

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Conservation Practice Standard**

**LAND CLEARING
(Ac.)
CODE 460**

DEFINITION

Removing trees, stumps, and other vegetation from wooded areas.

PURPOSE

To achieve needed land use adjustments and improvements in the interest of soil and water conservation and in keeping with the capabilities of the land.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to wooded areas where the removal of trees, stumps, brush, and other vegetation is needed in carrying out a soil and water conservation plan, and the land to be cleared will be used according to its capabilities.

CRITERIA

All work shall comply with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations.

CONSIDERATIONS

The plan shall specify the kinds of timber to be salvaged, lengths of logs, and place of stacking. Method of disposal shall be specified for all material not to be salvaged. Clearing and disposal methods shall be according to applicable state laws and with due regard to the safety of persons and property.

The cleared area shall be left in a neat and sightly condition that will facilitate the planned use and treatment of the land.

The plan shall provide for the measures necessary to protect the cleared area from erosion.

Special attention shall be given to maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife where applicable. Consideration of such things as strip clearing, windowing debris, and maintaining den and food trees shall be explored.

Water quantity

- Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, evaporation, and transpiration.
- The impact of soil settling on the variation in rates of runoff immediately after clearing.

Water quality

- Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment, pathogens, and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for land clearing shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.