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## **Use of Waste Tires for Blowout Stabilization**

This guidance document has been produced by the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) to provide recommended practices for using waste tires in blowout stabilization projects. A blowout is defined in Nebraska [Title 132 – Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations](#), Chapter 1, [§010](#) as a wind excavated depression on rangeland.

Land disposal of waste tires is prohibited in Nebraska. However, beneficial reuse of waste tires for agricultural purposes is allowed in some instances, such as bumpers on agricultural equipment, ballast to maintain covers or structures on the agricultural site, feeders and water tanks for livestock, or for blowout stabilization. The regulations applying to waste tires can be found in Title 132, Chapter 2 [§002.01B](#) and Chapter 14.

### **Threatened and Endangered Species Consultation**

Blowout penstemon is a federal and state listed endangered plant species that is native to blowouts in the Nebraska Sandhills. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission must be consulted before beginning a blowout stabilization project.

### **Recommended Blowout Stabilization Practices**

The following information is provided to ensure appropriate use of waste tires in controlling wind erosion and to aid in the restoration of blowout damaged areas on rangelands.

- Waste tires may not be placed into blowouts that are larger than half an acre in area.
- Waste tires may be used for blowout stabilization only if the slope of the blowout is 2 feet horizontal to 1 foot vertical (26.6° slope or 50% grade) or less.
- The blowout must be mulched with an organic mixture before placement of waste tires. Mulch with natural materials at a rate of one to one and a half tons per half an acre. Examples of natural materials used for mulch include animal manure, straw, native grass hay, and legume hay.
- A native grass seed mix, as recommended by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) for the area, shall be drilled or broadcast over the site at a minimum seeding rate of 60

pure live seed (PLS) per square foot when drilling and 120 PLS per square foot when broadcasting.

- Waste tires must be arranged in one single layer in a random pattern that prevents the wind from blowing in a straight-line path through the waste tires. Only whole waste tires can be used and cannot be placed inside of other tires. Tire pieces, rims, and inner tubes are not allowed to be used.
- Blowout stabilization projects using waste tires must cover the entire blowout area. Before starting the project, enough waste tires must be available to adequately cover the full project area without breaks of time between placement of tires.
- Fence around the blowout stabilization project area to exclude livestock.

For additional information regarding best range management practices for blowout control, contact your local NRCS office or the University of Nebraska Extension Service.

## **RESOURCES:**

- NDEE Home Page <https://dee.nebraska.gov/>

## **Contacts:**

- NDEE Main Number (402) 471-2186
- NDEE Toll Free Number (877) 253-2603
- NDEE Hazardous Waste Compliance Assistant (402) 471-8308
- Email questions to: [NDEE.moreinfo@nebraska.gov](mailto:NDEE.moreinfo@nebraska.gov)

## **NDEE Publications:**

- Environmental Guidance Document – “Landowners and Farm/Ranch Operators Management of Solid Waste”  
*Guidance documents are available on the NDEE Home Page under “Forms”, “Publications, Grants & Forms”.*
- [Title 132 – Nebraska Integrated Solid Waste Management Regulations](#)  
*Titles are available on the NDEE Home Page under “Resources and Services”, “Laws & Regulations”, “Rules & Regulations”.*

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