

Information below is adapted from the Maine NRCS 'Structures for Wildlife Specification'.

To construct brush piles:

1. lay at least four 10 to 18 ft logs , 6 - 10 inches in diameter parallel to each other 8 – 12 inches apart,
2. lay an equal number of similarly sized logs on and perpendicular to the 1st base logs,
3. build up the pile by crossing several layers of 2" – 4 " limbs with loose branches and twigs on top to a minimum height of 4 feet. Interlaced conifer branches with needles can top-off the structure,
4. if desired, 4 feet section of 6 inch drainage tile or cinder blocks can be placed under the base to allow easier access,
5. piles should not exceed 3 piles per acre and should be arranged to connect uncut forest and riparian areas,
6. maintain brush piles by periodically adding new limbs and branches.

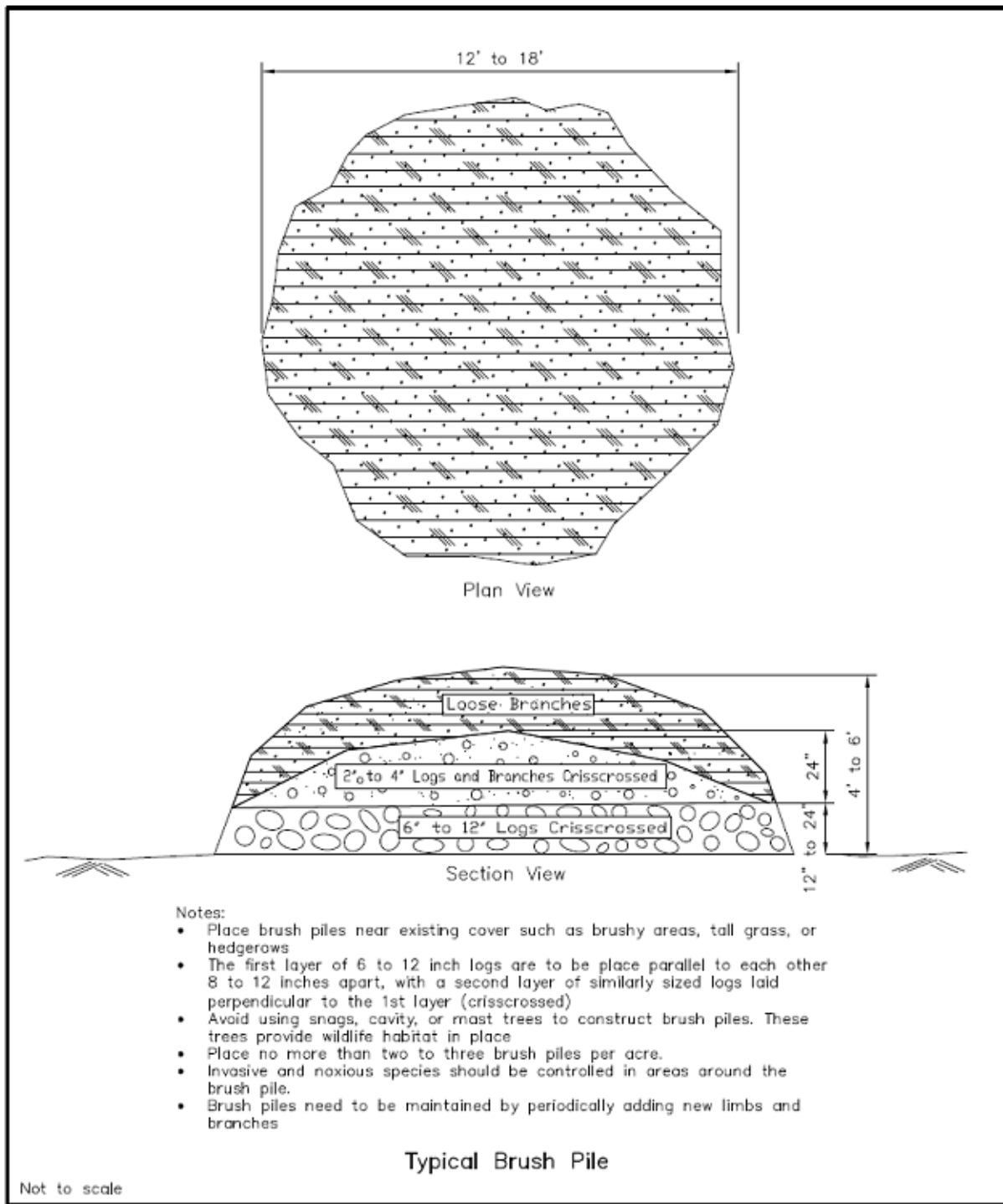
Note: Piles at least 6 feet high, circular brush piles 16 or more feet in diameter or rectangular piles 16 feet wide and at least 25 feet in length provide better cover.

Proper Construction of a Brush Pile



Pictures courtesy of Dave Garcelon, NRCS

649 – Structures for Wildlife Implementation Requirements



Additional Notes: