

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
MONTANA CONSERVATION PRACTICE JOB SHEET

FUEL BREAK (ACRE)

CODE 383B – STRUCTURES

_____	_____	_____
Landowner	Field/Management Unit	Date
_____	_____	_____
Legal Description	Contract Item Number	Area (Acres)
		Job Class

Purpose:

Control or reduce the risk of the spread of fire by treating, removing, or modifying vegetation.

Site Conditions:

Forest Habitat Type (Pfister): _____

Vegetation Type (check those substantially present): Grass Shrubs Trees

Slope: _____ Percent (%)

Dominant Height of Understory Vegetation: _____ Feet

Fuel Break Specifications:

Fuel Break Location: Around improved properties (homes, buildings, structures)

Type of Fuel Break (check that apply): Defensible Survivable

Fuel Break Duration (check that apply): Permanent

Treatment:

1. Determine defensible or survivable treatment distance (use Chart 1).
2. Use Charts 3, 4, and 5 for separation of live vegetation in treatment zone. Use Chart 2 for treatment of dead woody debris in this zone.
3. Treat cut stumps with herbicide to prevent re-growth. Follow herbicide label directions.
4. Pile and burn or chip all cut and dead woody materials.
5. Annually maintain the vegetation and practice treatments within the fuel break area.

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Structures**

Treatment Area / Fuel Break Width (check that apply): (see Chart 1 in the Montana Specification)

- Defensible space distance _____ feet or Survivable space distance _____ feet

Lean, Clean, and Green Space Surrounding Buildings: 30 FEET

Separation Distances between Canopies – Shrubs and Small Trees (see Chart 3 in the Montana Specification)

- | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----|---|---------------------|
| Percent Slope | Shrub Height | (X) | = | Separation Distance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 to 20% | _____ Feet | X 2 | = | _____ Feet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 to 40% | _____ Feet | X 4 | = | _____ Feet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> + 40% | _____ Feet | X 6 | = | _____ Feet |

Separation Distances between Canopies – Trees (see Chart 4 in the Montana Specification)

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Percent Slope | Separation Distance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 to 20% | 10 Feet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 21 to 40% | 20 Feet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> + 40% | 30 Feet |

Separation Distances – Ladder Fuels (see Chart 5 in the Montana Specification)

Ground Fuel Height (x) = _____ Feet

Prune to (3x) = _____ Feet

Dead Fuel Types

(check all that apply)

- Standing dead tree
- Down dead tree
- Dead shrubs
- Dried grasses and wild flowers
- Dead needles on ground
- Dead branches on tree
- Debris in rain gutters
- Firewood and other combustibles

Recommended Practices (see Chart 2 in the Montana

Specification) (check all that apply)

- Remove all standing dead trees
- Remove all dead down trees not imbedded
- Remove all dead shrubs
- Remove all dried out grasses/wild flowers
- Reduce needles to a depth of 2 inches
- Remove all dead branches to height of 15 feet
- Remove all debris in rain gutters
- Locate firewood / combustibles 30 feet from house

**Vegetative Seeding for Low Vegetation and Erosion Control
(see Table 1 in the Montana Specification)**

Location	Seeding Species	Rate (PLS)	Acres	Total Seed
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Operation and Maintenance:

- Noxious weeds, by state law, must be controlled.
- Inspect fuel breaks periodically to insure that vegetation is controlled at the most opportune time.
- Mow or graze vegetative fuel breaks to avoid a build-up of dead litter and to control weeds.
- Inspect for and remove weedy materials such as dead limbs and blown down trees from the fuel break.
- Access by vehicles or people will be controlled to prevent damage to the fuel break.
- Burned, grazed, and mowed/clipped strips will be treated again if the vegetation grows to more than eight (8) inches in height.

Job Sketch:

Attached Plan Map (check) Yes No

Additional Specifications and Notes:

APPROVALS:

NRCS Conservationist

Job Approval Authority

Date

Producer

Date

**MT383B-JS4
Structures**

Installation Certification:

Land Cover Type: _____

Type Fuel Break Installed: _____

Duration of Fuel Break Installed: _____

Fuel Break Area Installed: _____ Acres Adequate? _____

Species Seeded: _____

Seeding Rate (PLS): _____ lbs./ac. Adequate? _____

Acres Seeded: _____ Number Adequate? _____

Defensible Space Distance Treated: _____ Feet Adequate? _____

Survivable Space Distance Treated: _____ Feet Adequate? _____

Dead Fuels Treated (check): Yes No Adequate? _____

Separation Distances
Shrubs Treated: _____ Feet Adequate? _____

Separation Distances
Trees Treated: _____ Feet Adequate? _____

Separation Distances
Ladder Fuels - Pruned Height: _____ Feet Adequate? _____

Lean, Clean, Green Space Treated: _____ Feet Adequate? _____

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT:

I hereby certify that this practice has been installed in accordance with NRCS standards and specifications.

NRCS Conservationist

Job Approval Authority

Date

Date