



**Natural Resources Conservation Service**  
**CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**  
**TREE-SHRUB SITE PREPARATION**

**CODE 490**

**(ac)**

**DEFINITION**

Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.

**PURPOSE**

This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes—

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants
- Permit artificial establishment of woody plants

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On all lands needing treatment to establish trees and/or shrubs.

**CRITERIA**

**General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes**

The method, intensity and timing of site preparation will match the limitations of the site, equipment, and the requirements for establishing the desired woody species.

An appropriate site preparation method will be chosen to achieve the intended purpose and to protect desirable vegetation, site and soil conditions. Other complementary practices and measures will be used as necessary to control erosion, runoff, compaction and displacement to acceptable levels.

Slash and debris shall be removed, treated or eliminated as appropriate. Refer to the standard Slash Treatment, 384.

Remaining slash and debris shall not create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests.

Remaining slash and debris shall not hinder needed equipment operations or create an undue fire hazard. Refer to the standard Prescribed Burning, 338, for slash and debris that will be burned.

Measures, including the use of equipment, will be implemented to control or protect against locally invasive and noxious species that may arise from site preparation activities. If pesticides are used, refer to the standard Pest Management, 595.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Impacts on wildlife species, habitat and aesthetics should be considered when selecting site preparation methods.

Particulates, smoke, and other air pollutants generated by site preparation may have on-site and off-site effects on air quality.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Specifications for applying this practice and protection of the site shall be prepared and recorded using approved specification guide, Implementation Requirements, technical notes and narrative statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Maintain erosion control measures as necessary.

Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary. If pesticides are used, refer to the standard Pest Management, 595.

Access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation shall be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts. Refer to the standard Use Exclusion, 472.

**REFERENCES**

None.