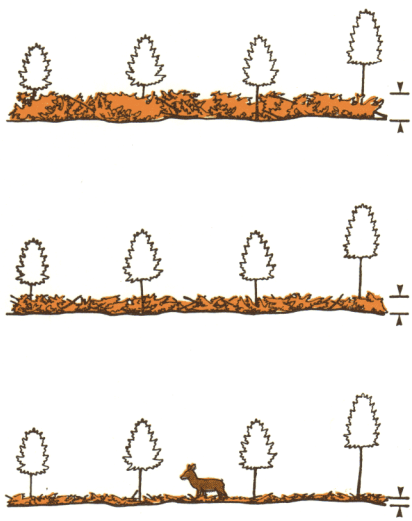
Principles for Juvenile Spacing

The benefits of juvenile spacing on winter range were described in Part I (pp. 40-41). These are basically long-term benefits that occur as the spaced trees respond to the reduced competition. However, in the short term, measures must be taken to minimize any negative impact to deer caused by juvenile spacing. These are discussed below and illustrated in an example.

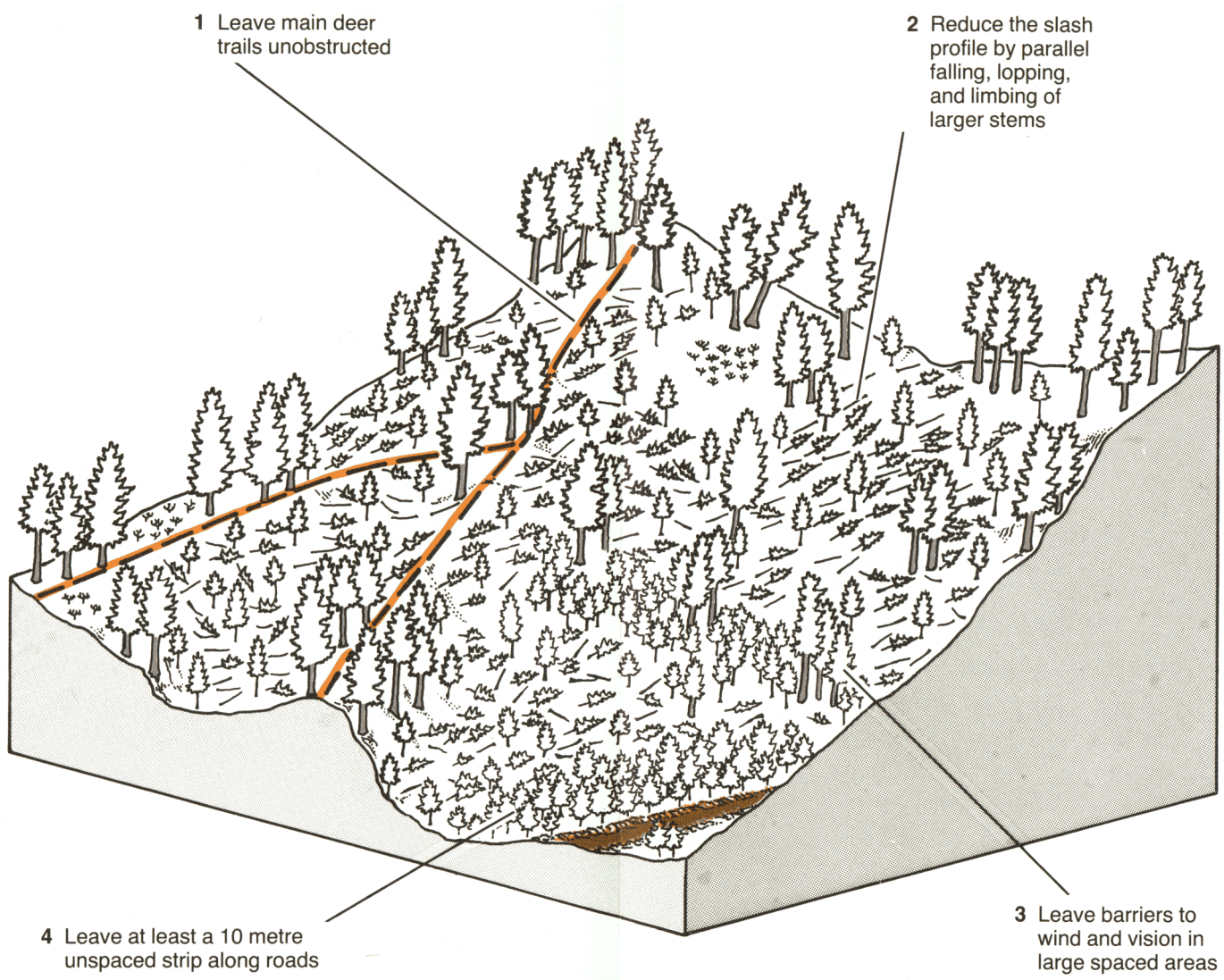
1. Main trails are important to deer as they move about to find suitable forage and shelter. These trails should not be obstructed by spacing slash.

2. The deeper the slash, the greater the obstacle to deer. When slash is 75-100 centimetres deep, the physical obstruction excludes deer from the area. Parallel falling, lopping, and limbing of the larger stems can reduce slash depth.



3. Spacing a large area that has little topographic relief will increase the air movement through the stand, thereby reducing the thermal cover value. Spacing also increases sight distances, causing a decline in security cover. Therefore, large spaced areas should be broken by barriers (i.e., trees and/or topography) to wind and vision.

4. Security cover along roads is important (p. 17). Leave an unspaced strip at least 10 metres wide along roads.


1 Leave main deer trails unobstructed
2 Reduce the slash profile by parallel falling, lopping, and limbing of larger stems
3 Leave barriers to wind and vision in large spaced areas
4 Leave at least a 10 metre unspaced strip along roads

Results

By applying the handbook principles, obtaining the necessary inputs from the resource agencies, and using a properly instructed and conscientious contractor, the result should be a winter range on which mule deer habitat values have been maintained, or minimally affected, while valuable timber has been extracted.

The harvesting system described in this handbook is applicable to those winter ranges or parts of winter ranges where the approval has been given to harvest timber. If the system is properly applied and sufficient time is allowed between passes (e.g., 20-30 yr), it should be possible to extract timber periodically without significantly harming mule deer habitat values.

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WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS

The relationships and management recommendations presented in this handbook were derived from ongoing research and represent the best available and most current data. As research increases our level of understanding, parts of the handbook may have to be revised.

Extensive effort has gone into making the handbook practical to all user groups, but undoubtedly as it is used operationally its strengths and weaknesses will become apparent. Comments from you, the users, will provide valuable insight not only to future editions but also to related projects.

Please direct all comments to:

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