

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS**

TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION

(Ac.)

CODE 490

THE USE OF THIS STANDARD AND SPECIFICATION WILL ALWAYS BE ACCOMPANIED BY THE TREE AND SHRUB ESTABLISHMENT STANDARD AND SPECIFICATION (AK- 612) PRACTICES IN THE CONSERVATION PLAN.

SITE PREPARATION FOR TREE/SHRUB PLANTING THROUGH:

CHEMICAL SITE PREPARATION

The objective is to remove or reduce plant competition through the use of allowable and appropriately sanctioned herbicides.

Treatment should be a one time application at a time best suited for the target species of control.

Design and treatment specification will list, herbicide, application rates, time of application and targeted species. Name of individual prescribing the treatment with credentials will accompany the design and treatment spec.

Chemical treatments will follow labels of products being used

MECHANICAL SITE PREPARATION

The objective of mechanical site preparation is the removal of plant competition or disturbance of the plant material which would allow for the establishment of the tree or shrub being planted or established. The exposure of mineral soil can be conducted for increase warming of the soil. The objective will be met with minimal soil disturbance, no increase in soil erosion and better utilization of natural soil fertility.

- minimum width of ground disturbance is 2 feet with a maximum being dependant on the equipment being used.

- Site preparation will be evenly distributed throughout the area needing reforestation.

- On the area being disturbed, soil should not be disturbed to depths greater than 3 inches. Terrain undulations causing divots and occasional cuts can be allowed.

- Under no conditions should the "C" horizon become exposed. Disturbance should be limited to the A or E horizons with occasional disturbance of the B horizons.

MANUAL SITE PREPARATION (HAND SCALPING)

Hand scalped areas will be a minimum of 1 foot in diameter and will be treated as follows

-Live vegetation will be removed. Organic matter/duff removal is optional based on soil and trees and shrub seedlings needs.

- Obstruction removal necessary for travel during the planting process is allowable but stump removal is not necessary and not applicable for inclusion in this practice.

SITE PREPARATION FOR NATURAL REGENERATION

The objective for site preparation for natural regeneration is to prepare/establish a seed bed for either naturally occurring seed or broadcasted seed. This seed bed will have the capacity to germinate and establish a plant beyond the initial herbaceous competition stage and allow for the attainment of the reforestation objective.

Chemical Treatment is not allowed for site

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service [Alaska State Office](#) or visit the [electronic Field Office Technical Guide](#).

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preparation for natural regeneration unless authorized by the NRCS State Resource Forester.

Mechanical Treatment

- A minimum of 25% exposure of the E and/or A and/or B Horizon will be required.
- Site preparation will be evenly distributed throughout the area needing reforestation.
- On the area being disturbed soils from the C horizons, roads, ditches burrow pits cut slopes will not be included in the 25% minimum area target objective.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Specifications for applying this practice and protection of the site shall be prepared and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes and narrative statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

The accompanying Tree and Shrub Establishment Specification will indicate reforestation goals, sources and locations of seed and planting stock. Natural seed sources and locations as well as history of past efforts and successes in using natural regeneration will be documented in the plan.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and maintenance needs will be documented. At a minimum an evaluation of the site will be schedule in order to determine effectiveness of the treatment. This determination will be documented in the conservation plan.