Clearing and Snagging

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 326

DEFINITION
Clearing and snagging is removing logs, boulders, drifts, and other obstructions from a channel.

PRACTICE INFORMATION
The flow area of a channel may become clogged by various kinds of obstructions. When that happens, the stream flow is reduced and some or all of the obstructions may need to be removed. Clearing and snagging is a conservation practice used for that purpose.

Special attention is given to restoring, maintaining, or improving the natural resources associated with the channel. If after careful study it is determined that the work is likely to result in channel erosion, impairment to fish and wildlife, or other adverse impacts, the clearing and snagging will either not be done or practices to minimize such damages will be applied concurrently with the clearing and snagging.
In addition to onsite considerations, the downstream effects are also considered.

Proper planning will result in measures and construction methods that enhance fish and wildlife values, aesthetics, shade trees, and other natural resources in the channel area.

Additional information including design criteria and specifications are in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.