

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE
TREE/SHRUB SITE PREPARATION**

490

490 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire for tree/shrub site preparation in New Mexico. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard 490). The landowner must be interviewed to determine the purpose and need for tree/shrub site preparation. Some considerations will include the landowners objectives for the forest land, including whether the establishment of woody plants through natural or artificial regeneration is for forest products, wildlife habitat, increased carbon storage, or other pertinent reasons.

490 – STEP 2. INVESTIGATIONS, SURVEYS, AND INVENTORIES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to identify all of the mandatory preliminary operations that are required before the tree/shrub site preparation can be located and planned. This will include identifying all needed utility clearances, archeological clearances, and other needed maps.

490 – STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to plan the tree/shrub site preparation by identifying a specific location, determining the spacing, and developing a record of the completed actions taken. All required deliverables for the design, installation, and compliance are found on the New Mexico Statement of Work. This document will be followed to successfully complete the project.

Local conditions need to be assessed at the proposed site in order to identify any possible problems that may arise. This involves assessing the local forest and topographic

conditions and the local land uses, among other things.

Erosion control must be implemented. Slash should be managed to control pest or fire danger. All appropriate maps and reports must be reviewed with the landowner. An awareness of the types of plants, equipment and materials used in the tree/shrub site preparation is essential, and a list of accepted materials must be provided to the landowner. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard 490, Practice Specification 490, and pertinent job sheets for further information). The landowner will need to provide the contractor with the appropriate standards, statement of work, job sheets and personal expectations.

490 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document and describe the methods and materials used during the implementation of the forest site preparation. This will include documentation of equipment, tools, techniques, and methods used at the site, by recording relevant information on the approved specification sheets, statement of work, job sheets, technical notes and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation such as a regeneration plan that is part of a harvest plan.

490 - STEP 5. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to assure that proper management and maintenance is completed at the job site. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard 490, Practice Specification 490, and appropriate job sheets for further information).

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This requires a familiarity with the design and management objectives in order to minimize erosion potential and to maintain the site in a proper and safe fashion while meeting the objectives of the project. These measures should be discussed with the landowner.

490 – STEP 6. COMPLIANCE OR SPOT CHECKING

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine that all work has been completed to the standards required by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

All completed NRCS forms should be collected from the landowner and submitted to the appropriate persons. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard 490, Practice Specification 490, Statement of Work and associated job sheets for further information).

II. DOCUMENTS

Copies of all completed job sheets and associated work sheets should be submitted to the Natural Resources Conservation Service representative within 10 working days of completion of the project.