

**NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

BRUSH MANAGEMENT

(Acre)

CODE 314

DEFINITION

Removal, reduction or manipulation of non-herbaceous plants

PURPOSE

- Restore natural plant community balance.
- Create the desired plant community.
- Restore desired vegetative cover to protect soils, control erosion, reduce sediment, improve water quality and quantity, and enhance stream flow.
- Maintain or enhance wildlife habitat including that associated with threatened and endangered species.
- Improve forage accessibility, quality and quantity for livestock.
- Protect life and property from wildfire hazards.

CONDITIONS WHERE THIS PRACTICE APPLIES

On rangeland, native or naturalized pasture, pasture, hay lands and grazeable forests where removal or reduction of excessive woody (non-herbaceous) plants is desired.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

Design Brush Management plans to achieve the desired plant community in woody plant density, canopy cover or height.

Apply Brush Management in a manner that will achieve the desired control of the target woody species and protect desired species. Use mechanical, chemical, biological, prescribed burning or a combination of these methods, to accomplish Brush Management.

Plan and apply Prescribed Grazing 528, to ensure the desired response from treatments.

Additional Criteria to Maintain or Enhance Wildlife Habitat Including that Associated with Threatened and Endangered Species

Plan and apply Brush Management in a manner that will meet the habitat requirements of the wildlife of concern.

Plan and apply Brush Management in a manner that will not adversely affect threatened or endangered species or their habitats.

Additional Criteria to Protect Life and Property from Wildfire Hazards

Control undesirable woody plants in a manner that creates the desired plant community, which reduces wildfire hazard conditions.

CONSIDERATIONS

The timing and sequence of brush management operations in a pasture and/or the entire operating unit, should be coordinated with the Prescribed Grazing plan.

Consider soil erosion potential and difficulty of vegetation establishment when choosing a method of control that causes soil disturbance.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Prepare plans and specifications for each field or management unit according to this standard.

Specifications shall describe the requirements for applying this practice to meet the intended purpose.

Record practice specifications on the Colorado Brush Management 314, Conservation Practice Job Sheet, and include the following information as a minimum.

- Brush canopy and/or species count, transect line locations and percent canopy and/or species numbers per acre of the target plant(s)
- Maps or drawings, as needed, showing areas to be treated and areas to be left undisturbed

For mechanical treatment methods:

- Types of equipment and any modifications that may be necessary
- Dates of treatment
- Operating instructions
- Techniques or procedures to be followed

For chemical treatment methods:

- Herbicide name
- Rate of application or spray volumes
- Acceptable dates of application
- Mixing instructions (if applicable)
- Any special application techniques, timing considerations or other factors that must be considered to ensure the safest, most effective application of the herbicide
- Reference to label instructions
- Documentation of the use of environmental risk analysis tools (such as WIN-PST Soil Pesticide Interaction Loss Potential and Hazard Rating Report) in formulating alternatives with the client.

For biological treatment methods:

- Kind of biological agent or grazing animal to be used
- Timing, duration and intensity of grazing or browsing
- Desired degree of grazing or browsing use for effective control of target species
- Maximum allowable degree of use on desirable non-target species
- Special precautions or requirements when using insects or plants as control agents

For areas with excessive ground disturbance:

- Develop a revegetation plan that includes a completed CO-ECS-5, Grass Seeding Planned and Applied

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation:

Brush management practices shall be applied using approved materials and procedures. Operations will comply with all local, state and federal laws and ordinances.

Success of the practice shall be determined by evaluating regrowth or reoccurrence of target species after sufficient time has passed to monitor the situation and gather reliable data. Evaluation periods will depend on the methods and materials used.

Maintenance:

Following initial application, some regrowth, resprouting or reoccurrence of brush is expected. Spot treat individual plants or areas as needed.

REFERENCES

Colorado Agronomy Technical Note No. 76. Alternative pest management methods. 1991. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Lakewood, CO.

Colorado Agronomy Technical Note No. 77. Pesticide and fertilizer application operation, safety and maintenance. 1991. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Lakewood, CO.

[Colorado Environmental Pesticide Education Program](#). CSU. Ft. Collins, CO.

Colorado Field Office Technical Guide, Section IV. [Brush Management 314, Conservation Practice Job Sheet](#). 2006. USDA, NRCS. Lakewood, CO.

[Pesticide Registration Program](#). Colorado Dept. of Agriculture. Division of Plant Industry. Lakewood, CO.

[Windows Pesticide Screening Tool Version 3 \(Win-PST 3\)](#). 2005. National Water and Climate Center. USDA, NRCS, Portland, OR.