

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Firebreak (394)

A firebreak is a permanent or temporary strip of bare or vegetated ground designed to allow for the removal and management of fuel to prevent the progress of forest fires and provide access to inner areas of the forest to fight such fires.

Practice Information

This practice is best designed with a qualified/certified forester. It is applied on forest land where protection from fire is needed or prescribed burning is recommended.

The vegetation in the firebreak should be fire-resistant and noninvasive. An alternative is to maintain the firebreak as bare ground.

The firebreaks need to be of sufficient length and width to contain a possible fire. Knowledge of forest fire history and behavior is helpful in locating the break.

Erosion control measures must be incorporated into the design where the firebreaks will be installed on sloping ground. Vehicle access should be limited as much as possible to prevent damage to the firebreak that would hinder access during emergencies.



Common Associated Practices

Firebreak (394) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Prescribed Burning (338), Forest Trails and Landings (655), Forest Stand Improvement (666), and Tree and Shrub Planting (612).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.