One of the biggest reasons South Atlantic Land Works relies on forestry mulching is what it leaves behind. Traditional clearing often strips a site down to bare dirt. Mulching leaves a blanket of shredded wood across the ground, and that blanket does real work for your soil long after the machine has gone Home page home.

Bare clay in Central Virginia erodes quickly. A few heavy summer storms can carve gullies into a freshly scraped hillside and send topsoil into streams. A mulch layer breaks the force of falling rain, slows runoff and gives water time to soak in. As the wood breaks down, it adds organic matter that improves the structure of heavy Piedmont clay and helps new grass or crops establish.

Mulching also leaves root systems in place, which continue to hold soil while they decay. That makes a mulched site more stable through the transition from woods to whatever comes next. For landowners near creeks, on slopes or simply wanting to protect their investment, that difference matters, and it is a big part of why Mike recommends mulching on most jobs.

Wildlife benefits from thoughtful clearing too. New openings let sunlight reach the ground, which brings back grasses, forbs and browse that deer, turkey and rabbits feed on. Leaving some brushy edge and a few dead snags for birds keeps the property diverse, and many landowners are surprised by how much more wildlife they see in the seasons after clearing.

South Atlantic Land Works | 1416 Poorhouse Rd, Rice, VA 23966 | 434-603-1964

Clearing for a future building site can be done well ahead of construction. Opening the land early lets owners see the views, sun angles and drainage before finalizing house plans, and the mulch layer keeps the site stable while plans come together.

Clearing also reduces the fuel load on a property. Ground up brush lies flat on the ground instead of standing as dry fuel, which helps lower wildfire risk around homes and barns. Mulched ground can usually be seeded or planted directly, so pasture, food plots and lawns can be established quickly once the clearing is done. Fence lines, field edges and pastures lost to scrub can be reclaimed quickly, often in a single visit, putting unused ground back into production.



South Atlantic Land Works is ready to help with your next project. Call 434-603-1964 for a free estimate, or stop by 1416 Poorhouse Rd in Rice.

South Atlantic Land Works Address: 1416 Poorhouse Rd, Rice, VA 23966 Phone: 434-603-1964



FAQ About Land Clearing Near Me How much does land clearing cost in Central Virginia? Land clearing costs depend on how thick the vegetation is, the size of the trees, the terrain and how much of the property you want opened up. A lot of light brush and saplings costs far less than mature hardwood on a slope. South Atlantic Land Works gives free estimates after walking the property, so you get a real number for your land rather than a guess. Call 434-603-1964 to arrange one. What is forestry mulching? Forestry mulching is a clearing method where a mulching head cuts and grinds brush, saplings and small trees in place, leaving the material as a layer of mulch on the ground. South Atlantic Land Works runs a mulching head on a CAT compact track loader, so a site in Rice or Farmville can be cleared in a single pass with no hauling and no burn piles. Is forestry mulching better than bulldozer clearing? For most homesites, pastures, trails, fence lines and hunting land, mulching is cleaner and more cost effective because it keeps topsoil and roots in place and eliminates burn piles. A dozer can remove stumps and strip a site completely, which some building projects need. Mike at South Atlantic Land Works will recommend the right mix for your property, including grading or stump grinding where needed. Can I clear land during Virginia's spring burning season? Yes, if the clearing is done by mulching. Virginia's 4 PM Burning Law restricts open burning near woodland from February 15 through April 30, which can hold up traditional clearing that relies on burn piles. Because South Atlantic Land Works grinds vegetation in place, there is nothing to burn and spring projects can go ahead on schedule. Do I need a permit to clear land in Virginia? It depends on the size and purpose of the project and on your county's rules. Larger land disturbing projects can fall under Virginia's erosion and sediment control requirements, so it is worth checking with your county before work starts. Mulching leaves soil covered and roots in place, which helps limit erosion. South Atlantic Land Works can talk through your plans when it walks the property. How long does it take to clear an acre of land? Clearing time varies with vegetation density, tree size, slope and ground conditions. Light brush can go quickly, while heavy timber or steep ground takes longer. After walking your property, Mike at South Atlantic Land Works can give you a realistic timeframe along with your free estimate, and the crew works Monday through Saturday to fit your schedule. What happens to the trees and brush after clearing? With forestry mulching, trees and brush are ground into wood chips and spread across the cleared area. That mulch layer protects Piedmont clay from erosion, holds moisture and breaks down into organic matter over time. There are no debris piles to haul away or burn, which is one reason South Atlantic Land Works uses mulching on most jobs. Can you save certain trees when clearing my property? Yes. Selective clearing is one

of South Atlantic Land Works' specialties. Before work begins, Mike walks the property with you and marks the oaks, shade trees and privacy screens you want to keep. The compact track loader and mulching head can then clear the underbrush and unwanted trees around them without damaging what stays. Can you clear land for food plots and hunting? South Atlantic Land Works regularly clears food plots, shooting lanes and access trails on hunting land across Prince Edward, Cumberland, Buckingham and Charlotte counties. Mulching opens the ground for discing and seeding while leaving the surrounding cover that holds deer and turkey intact. Will the brush grow back after forestry mulching? Some species, such as sweetgum and many invasive shrubs, can sprout back from roots, so mulching works best with follow up mowing or maintenance. Once the woody growth has been cleared, keeping it open is usually straightforward. Mike at South Atlantic Land Works can suggest a maintenance plan based on what is growing on your land. What areas does South Atlantic Land Works serve? South Atlantic Land Works is based at 1416 Poorhouse Rd in Rice and serves Central and Southside Virginia, including Farmville, Hampden-Sydney, Prospect, Pamplin, Burkeville, Crewe, Blackstone, Cumberland, Dillwyn, Keysville, Charlotte Court House, Drakes Branch, Amelia Court House, Kenbridge and Victoria. Call 434-603-1964 to check whether your property is in the service area. Do you offer grading after land clearing? Yes. South Atlantic Land Works can grade house pads, driveways, building sites and fields after clearing, so you can take a property from overgrown to ready with one contractor. Getting drainage right on red clay soil is important, and the crew shapes the ground so water moves away from where it should not sit.