

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD
SOUTH DAKOTA SUPPLEMENTS ITALICIZED**

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

(ac.)
CODE 500

DEFINITION

Removal and disposal of unwanted, unsightly or hazardous buildings, structures, vegetation, landscape features, trash, 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. This standard applies to removal and disposal of all types of obstructions and materials that prevent or hinder installation of conservation practices or present a hazard to their use and enjoyment.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

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

CONSIDERATIONS

Water Quantity

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

Water Quality

1. Effects on the visual quality or downstream water resources.
2. Short-term and construction-related effects on the quality of water resources.
3. Potential uncovering or redistributing toxic materials such as saline soils.

Laws and Regulations

This practice must conform to all federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Laws and regulations of particular concern include those involving

water rights, land use, pollution control, property easements, wetlands, preservation of cultural resources and endangered species.

CRITERIA

Rock piles, boulders, stones, fences, hedge rows, abandoned buildings and structures, trash, and similar obstructions that would interfere with planned use and development *should* be removed *where appropriate*. 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 will not impede subsequent work or cause damage to offsite or other areas. Disposal shall be by burning, burying, or removing to an approved land fill in an environmentally acceptable manner. All required gully shaping shall be performed to specified dimensions and grades. Gully fills shall be compacted to the required density. The cover over buried materials shall be designed to be adequate for the planned use, treatment, and vegetation. Historical or archaeological significant and scenic values shall be identified and preserved as appropriate.

Vegetative Cover. *An adequate protective cover of grasses shall be established on the disturbed area, when needed, to protect it against erosion by flood flows, wave action, or rainfall and runoff. Seedbed preparation, seeding, sprigging, or sodding, fertilizing, mulching, and fencing shall comply with South Dakota Technical Guide standard Critical Area Planting (342).*

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for obstructions removal shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying and achieving the practice purpose.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

The designer will decide whether an operation and maintenance plan is needed for this practice.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. The current version of this standard is posted on our website at www.sd.nrcs.usda.gov or may be obtained at your local Natural Resources Conservation Service.