

Section 201. CLEARING

201.01 Description.

- A. **Clearing.** Clearing consists of cutting, removing and disposing of trees, stumps, brush, shrubs, roots, logs, and other vegetation. This work includes salvaging and disposing of marketable timber and preservation from injury or defacement of all vegetation and objects designated to remain.
- B. **Selective Thinning.** Selective thinning consists of removing and disposing of undesirable trees, stumps, undergrowth, and all debris outside areas designated for clearing. Where required, this work also includes treating stumps and stubs with a growth preventive material.
- C. **Clearing For Fence.** Clearing for fence consists of removing and disposing of trees, brush, stubs, stumps, and other vegetation on the fence line. This work includes treating stumps and stubs with a material that will prevent sprouting of new growth.

201.02 Materials. The growth preventive material shall be Veteran CST, Pathfinder, or an approved equal. The growth preventive material shall be applied by a certified applicator.

201.03 Construction.

- A. **Clearing.**
 - 1. **Removing Trees, Stumps and Other Vegetation.** The removal limits shall extend to 10 feet outside the grading limits or to the right-of-way line, which ever is less, and including other areas designated on the plans. Grading limits include vertical curves at the top of cut sections, toe of fill slopes and as shown on the plans. Trees shall be felled without danger to traffic or injury to other trees, structures or property. In peat treatment areas, removals shall be to the outside limits of the peat excavation. Between peat excavation limits and outer clearing limits, all vegetation shall be cut off to not more than 6 inches above the ground. Stumps and roots outside peat excavation limits need not be removed. If approved, stumps may be buried with a minimum cover of two feet in peat disposal areas outside the limits of sound fill.
 - 2. **Protecting Plant Life.** All vegetation that is not designated on the plans or by the Engineer to be removed shall be protected from damage. Trees or shrubs that are damaged by the Contractor's operations shall be repaired or replaced at the Contractor's expense.
 - 3. **Salvaging Marketable Timber.** All marketable timber which is required to be removed shall be salvaged. Trees having a diameter of 6 inches, or more, measured at a point 4.5 feet above the base of the tree at the ground line are classified as marketable timber. Burning or wasting of marketable timber will not be permitted. The Contractor is not required to cut timber in lengths less than 8 feet.

Marketable timber shall be salvaged according to the following requirements, as applicable:

- a. **Right-of-Way Purchased in Fee Simple.** Marketable timber shall become the property of the Contractor and be made available to wood-using industries or individuals.
- b. **Right-of-Way Easements.** Unless otherwise called for on the plans, marketable timber shall be cut and piled outside the right-of-way for the abutting property owner. The Contractor shall provide the Engineer with the property owner's written direction for the disposal of the marketable timber. If the owner does not want the marketable timber, it will become the property of the Contractor and be made available to wood-using industries or individuals.

On easements or special use permits over lands owned by the USDA Forest Service or MDNR, the marketable timber is the property of the Forest Service or MDNR and shall be cut and disposed of as agreed to by the Department and the Forest Service or MDNR. The Forest Service may sell or otherwise dispose of standing marketable timber to others when such timber can be felled and removed without undue interference with the operation of the Contractor. Unmarketable material shall be disposed of by the Contractor according to subsection 201.03.A.4.

4. **Disposing of Unsalvageable Material.** All unmarketable timber stumps, roots, logs, brush, limbs, tops, and other debris resulting from the clearing and selective thinning shall be disposed of by one of the following methods:
 - a. **Chipping.** Chips shall be disposed of outside the right of way unless otherwise approved.
 - b. **Burning.** Burning permits must be obtained by the Contractor. Only trees, logs, brush, or stumps may be disposed of by open burning. Burning within the right-of-way shall be in approved areas. Tires, heavy distillates, and plastics as kindling agents will not be permitted. All remaining material shall be disposed of outside the right-of-way or in other approved areas.
 - c. **Other.** Material may be disposed of outside the right-of-way or in approved areas within the right-of-way. If material is to be disposed of outside the right-of-way, the Contractor shall furnish the Engineer with written permission from the property owner of the disposal site. Material shall not be disposed of, either temporarily or permanently, in any wetland or floodplain.

B. **Selective Thinning.**

1. **Removals.** Trees and areas of undergrowth to be removed will be designated. The work will not be considered complete until acceptance of the project. The selective thinning operations shall be performed as specified below:

- a. **Selective Thinning Type I.** Stumps shall be cut off at an elevation not more than 6 inches above the existing ground level and treated the same day with a material to prevent new growth as specified in subsection 201.02.
 - b. **Selective Thinning-Type II.** Stumps shall be chipped or ground to an elevation approximately 4 inches below the proposed ground level.
- 2. **Protecting Plant Life.** Protect all plant life as specified in subsection 201.03.A.2.
 - 3. **Disposal of Materials.** Dispose of all materials as specified in subsection 201.03.A.

C. Clearing for Fence.

- 1. **Removals.** The maximum clearing width shall be 8 feet entirely within the right-of-way. Widths less than 8 feet shall be used where possible. Other public right-of-way may be utilized to avoid or minimize clearing.

Trees, brush, shrubs, stumps, and other vegetation shall be cut flush. Roots need not be removed. Limb trimming, using proper techniques, will be permitted to avoid cutting mature trees or bushes.

Stumps and stubs within one foot of the fence line, shall be treated the same day with material to prevent new growth.

- 2. **Protecting Plant Life.** Protect all plant life as specified in subsection 201.03.A.2. Hand work may be required to construct the fence in these areas as well as in naturally occurring wet areas.
- 3. **Disposal of Materials.** Dispose of all materials as specified in subsection 201.03.A.4.

201.04 Measurement and Payment.

Contract Item (Pay Item)	Pay Unit
Clearing	Acre
Thinning, Selective, Type ____	Acre
Clearing for Fence	Station

A. Clearing

- 1. **Clearing** will be measured by horizontal area. The area of **Clearing** will be computed as the area bounded by the outside line of the trunks of the trees cut.
- 2. Payment for clearing occurring between lines 10 feet outside the grading limits, on state furnished borrow areas, in clear vision areas, or other areas designated on the plans will be considered as having been included in the contract unit prices bid for other contract items unless it is a separate contract item. When clearing, not shown on the plans, is required beyond 10 feet outside the grading limits or in areas which are not

state furnished borrow areas or clear vision areas and there is no separate contract item for **Clearing**, this work will be paid for as extra work.

3. When the clearing of an area has been accepted by the Engineer, and the Contractor is required to return to perform additional clearing of areas less than 0.5 acre, this work will be paid as extra work.
- B. Selective thinning, of the type specified, will be measured by horizontal area and paid as Thinning, Selective, Type ____ . Payment will also include furnishing and applying growth preventive materials, where required.
- C. **Clearing for Fence** will be measured along the fence line by length. Handwork will not be cause for extra compensation. Payment for **Clearing for Fence** will also include payment for furnishing and applying growth preventive materials.