

DRAFT

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

SITE PREPARATION FOR WOODY PLANT ESTABLISHMENT

(Acre)
CODE 490

DEFINITION

Altering site conditions by methods such as controlling or eliminating undesirable vegetation, removal of slash and debris and mechanical disturbance of the soil profile.

PURPOSES

- Encourage natural regeneration of desirable woody plants.
- Permit artificial regeneration.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On all lands where establishment of woody plants is desired.

CRITERIA

On forest and woodlands in New Mexico the New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides technical assistance through the local service foresters. A landowner harvesting over 25 acres per year must obtain a state permit from the service forester and have a regeneration plan. The local service forester can produce the regeneration plan or a consultant can do the work. The local service forester maintains a list of state certified consultant foresters. Forest trails and landings are usually an integral component of a forest and woodland management plan. Always check with the local service forester when making site-specific specifications on forestland.

The method, intensity and timing of site preparation will match the limitations of the site, equipment, safety, and the requirements of the desired woody species.

An appropriate site preparation method will be chosen to protect any desirable vegetation.

Remaining slash and debris shall not create habitat for or harbor harmful levels of pests.

Remaining slash and debris shall not hinder needed equipment operations or create undue fire hazard.

Erosion and/or runoff will be controlled.

Comply with applicable laws and regulations, including New Mexico Best Management Practices(BMPs).

All practices and procedures that involve ground-disturbing activities will be in compliance with applicable Cultural Resource Protection laws, regulations, and policies.

CONSIDERATIONS

The chosen method should be cost effective and protect cultural resources, wildlife habitat, water and soil resources and identified unique areas.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans will address method of site preparation, species, and protection required for desirable woody species.

Specifications for applying this practice and protection of the site shall be prepared and recorded using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan or other acceptable documentation.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Operation and maintenance requirements are addressed in the specification for this practice.

Periodic inspections during treatment activities are necessary to ensure that objectives are achieved and resource damage is minimized. Contact the local NRCS conservationist immediately when unexpected problems, questions arise during practice installation.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resource Conservation Service.