

Client or Landowner _____



Trees and slash are being masticated (mechanical “teeth” chew the material into chunks) to decrease hazardous fuels and place slash in contact with the soil surface.

Woody Residue Treatment

The treatment of residual woody material that is created due to management activities or natural disturbances such as but not limited to ice storms, tornadoes, hurricanes and/or wildfires to reduce the fuel load, improve access and achieve management objectives.

Landowner:		Farm #:
Field/Stand(s):	Acres:	Tract #:
Soil Map Unit(s):		County:
Designed By:		Contact Information:
Date:		

Where can this practice be used:

This practice applies on all areas with quantities of woody slash and debris that requires a treatment to reduce wildfire risk, improve access, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, forage for domestic livestock and minimize the risk of pests and disease. This practice does not apply to cropland.

Purposes – Check all that apply

- Reduce hazardous fuels
- Reduce the risk of harmful insects and disease
- Protect/maintain air quality by reducing the risk of wildfire
- To improve access for management purposes
- Improve access to forage for grazing and browsing animals
- Enhance aesthetics
- Reduce the risk of harm to humans and livestock
- Improve the soil organic matter
- Improve the site for natural or artificial regeneration.

Practice Implementation:

This practice is part of a conservation management system for a land unit having undesired woody material that, if left alone, creates hazardous or other undesired conditions. Woody residue treatment and the condition and extent of residual slash is determined and the method to reduce the debris is planned and selected based on identified purposes for the land. Timing of treatment coincides with achieving intended purposes and minimizing impact on other resources. Residual slash and debris left on the site after treatment is in a condition and amount that will not present an unacceptable fire, safety, environmental, or pest hazard nor interfere with other on-going or planned management activities.

CRITERIA

General Criteria Applicable to All Purposes

The condition and extent of residual woody material shall determine the treatment method selected based on the operator's purpose and available contractors in the area.

Treatment methods (i.e. piling, burning, chipping/masticating, lop and scatter, off-site removal, crushing, etc.) should be selected to achieve the landowner objectives while adequately protecting land and water resources.

Care shall be taken to minimize injury to or function of the residual plant communities.

Timing of treatment shall coincide with intended purpose(s) and minimize impact on other resources.

Any broadcast burning activities shall comply with the Texas NRCS conservation practice standard, Prescribed Burning – Code 338.

Any residual woody material left on the site after treatment will not present an unacceptable fire, safety, environmental, or pest hazard. Such remaining material will not interfere with the intended purpose or other planned management activities.

MONITORING:

During the operation:

Ensure that the work is conducted on the appropriate property.

Ensure that the woody material is properly removed from the site or reduced to the extent that wildfire risk is minimized. Woody debris can be chipped, severed and piled, masticated, cut to bring the material into contact with the soil.

Examine the worksite for any erosion problems.

Protect any healthy trees to remain on the site after the woody residual treatment.

Follow prescribed burning and smoke management guidelines when fire will be used to reduce the woody debris. When feasible, consider chipping, shredding, off-site disposal, bio-fuel composting, or other techniques in lieu of burning.

For safety precautions, limit access when the site is being treated. Visibility is not great in large mechanical equipment.

Evaluate the site to ensure that the woody debris is being treated sufficiently to meet the intended purpose.

After the operation:

Monitor the site for non-native invasive species and control as necessary.

Monitor the site for any erosion problems.

Monitor the site for any pest problems.

Below are a couple of examples where woody debris was treated and how the stand looked after the treatment.



A hardwood stand after an ice storm (left) and after the site was treated (right). Broken and damaged trees were cut with a chainsaw and the debris was pushed into piles with a dozer.



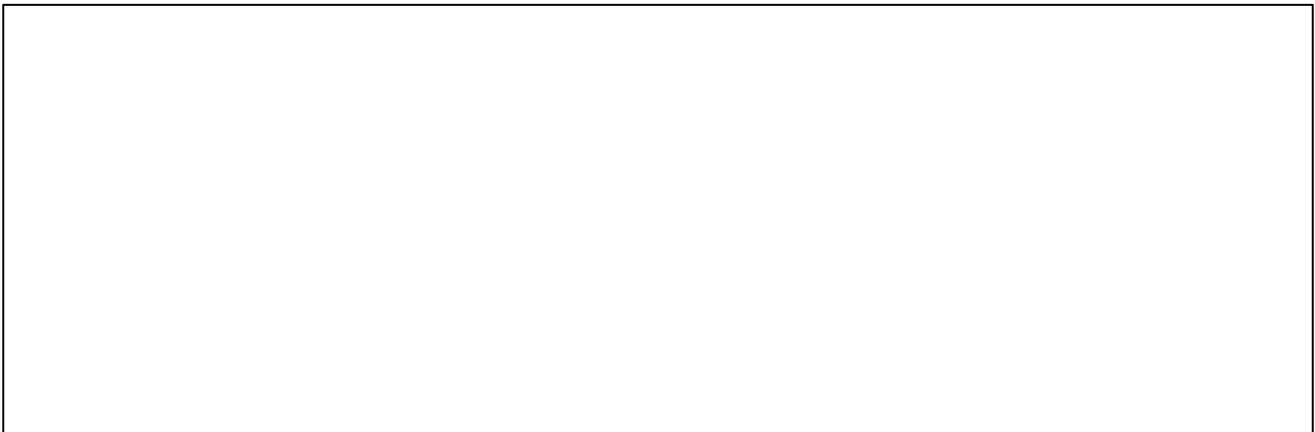
A longleaf pine stand after a hurricane (left) and the same stand 4 years after treatment (right). The down and broken trees were cut using a chainsaw and pulled off of the site. After the debris was removed the site was prescribed burned.



Residual material is distributed over the area after excess slash is piled or removed from the site. Compaction is a concern depending on the use and type of ground equipment.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

For further information on forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs), see Texas BMP's—Texas A&M Forest Service.



Landowner

NRCS personnel

Date

Date

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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.

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

