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Title: Heavy Duty Portable Skidder Bridge available for rent in Orleans County.

Attention loggers and landowners! Portable skidder bridge rental program is available through Conservation Districts in Vermont. Portable Skidder Bridges are widely used for temporary stream crossings on logging operations. Bridges are easy to transport, install and remove and help loggers meet 'Acceptable Management Practices or AMPs for timber harvesting. Having a bridge on site is part of good harvesting practice that protect water quality from being negatively impacted. With proper site location and proper installation Portable Skidder Bridges allow loggers to reduce sediment and debris from entering streams, and reducing impact to stream bed and bank, helping to keep our waterways healthy and productive.

The bridges are 20' long by 12' wide by 10" thick, consisting of three 4' x 20' panels with weight limits of: 40,000lbs under full loaded Skidder, 70,000lbs loaded Forwarder and 55,000lbs of timber harvesters. Operators will place the bridge at appropriate crossing sites, will have allowable clear span of at least 14ft, will use sill logs, will have as many bumper logs as needed to ensure that hitches stay on the bridge and don't drag soil into the stream and will stabilize approaches using logging slash and corduroy. Technical assistance on placement and use is available from NRCS Foresters throughout the state.

The Orleans County Portable Skidder Bridge Rental Program was started in 2009. The bridge is stored at the Goodridge Lumber Yard in Albany, VT. Interested loggers and landowners can come to the Orleans District office (within the USDA office) at 59 Waterfront Plaza in Newport to discuss your specific site conditions and needs, sign a renter's agreement, pay \$100.00 deposit, refunded at the time of return, and payment of \$100.00 per month rental fee will be charged.

For more information about renting portable skidder bridge please contact Sarah Damsell at the Orleans County NRCD: 802-334-6090 x7008 for more information.