



Producer:

Location:

Farm Name:

Project or Contract:

County:

Tract Number:

Practice Lifespan – 1 year



Practice Purpose(s): This practice is used to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:
(check all that apply)

Manage soil conditions, naturally available water, and seasonally high water to favor tree and shrub establishment, survival, and growth

Modify the habitat of weeds, pests, and diseases to reduce pressure on naturally or artificially regenerated trees and shrubs

Facilitate the establishment, survival, and growth of tree and shrub species

Other: (Specify)

Description of work:

NRCS Review Only

Designed By:

Date

Checked By:

Date

Approved By:

Date

490 – Tree/Shrub Site Preparation Implementation Requirements

CRITERIA:

Use mechanical, chemical, or prescribed burning methods either alone or in combination to alter woody residue, vegetation, ground cover, soil, or microsite conditions to prepare the site for planting, seeding, or natural regeneration of desired tree and shrub species. Where herbicides will be used, evaluate and interpret risks using the Windows Pesticide Screening Tool (WIN-PST) or other approved tools or guides, or use NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Pest Management Conservation System (Code 595).

Expose mineral soil as needed to achieve the desired distribution of plants to be established by seed for tree and shrub species that require mineral soil for germination and establishment.

Determine method(s), intensity, and timing of site preparation activities depending on topography, and on soil and site conditions. Schedule silviculture and site preparation activities so they are completed at the optimal time prior to the commencement of planting or seeding activities, or to the initiation of natural regeneration.

Leave woody residue in place to provide soil protection and wildlife habitat, retain soil moisture and organic matter, and protect the soil surface from temperature extremes—except where it will pose a fire hazard, increase the risk of pest damage, or interfere with management activities.

Use NRCS CPS Prescribed Burning (Code 338) when using fire to prepare a site.

On soils prone to compaction or rut formation, use low ground-pressure equipment or nonmechanized site preparation methods. When preparing compacted cropland or pasture sites for tree planting, chisel, rip, and/or subsoil to mitigate compacted soil layers, as needed. Use criteria in NRCS CPS Deep Tillage (Code 324).

Retain desirable surface and canopy cover to protect soil and site conditions. Alternatively use NRCS CPS Cover Crop (Code 340) or Critical Area Planting (Code 342) and/or other measures as needed to control erosion, runoff, and displacement from typical rainfall events.

Do not use wheeled and tracked equipment on slopes where operability causes safety concerns or adverse impacts on soil conditions. Perform ground-disturbing site preparation activities on the contour where feasible. Restrict the use of wheeled and tracked equipment to periods when the soil is either frozen or unsaturated. Use designated trails or establish a trail system as appropriate and feasible. Use NRCS CPS Forest Trails and Landings (Code 655).

Mitigate site preparation activities near wetlands, water bodies, and in or near riparian areas to reduce negative water quality impacts.

Follow State's best management practices for water quality.

Contact State Archaeologist for areas where soils will be disturbed.

Follow all General and Additional Criteria found in the 490 Conservation Practice Standard (CPS).

Sketches, drawings, and detail drawings are attached.

N/A

A map(s) showing the planned location(s) Tree/Shrub Site Preparation is attached.

(Attach an aerial photograph-based map of the planned 490 area. Clearly define the management area on a map and flag it out on the ground so that it is clear to the landowner or contractors. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included. Note: The Conservation Plan Map may be sufficient depending upon the level of map detail.

490 – Tree/Shrub Site Preparation Implementation Requirements

PLANS and SPECIFICATIONS:

Goals/Primary Purpose for this practice

Current Land Use:

Existing Vegetative Cover:

Tree/Shrub establishment will be accomplished by:

Natural Regeneration

Planting

Both

Planned Tree Planting Date (if planted):

N/A

Site Preparation Method				
(Refer to VT Standard & Specification Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 490 for specific requirements)				
Field	Acres	Method ¹	Date	Remarks/Mitigation/Target Vegetation for Removal

¹Specify method, - Options are:

Chemical – where herbicides are used, certified pesticide applicators must document application. Use the 490-Contractor record keeping and certification sheet.

Hand Work – basic hand tools such as shovel, hoe, etc. to clear debris and vegetation to establish trees/shrubs.

Mechanical – mowing/brush hog/harrowing, disking or plowing or scarification. Usually categorized into light for mowing/brush hog/light tillage or heavy for more intensive site preparation.

Contingency Plans: (Describe plans in case of flooding or other disturbances that impact implementation schedules or mitigations)

490 – Tree/Shrub Site Preparation Implementation Requirements

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE:

Operation

Site preparation operations will comply with all local, State, and Federal laws and ordinances, and with State's forestry best management practices for water quality.

For site preparation using herbicides, the operator will develop a safety plan for individuals exposed to chemicals, including telephone numbers and addresses of emergency treatment centers and the telephone number for the nearest poison control center. The National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) telephone number in Corvallis, Oregon, may also be given for nonemergency information: 1-800-858- 7384, Monday to Friday, 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Pacific Time. The national Chemical Transportation Emergency Center (CHEMTRAC) telephone number is 1-800-424-9300.

- Follow label requirements for mixing/loading setbacks from wells, intermittent streams, and rivers, natural or impounded ponds and lakes, and reservoirs.
- Post signs, according to label directions and/or Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws, around fields that have been treated. Follow restricted entry intervals.
- Dispose of herbicides and herbicide containers in accordance with label directions and adhere to Federal, State, Tribal, and local regulations.
- Read and follow label directions and maintain appropriate material safety data sheets.
- Calibrate application equipment according to recommendations before each seasonal use and with each major chemical and site change.
- Replace worn nozzle tips, cracked hoses, and faulty gauges on spray equipment.
- Herbicide application records shall be kept in accordance with USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's Pesticide Recordkeeping Program and State-specific requirements.

Determine the success of the practice by evaluating post-treatment conditions and verifying that they are suitable for the establishment of desired trees and shrubs.

Maintenance

Following initial application, some regrowth, sprouting, or reoccurrence of undesirable plants may be expected. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas needing retreatment should be completed as needed while woody vegetation is small and can be most successfully treated, during the lifespan of this practice. This includes maintaining erosion control measures as necessary and controlling access by vehicles, wildlife, or livestock, to support successful establishment of this practice.

Specific Additional Operation and Maintenance Requirements For Your Practice:

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NEPA requirements have been met, including Cultural Resource Assessment.

Permits:

Permits Are Required

Permits are Not Required

Permit Number (If Required): _____

If you have questions regarding this Tree/Shrub Site Preparation practice, contact:

Name:		Tel:		Email:	
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