



Conservation Practice Overview

April 2021

Tree Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490)

Treatment of sites to enhance the success of natural or artificial regeneration of desired trees and/or shrubs.

Practice Information

Apply the tree/shrub site preparation conservation practice to control undesirable vegetation, remove slash and debris, or alter site conditions in order to provide optimum site conditions for planting or seeding of woody species, or to encourage natural regeneration of desirable trees and shrubs.



This practice applies to understocked areas, areas planned for tree planting following harvest, areas where a land cover change to woody plants is desired, or areas having undesirable vegetation that inhibits or competes with the establishment of preferred woody species.

Application of this practice requires consideration of—

- Protecting existing desirable vegetation;
- Treating remaining slash and debris so it does not harbor harmful levels of pests, hinder needed equipment operation, or create undue fire hazard;
- Controlling erosion and/or runoff;
- Cost-effectiveness of the chosen method;
- Protecting cultural resources, springs, seeps, wetlands, and other unique areas; and
- Impacts on wildlife habitat.

Common Associated Practices

NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490) commonly precedes NRCS CPS Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612); and is applied with other conservation practices such as NRCS CPSs Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), and Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (Code 380).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.