

# Obstruction Removal For Lowbush Blueberries Conservation Practice Job Sheet      Maine Code 500

**Producer Name:**

**Design approved by:**

**Date:**

**Job Title:**

## **Conservation Management System**

This practice is used to remove rocks from wild blueberry fields to facilitate the flail mowing of wild blueberry plants in lieu of burning. This practice is used in conjunction with Mulching (code 484) of the resulting bare spots after rock removal, and Brush Management (code 314) for flail mowing.

## **Plans and Specifications**

Rocks can be removed from the field using mechanical methods. Smaller rocks may be removed by hand. This practice does not allow for the removal of historic properties, which may include stone walls. (Historic properties are cultural resources that are listed in, or eligible for listing in, the National Register of Historic places.) Very large rocks are not practical to remove, and should be left in place. These can be worked around during typical management practices. Rocks that are removed cannot be placed on historic properties, which may include stone walls. Instead, removed rocks can be stockpiled off the field or removed and utilized for other projects. Resulting holes from rock removal shall be filled with suitable material, such as sand or soil typical to the field. These areas shall be mulched to encourage blueberry plants to spread.

**Note:** The use of the rocks to fill wetland areas is not permissible. To ensure an area is not a wetland, contact the NRCS office for assistance.

## **Operation and Maintenance**

This practice is to be maintained for a period of ten years. Areas where rocks were removed will be inspected after the wild blueberry plants are pruned, at the end of each cycle. If needed, additional soil material should be used to fill in areas where rocks were removed and mulch added to encourage the growth of the wild blueberry plants.

**Specifications for the Completion of this Practice:**

**Refer to applicable Conservation Plan Map(s) for areas where Obstruction Removal has been approved.**

<b>Tract/Field</b>	<b>Approx area</b>	<b>Date Practice Certified</b>	<b>Certified By</b>