

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL**

(Ac.)

**CODE 500**

**DEFINITION**

Removal and disposal of unwanted, unsightly or hazardous buildings, structures, vegetation, landscape features, 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.

**CRITERIA**

Obstruction removal shall be planned, designed, and carried out to meet all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Rock piles, boulders, stones, fences, hedgerows, abandoned buildings and structures, trash, and similar obstructions 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 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 landfill in an environmentally acceptable manner.

All required gully shaping shall be performed to specified dimensions and grades. Fills shall be compacted as appropriate. The cover over buried materials shall be designed to be adequate for the planned use, treatment, and vegetation.

Appropriate erosion control practices shall be applied on disturbed areas.

Obstruction removal on blueberry land applies to intensively managed fields on which a crop was harvested two of the past five years. Rocks and debris shall be removed, mounds leveled, and depressions filled to permit trafficability on at least 75 percent of the area treated.

Irregularities in the land surface shall be removed to the extent necessary for flail pruning of the blueberry stems.

**PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS**

Plans and specifications shall be prepared in accordance with the criteria of this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended use.

Minimum documentation:

- Project location
- Design calculations
- Approved construction drawings and specifications
- As-built dimensions, notes, and approval
- Operation and maintenance plan