

Woody Residue Treatment

Conservation Practice WV Job Sheet

Code 384



DEFINITION

The treatment of residual woody material that is created due to management activities or natural disturbances.

PURPOSE

- 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 livestock and wildlife
- Develop renewable energy systems
- Enhance aesthetics
- Reduce the risk of harm to humans and livestock
- Improve the soil organic matter
- Improve the site for natural or artificial regeneration
- **Treat slash associated with forest harvest operations**
- **Create wildlife habitat**

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies on all lands, except active cropland, where woody residue requires treatment.

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.

Treatment methods (i.e. piling, burning, chipping/masticating, lop and scatter, off-site removal, crushing) will achieve 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 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.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation (including harvesting activities) and maintenance of this practice.

Additional Criteria Applicable to Reduce Hazardous Fuels

Reduce the amount of fuels to an acceptable level by controlling height, size, amount and distribution.

Additional Criteria to Reduce the Risk of Harmful Insects and Disease

The degree, intensity and timing of treatment shall consider the characteristics of harmful insects or diseases to enhance the effectiveness of control.

Additional Criteria to Protect/Maintain Air Quality by Reducing the Risk of Wildfire

Activities will be consistent with established regulations and guidelines for PM10 and PM2.5 emissions, ozone precursors (NOx and VOCs), as well as smoke and fugitive dust, and state and local permit requirements.

Additional Criteria to Improve Access to Forage for Livestock and Wildlife

Woody material shall be piled, contour windrowed, or removed sufficiently to allow access by livestock and wildlife, and to maximize forage growth.

Additional Criteria for Develop Renewable Energy Systems

Removal of woody material shall not be detrimental to the site and will adequately protect soil and water resources. Adequate woody material will be left to maintain or improve nutrient and organic matter cycling.

Additional Criteria to Enhance Aesthetics

Woody material left on the site that is scattered, windrowed or piled will be further treated to meet client objectives and any state or local requirements for aesthetics and visual resources.

Additional Criteria to Reduce the Risk of Harm to Humans and Livestock

Woody material left on the site that is scattered, piled or windrowed will be further treated to meet client objectives and any state or local requirements for safe use of the area.

Additional Criteria to Improve Soil Organic Matter

Woody material will be of a size and closeness to soil to accelerate in decomposition.

Additional Criteria to Improve the Site for Natural or Artificial Regeneration

Woody material will be treated to complement treatments specified in Tree/Shrub Site Preparation - 490.

Additional Criteria for the Treatment of Slash Associated with Forest Harvest Operations

All slash created from forest harvest operations will be treated in the following manner:

Directional felling should be used to minimize stream disturbance. Felled tops will be pulled from all perennial and intermittent stream channels in accordance with West Virginia Silvicultural Best Management Practices for Controlling Soil Erosion and Sedimentation from Logging Operations.

<http://www.wvforestry.com/BMP%20Book%202009.pdf>

Additional Criteria to Create Wildlife Habitat

Removal and/or utilization of slash following timber harvest may provide excellent temporary wildlife cover where there is a lack and need for early successional habitat. Refer to the WV conservation practice (645) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management and the West Virginia Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Technique (WVWHET) for wildlife species that may benefit from this type of habitat.

Slash may be piled, windrowed, stacked or placed to provide a transitional edge effect, escape cover or ecotone by the creation of brush piles. Refer to the WV conservation practice standard (647) Early Successional Habitat Development/Management for more information.



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Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the following job sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the WV NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Information in this job sheet is considered to be part of the conservation plan.

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Client:	Farm #:
Field(s):	Tract #:
Designed By:	Location:
Date:	Total Acres:

Purpose of the practice:

Method of woody residue treatment:

Operation and maintenance requirements: The following actions shall be carried out to insure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the application and use of the practice (operation), and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance). The treatment area should be inspected at least annually. Monitor populations and the potential of damage to site resources by harmful pests and take controlling actions as necessary. Access by vehicles or people will be controlled during treatment for safety.

Additional notes:

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.

Questions regarding the planning, application or maintenance of the Woody Residue Treatment practice should be directed to:

_____ at _____

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