NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

BRUSH MANAGEMENT FOR FORESTRY/MECHANICAL TREATMENT

Georgia Practice Job Sheet-314

Prepared for: _____

Prepared by: _____

Farm: _____ Tract Number: _____ Date: _____

Definition

The management or removal of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants including those that are invasive and noxious.

Purpose

- Create the desired plant community consistent with the ecological site.
- Restore or release desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality or enhance stream flow.
- Maintain, modify, or enhance fish and wildlife habitat.
- Improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock and wildlife.
- Manage fuel loads to achieve desired conditions.

Conditions where practice applies

Apply brush management conservation practice on all lands except active cropland where the removal, reduction, or manipulation of woody (non-herbaceous or succulent) plants is desired. This practice does not apply to removal of woody vegetation by prescribed fire (use Prescribed Burning (338) or removal of woody vegetation to facilitate land use change (use Land Clearing (460).

Criteria

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Brush management will be designed to achieve the desired plant community based on species composition, structure, density, and canopy (or foliar) cover or height.

Brush management will be applied in a manner to achieve the desired control of the target woody species and protection of desired species. This will be accomplished by mechanical, chemical, burning, or biological methods either alone or in combination. When prescribed burning is used as a method, the Prescribed Burning standard (338) will also be applied.
When the intent is to manage trees for silvicultural purposes, use Forest Stand Improvement (666).
NRCS will not develop biological or chemical treatment recommendations except for biological control utilizing grazing animals. In such cases, Prescribed Grazing (528) is used to ensure desired results are achieved and maintained. NRCS may provide clients with acceptable biological and/or chemical control references.
Follow-up treatments may be necessary to achieve objectives.

Additional Criteria to Manage Fuel Loads to Achieve Desired Conditions

Control undesirable woody plants in a manner that creates the desired plant community, including the desired fuel load, to reduce the risk of wildfire, facilitate the future application of prescribed fire.

OPERATIONS

Brush Management will be planned and applied in a manner consistent with the tree species requirements. Prior to treatment it is important to identify the plants targeted for control and those non-target species that you want to maintain and enhance. It is important to understand the life cycle of the target tree species so that treatment will be applied when they are most vulnerable.

Chemical: Spot treatment methods should be used whenever feasible. Apply the recommended herbicide during the growing season to ensure that the treatment will be effective on the target species. A chemical spot treatment in most situations is probably most cost effective versus mechanical treatment on small isolated area of a site. Herbicides must be handled and applied in accordance with the product label and any federal, state or local regulations. Also, utilize a certified pesticide applicator when applying herbicides. ***See Herbaceous Weed Control Job sheet for specific details.***

MAINTENANCE

Following initial application, some re-growth, re-sprouting, or reoccurrence of invasive or prohibited should be expected. Spot treatment of individual plants or areas needing retreatment should be done as needed. The timing of the spot treatment should be immediately upon discovery of the regenerating invasive species provided it is at a time of year when the application of herbicide will work. ***See Herbaceous Weed Control Job sheet for specific details.***

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GEORGIA SUPPLEMENT 314 – BRUSH MANAGEMENT CHECK OUT

Producer Name:	Date:
Tract Number:	County:

Field Number	List invasive plants found on site to be controlled or alleviate. **(See Georgia Invasive Plant List)**	Estimated Pre Treatment Basal Area or Trees Per Acre	Estimated Post Treatment Basal Area or Tree Per Acre	Are landowner goals accomplished by Brush Management Practice? (Yes or No)	Are follow up spot treatments necessary to control or alleviate invasive plants (Yes or No)

August 24, 2011

NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

Certification Job Sheet:

Prepared by: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Approved by: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____

Installation:

Was the target invasive plant(s) controlled or alleviated from the conservation planning area _____? (Yes or No)

How many acres were treated using brush management practice_____?

Select the type of treatment applied to alleviated invasive or prohibited plants (mechanical or chemical) **_____.**

This practice was completed and meets NRCS standards and specifications.

Certification by: _____

Date: _____

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