

# Silvicultural Decisions VI - Preparation for Natural or Planted Regeneration

*Ron Mahoney*

removal of vegetation and debris to  
promote natural regeneration from  
seedlings. The goals for  
preparing the amount and  
type of vegetation, increasing site  
openness to woody and other debris, and  
promoting regeneration from wildlife and  
seedlings. Preparation can also increase or  
decrease the risk of subsequent wildfire damage to

Key decisions to be made in planning for  
regeneration. These include the current condition of  
the site, the amount of debris generated, the type and timing of  
debris removal, legal and social constraints, and eco-  
nomic considerations. Preparation methods include fire (pre-  
burning), chemical herbicides, and mechanical

---

preparation. These publications also provide excellent information on the limitations, advantages and proper application of various methods of site preparation, and the conditions required for their success. Two of the best are:

- *Enhancing Reforestation Success in the Inland Northwest (PNW 520, March 2000)*
- *Site Preparation: An Introduction for the Woodland Owner (EC 1188, August 1996).*

This information first appeared in Woodland NOTES, Vol. 12, No. 2.

**About the Author:** *Dr. Ron Mahoney* is an Extension Forester and Professor at the University of Idaho.