

**NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

BRUSH MANAGEMENT

(Ac.)

CODE 314

DEFINITION

Removal, reduction, or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants.

PURPOSE

This practice may be applied to accomplish one or more of the following purposes:

- Restore natural plant community balance.
- Create the desired plant community.
- Reduce competition for space, moisture, and sunlight from undesirable and unwanted plants.
- Manage noxious woody plants.
- Restore desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality and enhance stream flow.
- Maintain or enhance wildlife habitat including habitat associated with threatened and endangered species.
- Improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for grazing animals.
- Protect life and property from wildfire hazards.
- Improve visibility and access for handling livestock.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On rangeland, native or naturalized pasture, introduced pasture and hay lands where removal or reduction of brushy plants is desired.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable For All Purposes

Brush management will be designed to achieve the desired plant community considering woody plant density, canopy cover, or height.

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

Prescribed Grazing shall be monitored to ensure desired response from treatments.

Additional Criteria For Maintaining or Enhancing Wildlife Habitat

Brush management will be planned and applied in a manner to meet the habitat requirements of the wildlife of concern.

Brush management will be planned in a manner that it will not adversely affect threatened or endangered species or their habitats.

Additional Criteria For Protecting Life and Property From Wildfire

Control undesirable woody plants in a manner that creates the desired plant community that does not provide wildfire hazard conditions.

CONSIDERATIONS

Timing and sequence of brush management in a pasture and/or on the entire operating unit should be planned to ensure needed forage is available for the grazing animals.

Consider soil erosion potential and difficulty of

vegetation re-establishment when choosing a method of control that causes soil disturbance.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications will be prepared for each pasture, field, or management unit where Brush Management will be applied.

Plans and specifications will be based on the practice standard and may include narratives, maps, drawings, job sheets, or similar documents. These documents will contain the following data as a minimum:

- Brush canopy cover and/or target species plant count will be quantified using either transect line locations with percent canopy and/or numbers per acre of the target plant(s).
- Use maps or drawings showing areas to be treated and areas to be left undisturbed.
- Plans for revegetating when needed.

For mechanical treatment methods, plans and specifications will include types of equipment and any modifications necessary to enable the equipment to adequately complete the job. Also included should be:

- Dates of treatment
- Operating instructions
- Techniques or procedures to be followed

For chemical treatment methods, plans and specifications will include:

- Herbicide name
- Rate of application or spray volumes
- Acceptable dates of application
- Mixing instructions (if applicable)
- Any special application techniques, timing considerations, or other factors that must be considered to ensure the safest, most effective application of the herbicide
- Reference to label instructions
- Refer to University of Missouri Extension Publication MP 581 "Weed and Brush Control Guide for Forages, Pastures and Non-Cropland" for further guidance.

For biological treatment methods, plans and specifications will include:

- Kind of biological agent or grazing animal to be used
- Timing, duration, and intensity of grazing or browsing
- Desired degree of grazing or browsing use for effective control of target species
- Maximum allowable degree of use on desirable non-target species
- Special precautions or requirements when using insects or plants as control agents
- Refer to Missouri Agronomy Technical Note 32 "Biological Weed and Brush Control with Sheep and Goats" for further guidance.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

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

Success of the practice shall be determined by evaluating regrowth or reoccurrence of target species after sufficient time has passed to monitor the situation and gather reliable data. Evaluation periods will depend on the methods and materials used and will be included in the plans and specifications.

Maintenance: Following initial application, some regrowth, resprouting, or reoccurrence of brush should be expected. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas needing retreatment should be done as needed.