

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
SPECIFICATION GUIDE

FOREST SLASH TREATMENT

Code 384



Figure 1. Trees and slash are being masticated (mechanical “teeth” chew the material into chunks) to decrease hazardous fuels and place slash in contact with the soil surface.

Forest Slash Treatment

Treating woody plant residues created during forestry, agroforestry and horticultural activities to achieve management objectives. For a complete version of the conservation practice standard, go to the eFOTG (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>).

Purposes

- 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 Management System

Forest slash treatment and the condition and extent of residual slash is planned and the method selected based on identified purposes. This practice is part of a conservation management system for a land unit having undesired woody material that, if left alone, creates hazardous or other undesired conditions. Timing of treatment coincides with achieving intended purposes and minimizing impact on other resources. Residual slash and debris left on the site after treatment is in a condition and amount that will not present an unacceptable fire, safety, environmental, or pest hazard nor interfere with other on-going or planned management activities.



Figure 2. Residual material is distributed over the area after excess slash is piled or removed from the site. Compaction is a concern depending on the use and type of ground equipment.