

CLIENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Definition:**

A strip or block of land on which the vegetation, debris and detritus have been reduced and/or modified to control or diminish the risk of the spread of fire crossing the strip or block of land.

## **Purposes:**

Control and reduce the risk of the spread of fire by treating, removing or modifying vegetation, debris and detritus. Also used for prescribed burning by reducing the fuel load and removing vegetation to create an area to buffer the burn area.

## **Where Used:**

This practice applies on all land where protection from wildfire is needed, lands severely impacted by natural events (ice, tornadoes, fire, etc) and areas to be prescribed burned that require special precautions.

**Conservation Management System** Fuel break is a facilitating practice as part of an overall conservation management system. Fuel breaks are critical part of a prescribed burning plan or a tool that used in minimizing the risk of wildfire entering an area. Other after treatment practices may be needed to facilitate the rehabilitation of the fuel break and area burned.

## Specifications:

Texas Standard indicates a minimum width of 66 feet.

Thin the overstory stand sufficiently to reduce the tree canopy and the potential of a crown fire.

Maintain vertical separation between fuel layers, i.e. ground vegetation and tree canopy, by removing or reducing the ground vegetation and pruning the remaining trees to remove the lower tree branches.

Locate fuel breaks near ridge crests and valley bottoms, if possible. If winds are predictable, fuel breaks can be located perpendicular to the wind and on the windward side of the area to be protected.

Specifications for applying this practice will be prepared for each site and recorded using the appropriate specification sheets, job sheets, or technical notes. If the fuel break is part of a prescribed burn they may also be recorded in the written burn plan.

## Operation and Maintenance:

Fuel breaks shall be frequently inspected for erosion control needs.

Treat or graze vegetative fuel breaks to avoid a build-up of excess litter, to reduce grasses and other vegetation and to control noxious and invasive plants.

Inspect all fuel breaks for woody materials such as dead limbs or blown down trees, and remove or treat as necessary to maintain the desired level of protection from wildfire risk.

Inspect fuel breaks at frequencies to assure that the desired level of fire spread risk is maintained.

<b>Client</b>		<b>Farm/Tract</b>	
<b>Location</b>		<b>County/SWCD</b>	
<b>Planner</b>		<b>Date</b>	
<b>Project Size</b>		<b>Topo. Map</b>	

### DESIGN APPROVAL:

	PRACTICE	LEAD DISCIPLINE	UNITS	Acres to be treated					
				<5	10	20	40	>40	
383	FUEL BREAK	Forestry	Acre	Acre	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Write in actual acres to be treated.									

Acres to be protected; tract size: \_\_\_\_\_ acs.

Design Approved by:/s/\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Job title:\_\_\_\_\_

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**CLIENTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT:**

The Client acknowledges that:

- a. They have received a copy of the specification and understand the contents and requirements.
- b. It shall be the responsibility of the client to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.

Accepted by:/s/\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_

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**CERTIFICATION:**

I have completed a review of the information provided by the client and certify this practice has been applied.

Certification by:/s/\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_

Job title: \_\_\_\_\_

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**FUEL BREAK SPECIFICATION SHEET**

Landowner \_\_\_\_\_ Field number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Fuel Break Purpose**
 Reduce the risk and spread of wildfire
  Aid in conducting a prescribed burn
**Required Treatment(s)**

**All forest activities shall comply with Texas Best Management Practices. It is the landowner's responsibility to contact TFS or appropriate agency if they are conducting a prescribed burn and comply with Texas's smoke management guidelines.**

**General:** A fuel break is a strip of land, mostly cleared of brush, with widely spaced trees. It is managed to slow fire spread, aiding fire fighting forces. To be effective, the minimum width will be 66 feet; and the maximum width will be 660 feet.

For structure protection minimum width is 100 feet (there is no maximum distance).

 **Overstory Treatment:**

Favor leaving trees that are the most fire resistant. Trees to leave: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommended tree spacing may be increased, up to 33% above normal\*. Between Tree Spacing: \_\_\_\_\_ feet

Additional Information:

Prune trees to minimize fire movement into the canopy. Reduces ladder fuels.

**Ground Vegetation Treatment:**

Limit height growth of all ground vegetation. Prior to fire season, mow, cut, burn, etc., all brush to a height of 1.5 ft or less. Focus on the reduction of volatile species. Livestock grazing to reduce grass levels is acceptable.

Additional Information:

Brush may be maintained by mowing, cutting, or by using herbicides.

**Slash Treatment:**

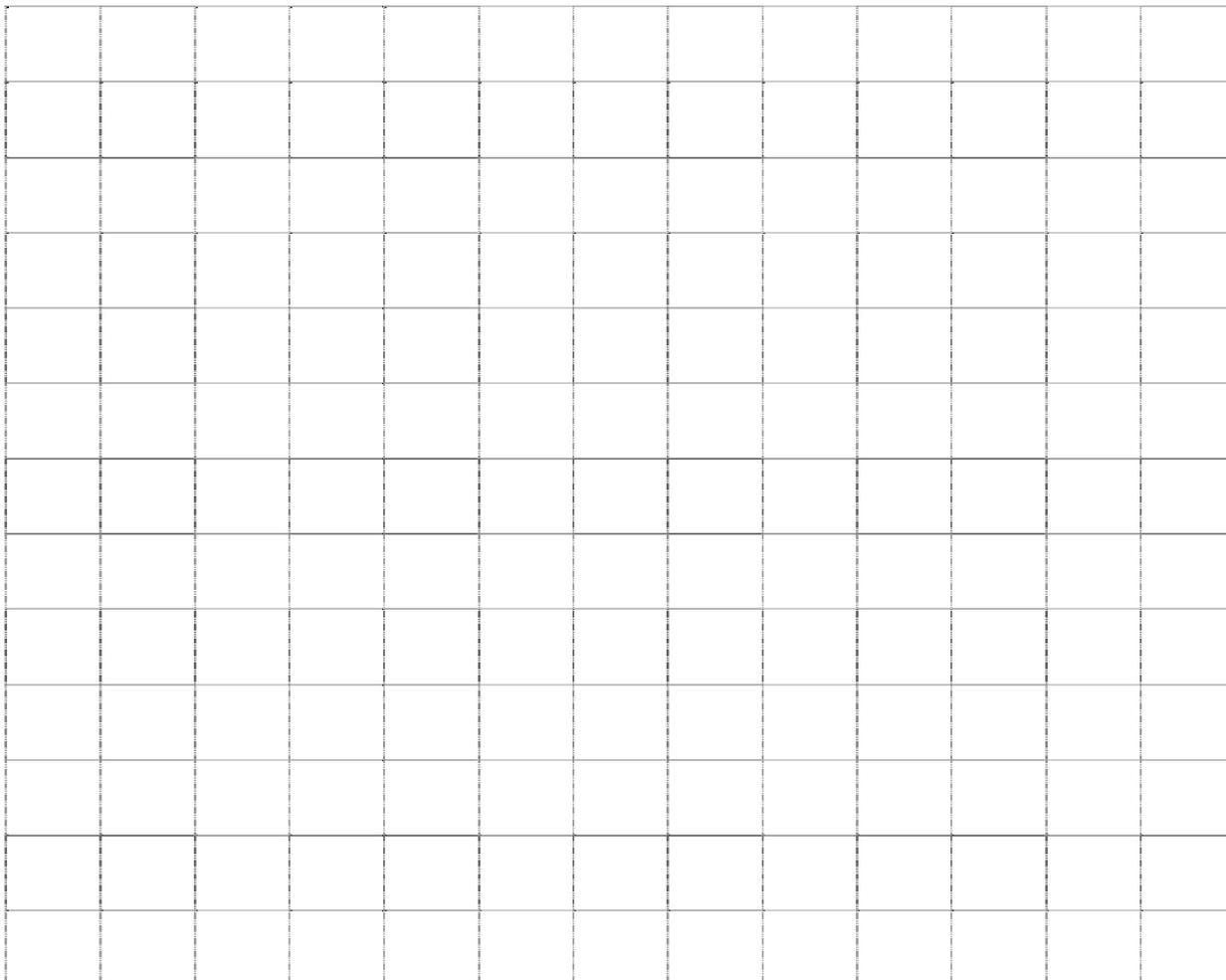
Slash material (produced from Fuel Break establishment) will be treated to maintain fuel break purpose. Treatment alternatives are: remove slash from site, pile and burn, lop and scatter, or chip.

**Operation and Maintenance**

Inspect fuel break prior to fire danger season. Remove down woody material (branches > 2 in., dead trees, etc.) to maintain a low level of fire spread risk. Mow, cut, burn, disc, etc., all brush to maintain low levels of vegetation. Repeat as necessary during the lifespan of this practice.

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included. Or attach maps as needed.

Scale 1"=\_\_\_\_\_ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



***Additional Specification and Notes:***