

FOREST SITE PREPARATION

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 490



FOREST SITE PREPARATION

Forest site preparation is the practice of treating areas to encourage natural regeneration of desirable trees and shrubs or to accelerate the process by providing optimum site conditions for planting or direct seeding of desirable woody species.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to understocked areas, areas planned for tree planting following harvest, areas where a land cover change to forest is desired, or areas having undesirable vegetation that inhibits or competes with preferred woody species.

The purpose of the practice is to prepare the land for establishing a stand of desirable woody vegetation by controlling undesirable vegetation, removing slash and debris, or altering site conditions.

Application of this practice requires the following considerations:

1. Protect existing desirable vegetation
2. Remaining slash and debris should not harbor harmful levels of pests, hinder needed equipment operation, or create undue fire hazard.
3. Accelerated erosion and/or runoff caused by site preparation will be controlled by other conservation practices.
4. The chosen method should be cost effective, and protect culture resources, springs, seeps, wetlands, and other unique areas.
5. Impacts on wildlife habitat should be carefully evaluated as part of the planning process.

Additional information including specifications for this practice are filed in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.