

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**FOREST SITE PREPARATION**

(Acre)

**CODE 490**

**DEFINITION**

Treating areas to improve site conditions for establishing a forest.

**PURPOSE**

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants.
- Permit artificial establishment of woody plants.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On all lands where establishment of woody plants is desired for forest establishment and production.

**CRITERIA**

The method, intensity, and timing of site preparation will match the limitations of the site, equipment, and the requirements of the desired woody species.

An appropriate site preparation method will be chosen to protect the soils and any desirable vegetation.

Remaining slash and debris shall not create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests.

Remaining slash and debris shall not hinder needed equipment operations or create an undue fire hazard.

Erosion and/or runoff will be controlled.

Soil compaction and displacement will be minimized.

All chemicals will be applied in accordance with label guidelines.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

The site preparation method should be cost effective and protect cultural resources, wildlife habitat, water resources, and identified unique areas.

Consider cultural resources when planning this practice. This practice may adversely affect cultural resources and should comply with General Manual Title 420, Part 401, during planning, prior to installation, and during maintenance.

Visual quality objectives should be considered when selecting site preparation methods.

Anticipate possible off-site effects and modify the site preparation design accordingly.

Consider personnel safety during site preparation activities.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans will address method of site preparation, species, and protection required for desirable woody plants.

Specifications for applying this practice and protection of the site shall be prepared and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

Operation and maintenance requirements are not applicable for this practice.