



Conservation Practice Overview

Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384)

Woody residue treatment reduces or otherwise addresses the management of woody plant residues created during forestry, agroforestry or horticultural activities, or resulting from natural disasters.

Practice Information

This practice applies on areas with quantities of woody slash and debris requiring treatment.

Conservation benefits include but are not limited to—

- Reduced wildfire hazard.
- Reduced risk of smoke.
- Reduced risk of harmful insects and disease.
- Improved access to forage for grazing and browsing animals.
- Improved soil organic matter retention.
- Improved site conditions for natural or artificial regeneration.

Treatment options include burning, chipping, shredding, and offsite disposal. When determining the method and timing of woody material treatment, considerations will include air quality regulations, burning regulations, available resources, ability to use woody biomass as biofuel, and future regeneration objectives. Long-term negative impacts to soil quality may occur with offsite removal of woody material.

Common Associated Practices

Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384) is commonly applied with CPSs such as Access Control (Code 472), Critical Area Planting (Code 342), Firebreak (Code 394), Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666), Integrated Pest Management (Code 595), Prescribed Burning (Code 338), Prescribed Grazing (Code 528), Sediment Basin (Code 350), and Structure for Water Control (Code 587).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

