

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**

CLEARING AND SNAGGING

CODE 326

SPECIFICATIONS

All trees, stumps, and brush within the perimeter of the channel shall be cut as close to ground level as conventional tools permit. If other areas are to be cleared, the trees, brush, and other woody vegetation shall be cut within the maximum distance above ground level specified.

Trees shall be felled in such a manner as to avoid damage to other trees, property, and objects outside the limits of clearing.

Down trees, logs, drifts, boulders, debris and other obstructions lying wholly or partially within the channel shall be removed. Piling, piers, headwalls, and sediment bars that obstruct the free flow of water will be removed when so designated in the project plan.

If herbicide treatment is planned, the stumps and brush in the specified area shall be treated at the time of clearing in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer of the herbicide specified or being used and in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local rules and regulations.

The use of explosives in all clearing and snagging operations shall be in strict accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local rules and regulations.

If channels are located in cultivated areas or in areas of high value land,

trees, logs, and all combustible material resulting from the clearing and snagging operations shall be burned, buried, or piled in designated disposal areas as specified for the project. In other areas, such as woodland or range land, where burning is prohibited, material shall be disposed of in such a manner that it will not float away or re-enter the channel.

All burning shall be performed outside the channel and shall conform to regulations in effect in the area.

Residue from burning and non-combustible material shall be buried outside the channel or placed in designated disposal areas. All buried material shall have adequate earth cover to permit proper land use.

Selective snagging, where possible, shall be performed primarily with hand-operated equipment, water-based equipment, or small equipment used in a manner that will minimize soil, water, and other resource disturbances.

Measures and construction methods that enhance fish and wildlife values shall be incorporated as needed and practical. Special attention shall be given to visual resources protecting and maintaining key shade, food, and den trees and to stabilization of disturbed areas.