

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

LAND CLEARING

(acre)
CODE 460

DEFINITION

Removing trees, stumps, and other vegetation from wooded areas.

PURPOSES

To achieve needed land use adjustments and improvements in the interest of soil and water conservation and in keeping with the capabilities of the land.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to wooded areas where the removal of trees, stumps, brush, and other vegetation is needed in carrying out a soil and water conservation plan, and the land to be cleared will be used according to its capabilities. Land to be cleared for cropland shall be limited to Capability Classes I, II, III and IV lands.

DESIGN CRITERIA

An inventory of the land to be cleared shall be made and will include appropriate soils maps, topographic maps, type and kind of timber, vegetative growth, and stumps, other items such as rocks and debris and sources of water. The plan shall specify the kinds of timber to be salvaged, lengths of logs, and place of stacking. Method of disposal shall be specified for all material not being salvaged. Clearing and disposal methods shall be according to applicable state and local laws and with due regard to the safety of persons and property.

The plan shall provide for the measures necessary to protect the cleared area from erosion.

Special attention shall be given to maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife where applicable. The effects of such things as strip

clearing, windowing debris, and maintaining den and food trees shall be evaluated.

Determine if installation of this practice with any others proposed will have any effect on any federal or state listed Rare, Threatened or Endangered species or their habitat. If the Environmental Evaluation indicates the action may adversely affect a listed species or result in adverse modification of habitat of listed species which has been determined to be critical habitat, NRCS will advise the land user of the requirements of the Endangered Species Act and recommend alternative conservation treatments that avoid the adverse effects.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the effects on the volumes and rates of runoff, evaporation, and transpiration as result of the land clearing.

Consider the effects on erosion and the movement of sediment, pathogens, and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff and soluble substances to groundwater.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for land clearing shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An operation and maintenance plan must be prepared by the Designer for use by the owner or other responsible for operating this practice. The plan should provide specific instructions for operating and maintaining the system to insure that it functions properly. It should also provide for periodic inspections and prompt repair or replacement of damage components.