



## Piling Slash for Chipping Operations

Chipping can be a very effective method of slash disposal. A layer of chips a few inches deep spread across the ground poses relatively little fire hazard. Chipping results in a neat appearance, and the mulch holds soil moisture, covers exposed soil, and inhibits weed germination. Most of the labor is in dragging the material to the chipper and feeding it by hand. The material also can be piled first and the chipper moved around to each of the piles. Chipping requires fairly level ground and good access, since most chippers are towed by a truck. Below are some basic tips to ensure a smooth operation.

- Only pile clean slash (ex: not created from tractors or blades pushed with dirt, only cut by chainsaws or other shears)
- Piles should not exceed waist height
- All butts of the slash need to be pointing in the same direction (ex: not jackstraw)
- Point the butts towards the main road
- Piles should be in straight rows
- If there is too much slash to keep rows at waist height, start another row directly behind. Keeping in mind that the butts are pointing in the same direction and towards the road.
- If material is too large, cut into smaller pieces (ex: smaller trees need to be cut into manageable sizes, not to exceed 6" DBH, same with larger brush and branches)

A notification to your local Oregon Department of Forestry, Stewardship Forester is required when doing any fuels reduction, logging related activities or Power-Driven Machinery Permits. Landowners can file notifications online at <https://ferns.odf.oregon.gov/E-Notification/>