

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE
HERBACEOUS WEED CONTROL

315

315 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire to apply Herbaceous Weed Control to predetermined areas for the intended purpose(s). (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard and Specification 315).

The landowner must be interviewed to determine the purpose and needs for Herbaceous Weed Control. Considerations will include the landowner goals and objectives, existing condition and effects of this practice on existing soil, water, air, plant, animal and human resources. A discussion of NRCS herbaceous weed control standards and specifications should also take place. Role of the landowner and the person assisting with the Herbaceous Weed Control plan should also be discussed. Additional pertinent questions should be asked on a site specific basis.

315 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to identify the mandatory preliminary resource inventory and operations that are required before herbaceous weed control can be planned and implemented. Resource inventories will include all data and information needed to make informed decisions in the development of the Herbaceous Weed Control plan and any follow-up management needs.

Appropriate resource inventories could include soils, ecological sites, similarity index and/or rangeland health, pasture condition score, range trend, degree of infestation by species and all physical features such as structures, fencing and watering facilities, proximity to crop areas, proximity to human habitations, Proximity to

non-target plants that can be adversely effected by chosen treatment methods, streams etc that might have an effect on planning of Herbaceous Weed Control.

Adjacent land resources and non-target areas that could be affected by Herbaceous Weed Control should also be considered.

Identify map resources needed such as the proper USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle sheet, soils, and road maps as well as aerial imagery. Also include identifying all needed utility clearances, archeological clearances. Also see Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Practice Job Sheet 315 and the CPA-52 - Environmental Evaluation Worksheet.

315 – STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to develop an herbaceous weed control plan. This practice will be applied in accordance with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances. Appropriate pesticide applicators license requirements must be met. All pesticides will be applied according to label. Resource inventories and local conditions will be assessed for the proposed land units in the development of a Herbaceous Weed Control plan. A complete Herbaceous Weed Control plan will be developed with the client that meets the intended goals and objectives. If Herbaceous Weed Control is to take place in conjunction with grazing then all requirements outlined in the Standards and Specifications for prescribed grazing and applicable pesticide labels must be met. All appropriate job sheets, maps and reports must be developed with landowners input, review and concurrence. See Practice Standard and Specification 315 & 528 & Job Sheet(s) 315 & 528.

II. SITING

The purpose of this step is to insure that the client fully understands which land units are involved in the Herbaceous Weed Control plan. Care should be given to make sure the land unit locations involved in the Herbaceous Weed Control plan is known by all involved. Access locations for livestock and vehicles should also be known by all involved in implementing the plan.

III. MATERIALS/EQUIPMENT

The purpose of this item is to insure an understanding of the materials/equipment used to implement and monitor Herbaceous Weed Control.

Further knowledge would include the types of mechanical, biological and chemical application equipment used to conduct herbaceous weed control. Those involved in implementing the herbaceous weed control plan should also be able to use monitoring equipment such as grass clippers, clipping frames, weight scales, cameras, as well as all other measuring devices needed for monitoring purposes. Appropriate standards, job sheets that includes the types and number of each type of materials/equipment will need to be provided to the landowner and all those involved in the implementation of the plan.

315 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document and describe each component of the brush management plan, which includes step by step instructions, construction methods and materials to be used while carrying out herbaceous weed control. This will include the documentation of all components described in Herbaceous Weed Control Job Sheet 315. Additional reference material should include as needed and appropriate.

The landowner must be provided with a complete Herbaceous Weed Control plan in the form of NRCS Job sheet 315 in order to document the Herbaceous Weed Control implementation process.

Any items not described in Job Sheet 315 that are essential for implementation of herbaceous weed control will be added to the Job sheet.

315 - STEP 5. MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION, MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to assure that proper management and maintenance is completed before, during and after Herbaceous Weed Control. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard and Specification 315 & 528, Job Sheet 315 & 528).

This requires a familiarity with soils, ecological sites, plant ecology, grazing animals, monitoring and grazing management in order to assure that the treated area meets goals and objects and that the plant community continues to improve over time. A monitoring program that assesses indicators of ecological processes, animal numbers, and utilization should be implemented as per the NRCS National Range and Pasture Handbook and the New Mexico Interagency Rangeland Monitoring Handbook. These measures should be discussed with and understood by the landowner.

315 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service. All completed NRCS forms should be collected from the landowner and submitted to the appropriate persons. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard and Specification 315 & 528 and Job Sheet 315 & 528 1 - 7, NM-CPA52 Environmental Evaluation Worksheet).

II. DOCUMENTS

Copies of all completed job sheets and associated work sheets should be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative within 10 working days of completion of the prescribed grazing plan. This includes the Practice Requirements for Herbaceous Weed Control 315 and Prescribed

Grazing 528, Job Sheet(s) for 315 & 528 and any other job sheets that may be needed for this practice to meet the intended goals and objectives.