

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Conservation Practice Standard**

**OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL
(Ac.)
CODE 500**

DEFINITION

Removal and disposal of unwanted, unsightly or hazardous buildings, structures, vegetation, landscape features, trash, and other materials.

PURPOSE

To safely remove and dispose of unwanted obstructions and materials in order to apply conservation practices or facilitate planned use of abandoned mine lands, farms, ranches, construction sites, and recreation areas.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This standard applies to removal and disposal of all types of obstructions and materials that prevent or hinder installation of conservation practices or present a hazard to their use and enjoyment. This practice is used on land where existing obstructions interfere with planned use and development.

CRITERIA

Rock piles, boulders, stones, fences, hedgerows, abandoned buildings and structures, trash, and similar obstruction that would interfere with planned use and development shall be removed. All debris such as broken concrete and masonry, structural steel and wood, stones, stumps, slash, and sterile or toxic soil material shall be disposed of so that they will not impede subsequent work or cause damage to offsite or other areas. Disposal shall be by burning, burying, or removing to an approved landfill in

an environmentally acceptable manner. All required gully shaping shall be performed to specified dimensions and grades. Gully fills shall be compacted to the required density. The cover over buried materials shall be designed to be adequate for the planned use, treatment, and vegetation. Historical or archaeological significant and scenic values shall be identified and preserved as appropriate.

CONSIDERATIONS

Water quantity

- Effects upon components of the water budget, especially effects on volume and rate of runoff, infiltration, evaporation, transpiration, deep percolation, and ground water recharge.

Water quality

- Effects on the visual quality or downstream water resources.
- Short-term and construction-related effects on the quality of water resources.
- Potential uncovering or redistributing toxic materials such as saline soils.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for obstruction removal shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying and achieving the practice 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.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service
Construction Specification**

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

1. SCOPE

This practice shall consist of the removal and disposal of all natural and man-made obstructions to facilitate installation of land improvement practices and/or to improve the visual resource. Construction operations shall be carried out in such a manner that erosion, air, water, and noise pollution will be minimized and held within legal limits as established by state regulations.

2. MATERIALS AND INSTALLATION

Obstruction removal

Material such as rock, stone, road pipe, and fencing that is not salvaged shall be disposed of by burying or removal from the site. Woody material not removed from the site shall be disposed of by burning and/or burying at approved locations. All burning shall conform to regulations of Mississippi State laws. All buried material shall be covered with a minimum cover of two (2) feet.

Any smoothing or grading shall be finished to the lines, grade, and sections as specified in the plans. All fill area shall be provided with an allowance for settlement of approximately 10 percent.

Materials placed in fill sections shall be free of objectionable material. The placing and spreading of the fill material will be started at the lowest point in the fill and the fill brought up in horizontal layers, not to exceed 6 inches. Each layer shall be compacted to the specified density by routing of construction equipment, or other acceptable means or as specified.

Areas where excavation is performed to a depth where the resulting soil surface required topsoil, the original surface layer of the soil shall be salvaged to a minimum depth of 6 inches and stockpiled on the outer perimeter of the work area. The area designated for topsoil placement will be undercut about 6 inches, scarified at least 12 inches deep, and the topsoil spread evenly over the area.

Where finished grades are required, grading operations will be controlled from marked reference stakes.

Vegetation

Vegetation treatment shall be applied as specified or shown on the plans and in accordance with the specifications of the appropriate vegetative practice.