

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

(Acre)

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.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

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

DESIGN CRITERIA

Rock piles, boulders, stones, fences, hedge rows, abandoned buildings and structures, trash, and similar obstruction 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 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. [The value of hedgerows, rock piles and brush piles to wildlife shall be evaluated for all potential obstruction removal sites.](#)

CONSIDERATIONS FOR WATER QUANTITY AND QUALITY

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.

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.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

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

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| <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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