

Forest Slash Treatment

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

AK-384



Definition

Treating woody plant residues created during forestry, agroforestry and horticultural activities to achieve management objectives.

Purpose

- Reduce hazardous fuels.
- Reduce the risk of harmful insects and disease.
- Protect/maintain air quality by reducing the risk of wildfire.
- Improve access to forage for grazing and browsing animals.
- Enhance aesthetics.
- Reduce the risk of harm to humans and livestock.
- Improve the soil organic matter.

- Improve the site for natural or artificial regeneration.

Where Used

This practice applies on areas with quantities of woody slash and debris requiring treatment.

Conservation/Forest Management Planning

Typical slash treatment is accomplished during the implementation of forest management practices. Activities such as harvesting results in slash but this is normally not a resource concern since slash naturally breaks down after a few seasons. This practice is to be planned where additional treatment is needed to meet a resource concern or where a specific level of slash treatment is required during a silvicultural operation and documentation of the performance standard is desired. Planning for slash

treatment before a harvest or silvicultural activity and to occur during the treatment is often times the most economical method of implementation. This practice should not be used as a substitute for poor logging or forest treatment implementation but should be used to improve the level of treatment.

Successful Practice Implementation

Slash treatment is successfully implemented when the planner and implementer use the natural break down process as well as mechanical actions both with currently occurring operation or actions as well as additional treatments if needed to meet the intended purposed and landowner objectives.

Slash Treatment Considerations

When determining method and timing of slash treatment consider air quality regulations, burning

requirements, available resources, ability to use woody biomass and regeneration needs.

Consider retaining 10 to 20 pieces of slash greater than 9 inches in diameter over each acre as a source of downed logs for specific plant, insect and animal habitat.

Consider wildlife needs when performing and timing treatment.

Consider the beneficial and other effects on cultural resources, and threatened and endangered species, natural areas, and wetlands.

Guidelines for Operation and Maintenance

Monitor populations and the potential of damage to site resources by harmful pests and take controlling actions as necessary. Comply with Pest Management - 595.

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Treatment of Forest Slash |
|----------------------------------|

Land user _____
 Assisted by _____

Field _____
 Date _____

Land use: (forest) (wildlife) (grazing) (Other _____)

| PURPOSE (Check all that apply) | |
|--|--|
| Reduce hazardous fuels <input type="checkbox"/> | Enhance aesthetics <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Reduce the risk of harmful insects and disease <input type="checkbox"/> | Reduce the risk of harm to humans and livestock <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Protect/maintain air quality by reducing the risk of wildfire <input type="checkbox"/> | Improve the soil organic matter <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improve the site for natural or artificial regeneration. <input type="checkbox"/> | |

This plan was developed based on the requirements of the current NRCS standard and any applicable Federal, state, or local regulations or policies. Changes in any of these regulations may necessitate a revision of the plan.

Design Certification

I certify that the above design meets NRCS standards and specifications:

Permits required? Yes _____ No _____ (attach copy if applicable)

Acres Planned _____ Linear Feet Planned _____

Planner _____ Date _____

I have reviewed this plan and agree to install as designed.

Cooperator _____ Date _____

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APPLICATION / CERTIFICATION

Acres Planned _____ **Acres Applied** _____

Linear Ft. Planned _____ **Linear Ft. Applied** _____

Program _____ **Contract #** _____

I certify that the above installation meets NRCS standards and specifications indicated in the attached AK-384 Job sheet:

YES

No

Planner _____ **Date** _____

Recommendations and Comments:

Operation & Maintenance

Periodic monitoring of this practice is essential to determine 1) if production and ecological goals are being met, 2) if facilitating practices are installed, maintained, and adequate, and 3) if modifications are needed.