

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION

(Acre)
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

Match the method, intensity and timing of site preparation to the limitations of the site, equipment, and the requirements of the desired woody species. See NRCS Technical Note FL Forestry 19: "[Guidelines for Forest Site Preparation](#)"

Choose an appropriate site preparation method that protects desirable vegetation, site and soil conditions. Use other complementary practices and measures as necessary to control erosion, runoff, compaction and displacement to acceptable levels.

Remove, treat or eliminate slash and debris as appropriate, refer to Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forest Slash Treatment, Code 384.

Treat remaining slash and debris so not to create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests or diseases, hinder needed equipment operations or create an undue fire hazard.

Implement measures, including the use of equipment, to control or protect against locally invasive and noxious species that may arise from site preparation activities. Apply all chemicals in accordance with label guidelines as described in the Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Pest Management, Code 595.

Comply with applicable laws and policies, particularly the Wetland Conservation provisions of the Food Security Act, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, and the State of Florida's [Silviculture BMPs](#)

Impact to cultural resources, wetlands, and Federal and State protected species need to be avoided or minimized to the extent practical during planning, design, and implementation of this conservation practice in accordance with established National and Florida NRCS policy; General Manual (GM) Title 420-Part 401, Title 450-Part 401, and Title 190-Parts 410.22 and 410.26; National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) FL Supplements to Parts 600.1 and 600.6; National Cultural Resources Procedures Handbook (NCRPH); and The National Environmental Compliance Handbook (NECH).

CONSIDERATIONS

The site preparation method needs to be cost effective and protect cultural resources, wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, water resources and identified unique or sensitive areas.

Consider visual quality objectives when selecting site preparation methods.

Anticipate possible off-site effects such as changes in sedimentation, water quality and quantity and modify the site preparation design accordingly.

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

Consider personnel safety during site preparation activities.

Consider energy consumption when developing methods of site preparation.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans need to address method of site preparation, species to be planted, and protection required for desirable woody plants.

Prepare and record specifications for applying this practice and protection of the site 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 to ensure proper function. Access by vehicles during site preparation or after (i.e., before adequate tree and shrub establishment occurs) should be controlled to minimize erosion, compaction and other site impacts. Refer to Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Use Exclusion, Code 472.

Control locally invasive and noxious plants as necessary; refer to Florida NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Pest Management, Code 595, Brush Management, Code 314, and Herbaceous Weed Control, CPS 315.

REFERENCES

2015. [Silviculture BMPs](#) Florida Forest Service, Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services.

Code of Federal Regulations, Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, See EPA Section 404 - Silviculture

General Manual (GM) Title 420-Part 401, Title 450-Part 401, and Title 190-Parts 410.22 and 410.26.

National Planning Procedures Handbook (NPPH) FL Supplements to Parts 600.1 and 600.6.

NRCS Technical Note FL Forestry 19: ["Guidelines for Forest Site Preparation"](#)

National Food Security Act Manual.