

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION

(Ac.)

CODE 490

DEFINITION

Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.

PURPOSE

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants.
- Permit artificial establishment of woody plants.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all lands needing treatment to establish trees and/or shrubs

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

The method, intensity and timing of site preparation will match the limitations of the site, limitations of available equipment, and the requirements for establishing the desired woody species.

Choose an appropriate site preparation method to achieve the intended purpose and to protect desirable vegetation, and site and soil conditions.

Use other complementary practices and measures as needed, to control erosion, runoff, compaction and displacement to acceptable levels.

Remove, treat or eliminated slash and debris as appropriate. Refer to the standard Slash Treatment, 384, for applicable planning criteria.

Slash and debris that remains after treatment shall not create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests.

Remaining slash and debris shall not hinder needed equipment operations or create an undue fire hazard. Refer to the standard Prescribed Burning, 338, for burning of slash and debris.

Implement vegetation management activities to control or protect against locally invasive and noxious species that may arise from site preparation activities. Refer to the standard Pest Management, 595, for applicable planning criteria for chemical suppression activities.

CONSIDERATIONS

Consider the impacts on wildlife species, habitat and aesthetics when selecting site preparation methods.

Particulates, smoke, and other air pollutants generated by site preparation may have on-site and off-site effects on air quality.

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.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Maintain erosion control measures as necessary.

Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary. If pesticides are used, refer to the standard Pest Management, 595, for applicable planning criteria.

Control access by vehicles or equipment during or after site preparation to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts. Refer to the standard Use Exclusion, 472, for planning criteria.