

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PRACTICE DOCUMENTATION GUIDE
FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT**

666

666 – STEP 1. INITIAL EVALUATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to determine the landowner's desire to conduct forest stand improvements in New Mexico. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard 666).

The landowner must be interviewed to determine the purpose and needs for forest stand improvements. Some considerations will include the landowner's intended usage for the forested land, whether for wildlife, timber production, forest health issues, recreation and other pertinent reasons.

666 – 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 forest stand improvement practice can be sited and planned. This will include identifying all needed utility clearances, archeological clearances, and identifying the proper USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle sheet and other needed maps.

666 – STEP 3. PRACTICE DESIGN

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to plan the forest stand improvement process, identify the objectives, and develop 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.

The local conditions will need to be assessed at the proposed site in order to identify any possible problems that may arise. This involves assessing the local forest conditions and the local land uses, among other things. All appropriate maps and reports must be reviewed with the landowner. An awareness of the types of equipment used in forest stand improvement is essential, and different treatment options should be discussed with the landowner. (See Natural Resources Conservation Service Practice Standard 666, Practice Specification 666, and Job Sheet 666).

The landowner will need to provide the contractor with the appropriate standards, statement of work, job sheets and personal expectations.

666 – STEP 4. PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to document and describe the methods and materials used during the forest stand improvements.

This will include the documentation of equipment, tools, techniques and methods used in each project, and recording the relevant information on the approved job sheets, technical notes and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation (i.e. inspection report).

666 - STEP 5. OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this step is to assure the proper management and maintenance is completed at the project site.

Practice Documentation Manual 666-2

(See Natural Resources Conservation Service, Practice Standard 666, Practice Specification 666, and appropriate job sheets.

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.

666 – 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 666, Practice Specification 666, Statement of Work (Forest Stand Improvement) and associated job sheets).

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. .