

ARKANSAS FIRE & ICE PRACTICE FOREST SLASH TREATMENT

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The Arkansas Forestry Commission has been awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) grant through the US Forest Service for wildfire hazard reduction on property in Arkansas impacted by the ice storm of January 2009. A portion will be used to assist non-industrial private forest landowners through grants to implement forest practices on affected property.



Forest Slash Treatment

The purpose for Forest Slash Treatment is to manipulate woody debris in a manner to minimize wildfire hazards.

Conditions Where Practice Applies

- Eligible forested areas will have large quantities of broken trees, uprooted trees, woody slash and debris due to ice storm damage requiring treatment to restore forest conditions.
- The tract must have enough damage to limit access through the stand and have a risk of catastrophic wildfire.
- Forest Slash Treatment cannot be used for forest conversion i.e. forest to pasture.

Approved Forest Slash Treatment Methods are:

Chipping This method includes the mechanical conversion of slash to chips and chunks of varying sizes to distribute on site or utilized offsite. Operate machinery to minimize bark damage to the residual trees. This chipped material can be used as woody biomass fuel, landscape mulch or pulp for paper products.

Harvesting Removing merchantable damaged, wind thrown, and marginable trees for a forest product.

Removal Wood debris is removed from the site. This method is suited to areas with high debris accumulations where other methods may not achieve desired results.

Piling Piling wood debris in piles no more than 10 feet in height and 20 feet in width to be located more than 100 feet from property/stand boundaries. If burned, position piles to prevent fire damage to crop trees and desirable vegetation.

Windrows Windrowing of up to 10 feet heights and 20 feet widths to be located more than 100 feet from property/stand boundaries. If burned, position windrows to prevent fire damage to crop trees and desirable vegetation.

Lopping & Scatter

Lopping is the cutting of limbs, branches, treetops, small diameter trees, or other woody plant residue into lengths so that the remaining slash results in sufficient fire hazard reduction. Scattering is the spreading of lopped slash evenly over the ground so that the remaining slash will lie close to the ground. This method is best suited to areas with lower slash accumulations.

Care should be taken to protect residual trees whenever possible.

Forest Slash should be manipulated in a way where fire could not transfer over the landscape.

Dead snags/limbs should be felled within 100 feet of the property/stand boundary.

Hazard trees that are likely to fall or have large limbs/tops that are likely to fall will be cut down in a safe manner.

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To learn more about how stimulus funds will be distributed in Arkansas, visit the Arkansas State Recovery Office web site at www.recovery.arkansas.gov, or call the Arkansas Recovery Hotline at 1-877-682-1515. The Arkansas Forestry Commission offers its programs to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability; and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.