

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 the capabilities.

CRITERIA

An inventory of the land to be clearing shall be made and will include:

1. soils maps.
2. topography.
3. type and kind of timber, vegetative growth, and stumps.
4. other items like rocks and debris.
5. intended use of land.
6. need for other conservation practices.
7. source of water.

CONSIDERATIONS

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 cleared area shall be left in a neat and sightly condition that will facilitate the planned use and treatment of the land.

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. Consideration of such things as strip clearing, windowing debris, and maintaining den and food trees shall be explored.

Water Quantity

1. Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, evaporation, and transpiration.
2. The impact of soil settling on the variation in rates of runoff immediately after clearing.

Water Quality

1. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment, pathogens, and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.

Endangered Species Considerations

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. NRCS's objective is to benefit these species and others of concern or at least not have any adverse effect on a listed species. 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. Further assistance will be provided only if the landowner selects one of the alternative conservation treatments for installation; or at the request of the landowners, NRCS may initiate consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service and/or California Department of Fish and Game. If the Environmental Evaluation indicates the action will not affect a listed species or result in adverse modification of critical habitat, consultation generally will not apply and usually would not be initiated. Document any special considerations for endangered species in the Practice Requirements Worksheet.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for land clearing shall be in keeping with this standard and 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.