

# USDA BRUSH MANAGEMENT

Conservation Practice Jobsheet

314

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

January 2012

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_



## WHAT IS BRUSH MANGEMENT

The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious

## PURPOSE

- Create the desired plant community consistent with the ecological site
- Restore or release desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality or enhance stream flow
- Maintain, modify or enhance fish and wildlife habitat
- Improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock and wildlife
- Manage fuel loads to achieve desired conditions

## WHERE THE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all lands except active cropland where the removal, reduction, or manipulation of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants is desired. This practice does not apply to removal of woody vegetation by prescribed fire or removal of woody

vegetation to facilitate a land use change.

## OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Brush management will be applied in a manner to achieve the desired control of the target woody species and protection of desired species. This will be accomplished by mechanical, chemical, biological or a combination of these methods.

Brush management practices shall be applied using approved materials and procedures. Operations will comply with all local, state, and federal laws and ordinances.

Following initial application, some regrowth, resprouting, or reoccurrence of brush may be expected. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas needing re-treatment should be completed as needed while woody vegetation is small and most vulnerable to desired treatment procedures..

NRCS, LA  
January 2012

## BRUSH MANAGEMENT – SPECIFICATIONS SHEET

Landowner/Cooperator \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office \_\_\_\_\_

Plan Number \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose/Objective of the Practice (Check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restore natural plant community balance
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create the desired plant community
<input type="checkbox"/>	Restore desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality and enhance stream flow
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain or enhance wildlife habitat including that associated with threatened and endangered species
<input type="checkbox"/>	Improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock
<input type="checkbox"/>	Protect life and property from wildfire hazards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____

**This practice will be used to reduce the density and/or canopy cover of the following woody species:**

Land Use	Before Treatment (% Canopy Cover <sup>1</sup> )	After Treatment (% Canopy Cover <sup>1</sup> )	Before Treatment (Plants per Acre <sup>2</sup> )	After Treatment (Plants per Acre <sup>2</sup> )

### <sup>1</sup>% Canopy Cover

1. % canopy will be determined along a 100 – 300 foot transect line. The line can be paced or a tape of sufficient length used.
2. The number of transects will be sufficient to determine an average for the field or site in question.
3. If using tape method (100 ft. tape)
  - Lay out tape along a line through area where canopy is to be determined.
  - Count the number of foot markers that have canopy above them.
  - The number of points is the % canopy
  - Example: Line established using 100 ft. tape. Brush canopy is counted over 35 of the 1 foot markers. Brush canopy is 35%.
4. If using paced method.
  - Determine a line to pace by selecting a point in the distance to walk toward.
  - Place a flag at beginning point and pace toward selected point for 100 paces (approx. 300 feet)
  - Turn around and walk back towards flag, counting the number of paces in which canopy is above the point of each foot.
  - Example: 100 paces are made along the predetermined line. 27 steps are intercepted with brush canopy above tip of foot. Brush canopy is 27 %.

<sup>2</sup>

### Plants per Acre

1. Mark off area 66 feet by 66 feet (1/10 of an acre). This can be done with tape or paced (approx. 22 paces)
  - Count number of targeted species in marked off area and multiply by 10
  - Example: 23 trees counted in the marked off area. Plants per acre is 230.
2. Transect Method (Belt Transect)
  - Determine transect line as for canopy determinations
  - Tape or pace 300 feet (approx. 100 paces)
  - Walk back toward starting point along transect, counting number of targeted species within 6 feet on both sides of tape (total of 12 feet)
  - Multiply number of plants counted by 12 to get number of plants per acre.
  - Example: Number of trees counted along the line, 6 feet on both sides is 25. Number of plants per acre is (25x12) 300.

**Plants per Acre Infestation**

	Light – Woody brush stocking less than 100 stems per acre or height less than 12 inches
	Medium – Woody brush stocking less than 100-300 stems per acres or height 12-24 inches
	Heavy – Woody brush stocking greater than 300 stems per acre or height greater than 24 inches

**Planned Treatment Type or Method**

	Chemical
	Mechanical
	Biological

**Chemical Treatment (Chemical application will be according to label)**

Herbicide Planned	Rate/Volume Planned	Total Acres Planned	Date Planned	Herbicide Applied	Rate/Volume Applied	Acres Applied	Date Applied

**WIN-PST Completed?**

	Attached
	In Case File
	Not Applicable

**Mechanical Treatment**

Type of Equipment Planned	Date of Planned Treatment	Total Acres	Type of Equipment Applied	Acres Applied	Date Applied

**Follow-up Action Needed to Ensure Success (Check all that apply)**

	Stacking
	Windrowing
	Burning
	Individual Plant Chemical Treatment
	Shredding
	Chipping

**This practice requires a current Louisiana One Call Dottie Confirmation Number.**

**Call before you dig**, wait 48 hours for the site to be marked, observe the marks and dig with care. The service is free. It's the law! Civil Penalties range up to \$25,000 for violations of the "Dig" law.

