



FOREST DEBRIS MANAGEMENT PROGRAM PRACTICES

The purpose of this program is to help landowners with damage to their forest lands sustained from Hurricane Michael remove and manage forest debris from the storm. This program is intended to improve forest health and aesthetics, reduce wildfire risks and increase timber and orchard production. Acceptable debris management practices include chipping, grinding, root raking, piling, windrowing, pile burning, or other cost-effective methods to manage storm damage debris. Below are some guidelines that should be followed by program participants.

- Minimize damaging and skinning residual trees during the operation (excessive damage to residual trees can invite pine bark beetles and disease into the stand);
- Avoid operating during periods of saturated soil conditions which could lead to rutting, compaction, root damage or accelerated erosion;
- Minimize soil disturbance
 - Use equipment that minimizes soil disturbance, such as a root rake;
 - Take extra precautions on steep slopes and slopes with highly erodible soils;
- Stabilize exposed soil and repair erosion if necessary;
- When piling debris, use a root rake to minimize the amount of soil moved into the pile (excessive soil movement into the windrow or pile can reduce site productivity as well as result in an incomplete burn of the pile);
- Locate windrows and piles to:
 - Avoid cultural resources;
 - Avoid Streamside Management Zones;
 - Follow contours when possible to mitigate the effects of overland flow;
 - Minimize interference with natural drainage patterns;
- Locate windrows and slash piles on stable upland locations, preferably in openings or away from healthy residual trees to avoid damaging trees when burning;
- Leave openings in windrows every 300 feet to allow travel ways and for better control when burning (if applicable reduce the size of windrows and piles).