

## Obstruction Removal (Ac.) 500

### DEFINITION

Removal and disposal of unwanted, unsightly or hazardous buildings, structures, vegetation, landscape features, and other materials.

### PURPOSE

To safely remove and dispose of unwanted obstructions and materials in order to apply conservation practices or facilitate planned use of abandoned mine lands, farms, ranches, construction sites, and recreation areas.

### CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On land where existing obstructions interfere with planned use and development.

### CRITERIA

#### General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Obstruction Removal shall be planned, designed, and installed to meet all federal, state, local and tribal laws and regulations.

Rock piles, boulders, stones, fences, hedgerows, abandoned buildings and structures, trash, and similar obstructions that would interfere with planned use and development shall be removed. All debris such as broken concrete and masonry, structural steel and wood, stones, stumps, slash, and sterile or toxic soil shall be disposed of so that they will not impede subsequent work or cause damage to offsite or other areas.

Disposal shall be by burning, burying, or removing to an approved landfill in an environmentally acceptable manner and implemented according to permit conditions, where applicable

All required gully shaping shall be performed to specified dimensions and grades. Fills shall be compacted as appropriate. The cover over buried materials shall be designed to be adequate for the planned use, treatment, and vegetation.

Appropriate erosion control practices shall be applied on disturbed areas.

All areas denuded and disturbed during obstruction removal shall be revegetated, where practical, according to the NRCS conservation practice standard Critical Area Planting (342). Use vegetation adapted to the site that will accomplish the desired purpose. Preference shall be given to native species in order to reduce the introduction of invasive plant species; provide management of existing invasive species; and minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that invasive species may cause. If native plant materials are not adaptable or proven effective for the planned use, then non-native species may be used. Refer to the Field Office Technical Guide, Section II, Invasive Plant Species, for plant materials identified as invasive species.

### CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the potential effects of installation and operation of Obstruction Removal on the cultural, archeological, historic and economic resources.

### PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications shall be prepared in accordance with the criteria of this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended use.

Support data documentation requirements are as follows:

- Inventory and evaluation records
  - Assistance notes or special report
- Survey notes, where applicable
  - Design survey
  - Construction layout survey
  - Construction check survey
- Design records
  - Physical data, functional requirements and site constraints, where applicable
  - Soils/subsurface investigation report, where applicable

- Design and quantity calculations
- Construction drawings/specifications with:
  - Location map
  - “Designed by” and “Checked by” names or initials
  - Approval signature
  - Job class designation
  - Initials from preconstruction conference
  - As-built notes
- Construction inspection records
  - Assistance notes or separate inspection records
  - Construction approval signature
- Record of any variances approved, where applicable
- Record of approvals of in-field changes affecting function and/or job class, where applicable.

#### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

An Operation and Maintenance (O&M) plan shall be developed for this practice. The O&M plan shall be consistent with the purposes of the practice, its intended life, safety requirements, and the criteria for the design.