



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE NO. 620

This notice transmits updates to Section IV – Practices Standards and Specifications in the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

Brush Management Design Procedures (314DP) — The DP has been updated for consistency with the Revised Conservation Practice Standard. Brush Management (Code 314): Substantial changes to this practice standard. Prescribed Burning is removed as a brush management treatment. Only chemical, mechanical and biological treatments are included. Prescribed burning for brush management purposes is covered in the Prescribed Burning (Code 338) standard. In the Purpose Section, wildfire hazard reduction has changed to be more comprehensive. In the Criteria Section, use of Ecological Site Descriptions has been added as a requirement. Further, the Criteria Section was enhanced to specifically address wildlife concerns. The Plans and Specifications Section has been expanded to include requirements for monitoring.

Topics covered in the Design Procedures include considerations for determining the need for brush management; inventory procedures to assess the brush resources. Associated with the update of the design procedure is the release of NRPTNH - Tech Note 21, [Range and Pasture Technical Note 21 - Determining Canopy Based on Average Tree Canopy Diameter and Trees Per Acre](#). Determining canopy cover for the purpose of planning, scheduling, and applying Conservation Practice 314, Brush Management, is the baseline requirement in providing alternatives to clients. Brush infestation must average at least a low canopy level, (5% or higher) by target specie or a combination of target species to meet the minimum treatment threshold. Refer to 314DP for canopy cover levels and more specific guidance on when brush management should be recommended. For example, Osage orange, three percent; honey locust, three percent; and Eastern red cedar, four percent, for a total of 10 percent canopy of all undesirable species. Even though the individual species canopy percentages are under the low canopy level for each species, the combination of the three species (existing in the same plant community) exceeds the low canopy level; therefore meeting the minimum resource concern threshold.

If you have any questions, please contact Joseph May, State Rangeland Management Specialist at 402-437-4062, email joseph.may@ne.usda.gov.

If you have any filing or generic questions, please contact Jamie Petersen at (402) 437-4063 or by e-mail at jamie.petersen@ne.usda.gov.



Changes for all field offices are noted by "**ALL COUNTIES**" and should be made in all Field Office Technical Guides.

REMOVE AND RECYCLE	INSERT
ALL COUNTIES	ALL COUNTIES
Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Table of Contents T.G. Notice 619 SEPTEMBER 2010	Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Table of Contents T.G. Notice 620 NOVEMBER 2010
ALL COUNTIES	ALL COUNTIES
Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Brush Management (314DP) Design Procedure T.G. Notice 592 OCTOBER 2007	Section IV – Practice Standards and Specifications Brush Management (314DP) Design Procedure T.G. Notice 620 NOVEMBER 2010

/s/ Craig Derickson

CRAIG DERICKSON
State Conservationist