

FUEL BREAK

383

CONSERVATION PRACTICE JOB SHEET

Landowner _____ Field number(s) _____

Purpose
Control and reduce the risk of the spread of fire by treating, removing or modifying vegetation, debris and detritus.

Layout
Fuel break width:
Fuel break length:
Separation distance between tree crowns (not trunks): (20 feet min):
Separation distance between canopy layers: (3 times the shrub layer height):
Separation distance between shrubs: (2 to 4 times height):
Stump height: (<12 inches):

General Considerations:

1. A fuel break provides more fire protection and suppression benefits when supplementing a fire break. It will provide a wider protection distance of reduced fuels when added to the 15-30 feet width of the firebreak.
2. Width of the fuel break will depend on the type and height of the forest vegetation plus the slope of the area to be protected.
3. The minimum width of the fuel break will be 50 feet. This may be widened for slope increases or heavier fuel conditions. In those cases, a distance equal to the height of the trees in the fuel break can be added to the minimum width.
4. Vertical separation distances are needed between the strata layers of the forest canopy. This will keep fires from climbing from ground fuels into the tree crowns. The recommended separation of these "ladder" fuels is 3 times the shrub layer height. Trees and shrubs may be pruned to achieve this separation distance.
5. Separation distances between shrubs and small trees (less than an average of 15 feet in height) will be 2 times their height on 0-20% slopes and 4 times their height on slopes over 20%.
6. Remove, chip, or pile and burn all cut, dead, or dying woody materials. All standing dead or dying trees within the fuel break must be removed.
7. Remove all dead tree branches from live trees to a height of 15 feet.
8. Remove the leaf or needle layer through prescribed burning.
9. Fuel breaks will be located perpendicular to the prevailing winds.
10. Inspect fuel breaks at frequencies to assure that the desired level of fire spread risk is maintained.

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Additional Specifications and Notes: