

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Land Clearing (460)

Land clearing is removing trees, stumps, and other vegetation to allow needed land-use adjustments and improvements in the interest of conservation. Land clearing is used to prepare land for the establishment of habitat for wildlife species.

Practice Information

This practice applies to wooded areas where the removal of trees, stumps, brush, and other vegetation is needed to establish, reestablish, or maintain desired habitat for wildlife. This practice is not for clearing, filling, and/or draining wetlands for the purpose of growing commodity crops, or any other purpose.

An undisturbed area at least 50 feet wide will be left between the area being cleared and all wetlands, water bodies, and perennial streams. Temporary vegetation should be established as necessary until the planned land use is in place. To reduce compaction, avoid clearing when soil moisture conditions are high.

Operation and maintenance for land clearing includes controlling the regrowth of undesired and exotic vegetation, the protection of watercourses, minimized use of heavy



equipment when the ground is saturated, and the proper use of pesticides and other chemicals.

Common Associated Practices

Land Clearing (460) is commonly applied with conservation practices such as Brush Management (314), Obstruction Removal (500), Forest Stand Improvement (666), Forest Trails and Landings (655), Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Habitats (643), and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645).

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.