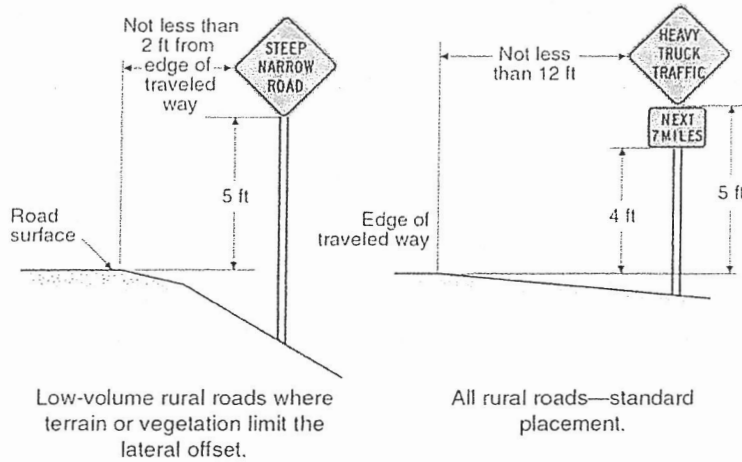
Figure 2: Table 4A.1 Recommended Spacing of Advance Warning Signs

Speed limit or prevailing approach speed (mph)	Distance from the TTC activity area to the first sign and between subsequent signs in a series (feet)
25 or less	100
30 to 45	350
45 to 50	500

Refer to the MUTCD, chapter 6C for State and county highways and speeds greater than 50 mph.

SIGN SUPPORTS

POSTS: Signs are to be mounted on separate posts. Supplemental signs such as Speed Advisory plates are to be mounted on the same post as the primary sign. *Do not mount signs on trees or other signs.* Posts may be wood, metal, carsonite or similar material and must meet breakaway standards if within the clear zone. Wood posts that are 4 inches by 4 inches or have a cross-sectional area of 24 square inches or smaller are considered to meet breakaway standards when installed in normal soil conditions.



TEMPORARY/PORTABLE SUPPORTS: Portable supports may be used for short-term, short-duration, and mobile conditions. All portable supports must meet MUTCD standards, including breakaway. These must be a minimum of 1 foot above the traveled way.

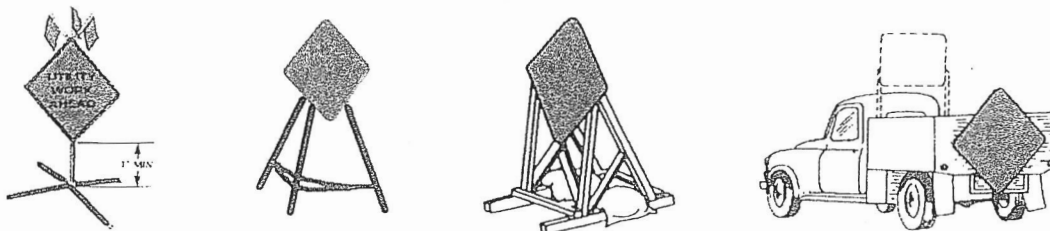


Figure 3: Examples of Temporary/Portable Supports

SIGN SIZES

Sign sizes are dependent on speed of the road and road type as shown in Figure 4: Table 4-1 (EM7100-15) of which a portion of the table is shown below. Larger signs may be used whenever necessary for greater legibility or emphasis.

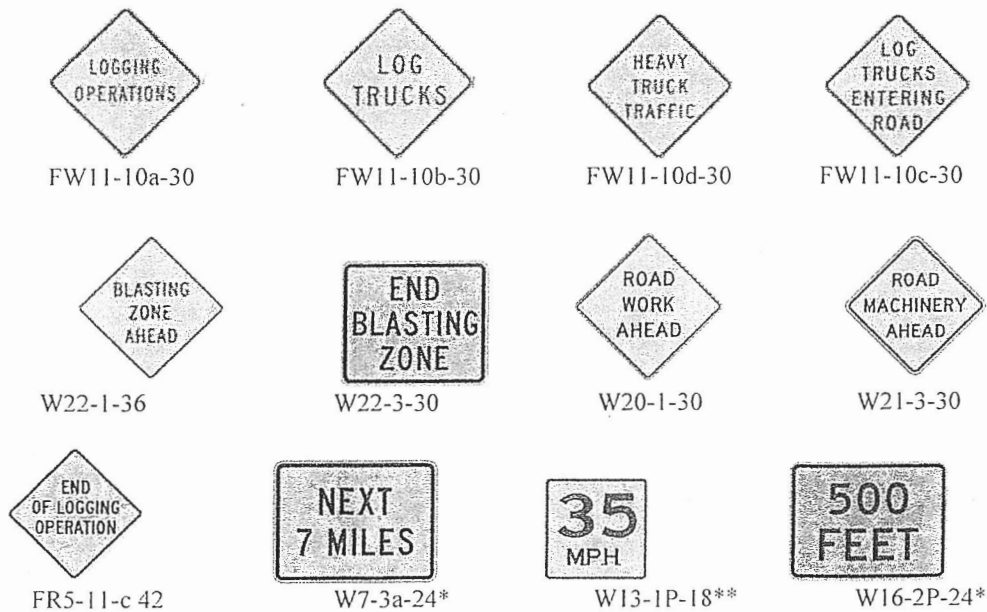
Figure 4: Table 4-1 Temporary Traffic Control Sign Sizes

Table 4-1—Temporary Traffic Control sign sizes by road type				
Message or Symbol	Sign code or series	Conventional road sign sizes (inches)	Low-volume roads	
			Typical sign sizes (inches) = or >35 mph	Minimum sign sizes (inches) <35 mph
REGULATORY				
TRAFFIC CONTROL POINT	EM-3	30 x 24	30 x 24	30 x 24
WARNING				
LOGGING OPERATIONS	FW11-10a	36 x 36	36 x 36	30 x 30
LOG TRUCKS	FW11-10b	36 x 36	36 x 36	30 x 30
LOG TRUCKS ENTERING ROAD	FW11-10c	36 x 36	36 x 36	30 x 30
HEAVY TRUCK TRAFFIC	FW11-10d	36 x 36	36 x 36	30 x 30

TYPICAL SIGNS

The signs below are not a complete listing of signs that may be needed. The decision to use a particular traffic control device at a specific location should be made by either an engineering study or application of engineering judgement. Sign numbers are from MUTCD. An 'F' before the sign number indicates a Forest Service sign and the last number indicates sign size, generally in the horizontal direction. The sign sizes in the signs below are for low-volume roads with a speed of less than 35 mph. Larger signs may be used whenever necessary for greater legibility or emphasis.

Figure 5: Typical signs that meet the intent of Timber Sale Contract Provision B(T)6.33, Safety



* Specify Distance

** Specify Speed

B(T)6.33 WARNING SIGN PLACEMENT

Timber Sale: _____ Contract #: _____

Unless otherwise agreed warning signs will be placed at the following locations.

- A) Signs will be placed at the beginning of system roads and trails open to the public, per the current MVUM, where active hauling is taking place. If it is a through road or trail, both ends of the road or trail will be signed to the extent where active hauling is taking place.

- B) Signs will be placed at the beginning of system roads and trails where active logging operations are within 100 feet of roads or trails open to the public, per the current MVUM. If it is a through road or trail, both ends of the road or trail will be signed to the extent where active logging operations are taking place. If signs required under paragraph A already cover these roads or trails, no additional signs will be needed.

- C) On roads without Forest Service jurisdiction, the Purchaser shall consult with the appropriate regulating agency (i.e. County or State) to determine signing requirements.

D) Other Specific Locations:

Agreement: Purchaser shall furnish, install and maintain all temporary traffic controls as defined in this document.

FSR / ER

Purchaser Representative

Date

Date