

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

(No.)
Code 500



during planning, design and implementation of this conservation practice in accordance with established National and Florida policy, General Manual (GM) Title 420-Part 401; Title 450-Part 401, Title 190-Parts 410.22 and 410.26, National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) Florida Supplements to Parts 600.1 and 600.6, National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (NCRPH), National Food Security Act Manual (NFSAM), and the National Environmental Compliance Handbook (NECH).

Remove obstructions by demolition, excavation or other means required to satisfactorily remove the obstructions. Dispose of all debris from the obstruction removal so that it does not impede subsequent work or cause onsite or offsite damage.

Dispose of inorganic materials such as rock piles, boulders, stones, concrete or masonry structures and metal or concrete fence posts by reusing, removal or burial at approved locations.

Dispose of organic materials such as wooden fence posts, woody vegetation, and woody building materials by removal to an approved landfill or recycling center, burial at an approved location or burning if allowed by law.

Dispose of trash and non-woody building materials at an approved landfill or recycling center.

When removing buildings, ensure that all utilities, such as gas and electric, have been shut off and disconnected from the structure before beginning demolition.

Prior to any work, contact utility companies or the state one-call system to identify the location of utility lines in the construction area and to arrange the shut off of utilities if necessary.

The removal of obstructions can expose toxic or polluted materials. If toxic or polluted materials

DEFINITION

Removal and disposal of buildings, structures, vegetation, debris, landscape features, and other materials.

PURPOSE

To safely remove and dispose of unwanted obstructions in order to apply conservation practices or facilitate the planned land use.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On any land where existing obstructions interfere with planned use and development, public safety, or infrastructure.

CRITERIA

Plan and design obstruction removal to comply with all Federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Evaluate and avoid or minimize impact to cultural resources, wetlands and Federal and state protected species to the extent practicable

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

are expected to be found during obstruction removal, include appropriate handling and disposal criteria in the plans and specifications.

When removing obstructions that contain chromated copper arsenate (CCA) treated wood, do not burn the wood. Burning of CCA treated wood can release toxic amounts of arsenic into the air and ash from the fire that are very harmful to human and animal health. CCA treated wood should be buried at an approved landfill.

Obstruction removal can result in the disturbance of large areas that are subject to erosion during the demolition process. Where necessary include provisions in the plans to control erosion and offsite sedimentation.

Reshape and regrade all areas disturbed by obstruction removal so that it blends with the surrounding land features and conditions. Any foundations or below ground portions of the obstruction that remain in place shall have sufficient soil cover to meet the requirements of the planned land use. Compact fill areas according to site specific requirements.

Re-vegetate or otherwise protect from erosion disturbed areas as soon as possible after construction. Refer to Florida NRCS conservation practice standard Critical Area Planting, Code 342 for seedbed preparation, seeding, fertilizing, and mulching requirements.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the recycling or reuse of materials as the first option for disposal of materials from obstruction removal. Most woody debris can be recycled into mulch or other products. Recycling or other environmentally friendly options exist for the disposal of many other materials as well.

Demolition activities can generate large amounts of dust. Where necessary, consider using dust suppression techniques such as spraying water over the removal site to suppress dust.

Obstruction removal often involves heavy equipment working in environmentally sensitive areas. Ensure that servicing and refueling of equipment is accomplished in a manner that does not adversely affect the environment.

Demolition of structures and the removal of debris can be a hazardous undertaking. This is especially true for the removal of downed and tangled trees. This type of work should be performed by licensed well qualified personnel using proper equipment and following appropriate safety procedures.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Prepare plans and specifications for obstruction removal that describe the requirements for applying the practice according to this standard. Plans and specifications for this practice shall be included in the plans for the practice it supports. As a minimum the plans and specifications shall include:

1. A plan view showing the location of the obstruction removal site.
2. Details showing the extent of obstruction removal.
3. Details and location for the disposal of materials from the obstruction removal.
4. Details of how the site will be stabilized after construction.
5. Construction specifications that describe in writing site specific requirements for the obstruction removal (e.g. compaction requirements, vegetative requirements, etc.).
6. Location of utilities and notification requirements.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Prepare an operation and maintenance plan for the operator. Operation and maintenance (O&M) for this practice may be addressed in the O&M plans for the practice it supports. The minimum requirements to be addressed in the operation and maintenance plan are:

1. Periodic checking to ensure the site remains stable after construction.
2. When disposal of debris occurs on site, periodic checking to ensure that the disposal site remains stable.
3. Repair any problems as soon as possible.

REFERENCES

Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standard
Critical Area Planting, Code 342
General Manual (GM)
Title 420-Part 401
Title 450-Part 401
Title 190-Parts 410.22 and 410.26
National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook

National Environmental Compliance Handbook
National Food Security Act Manual
National Planning Procedures Handbook
Florida Supplements to Parts 600.1 and
600.6
Safety and Health Regulations for Construction,
29 CFR 1926, Occupational Safety and
Health Administration, U.S. Department of
Labor.