

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
VIRGINIA CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

(Acre)

Code 500

DEFINITION

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

will not impede subsequent work or cause damage to areas offsite.

Disposal shall be by burning, burying, or removing to an approved landfill in an environmentally acceptable manner.

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.

All required land 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.

Historical or archaeologically significant and scenic values shall be identified and preserved as appropriate.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On land where existing obstructions interfere with planned use and development or pose an environmental hazard.

Appropriate erosion control practices shall be applied on disturbed areas. Selection of vegetation shall be in accordance with the *Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia* and Virginia Conservation Practice Standard *Critical Area Planting (Code 342)*.

CRITERIA

Obstruction removal shall be planned, designed, and carried out to meet all federal, state, and local 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 material shall be disposed of so that they

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the effects upon components of the water budget, especially effects on volume and rate of runoff, infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, deep percolation, and groundwater recharge.

Assess the effects on the visual quality or downstream water resources.

Consider short-term and construction-related effects on the quality of water resources.

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

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Assess the potential uncovering or redistributing toxic materials. Local hazardous waste officials will be contacted prior to any work where known toxics exist. If unknown toxics are located, all work will cease until local officials are contacted.

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.

DESIGN DATA

Engineering plans, specifications, and reports shall include but not be limited to the following:

1. Location map.
2. Plan view of work to be done.
3. Identification of disposal area.
4. Erosion and sediment control plan.
5. Seeding specifications.

CHECK DATA

1. As built drawings showing changes from the design.
2. Statement that the area is now suitable for its intended use.
3. Statement that disturbed areas have been stabilized.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and maintenance requirements must be prepared by the Designer for use by the owner or other responsible for operating this practice. The requirements should provide specific instructions for operating and maintaining the system to ensure that it functions properly. They should also provide for periodic inspections and prompt repair or replacement of damage components. Erosion and sediment control practices should be maintained, as needed.

REFERENCES

1. NRCS, Virginia Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV.
2. NRCS, *Plant Establishment Guide for Virginia*.

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Approved Practice Narrative

(Acre)

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500 D1 Obstruction Removal: Obstruction removal to be used on land where existing obstructions interfere with planned use and development.

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