

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL

(Acre)
CODE 500

DEFINITION

Removal and disposal of unwanted, unsightly or hazardous buildings, structures, vegetation, landscape features, trash, and other materials.

PURPOSE

To safely remove and dispose of unwanted obstructions and materials in order to apply conservation practices or facilitate planned use of abandoned mine lands, farms, ranches, construction sites, and recreation areas.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On land where existing obstructions interfere with planned use and development.

CRITERIA

Rock piles, boulders, stones, fences, hedge rows, abandoned buildings and structures, trash, and similar obstruction that would interfere with planned use and development shall be removed. All debris such as broken concrete and masonry, structural steel and wood, stones, stumps, slash, and sterile or toxic soil material shall be disposed of so that they will not impede subsequent work or cause damage to offsite or other areas.

Disposal shall be by burning, burying, or removing to an approved land fill in an environmentally acceptable manner.

All required gully shaping shall be performed to specified dimensions and grades. Gully fills shall be compacted to the required density.

The cover over buried materials shall be designed to be adequate for the planned use, treatment, and vegetation. Historical or archaeological significant and scenic values shall be identified and preserved as appropriate.

Evaluate the site's potential for invasion by

undesirable plants during practice planning and design. Monitor disturbed and adjacent areas to enable early detection and control of invasive plants.

Utilize the following table to determine practice restrictions based on Sage-grouse (SG) lek proximity.

Practice Implementation Criteria	Practice distance from SG lek	
	Core	Non-Core
Initiate High Priority joint planning (NRCS/WGF MOU) through the Regional Wildlife Coordinator to ensure compliance with the Governor's Executive Order.	<0.6 mi.	< 0.25 mi
Practice activities will not be conducted from March 15 to June 30 to avoid disturbance to breeding and nesting SG.*	>0.6. mi.	0.25 – 2.0 mi
No SG restrictions	NA	>2.0 mi.

*Activities conducted in unsuitable habitat (as defined by the Governor's Executive Order 2010-4) or that are clearly beneficial to SG may be subject to less restrictions consistent with WGF case by case recommendations.

CONSIDERATIONS

Effects from rates of rainfall runoff and the impacts on groundwater and downstream water resources

Short-term and construction-related effects on soil erosion and water quality.

Potential for uncovering or redistributing toxic materials such as saline soils.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for obstructions removal shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying and achieving the practice purpose.

REFERENCES

Memorandum of Understanding between the USDA, NRCS and the State of Wyoming, Wyoming Game and Fish Commission. August 11, 2010.

State of Wyoming, Governor's Executive Order 2010-4 and Attachments. Greater Sage-Grouse Core Area Protection. August 18, 2010.