

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**FOREST SITE PREPARATION**

(Acre)

**CODE 490**

**DEFINITION**

Treating areas to improve site conditions for establishing a forest.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

**PURPOSES**

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

**CONSIDERATIONS**

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

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

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On all lands where establishment of woody plants is desired.

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

Consider personnel safety during site preparation activities.

**CRITERIA**

**General Criteria Applicable To All Purposes**

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 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.

**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**

Repair erosion control measures as necessary to ensure proper function. Access by vehicles during site preparation or after (i.e., before adequate tree and shrub establishment occurs) should be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts.

<p>Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.</p>
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**NRCS, ND  
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