If you are planning to clear land in Central Virginia, you will likely be choosing between forestry mulching and traditional clearing. Both have their place, and South Atlantic Land Works helps landowners understand the difference so they can choose the right approach.



Traditional clearing typically uses a dozer to push trees and brush into piles, which are then burned or hauled away. It can remove large stumps and fully strip a site, but it also scrapes away topsoil, leaves bare ground exposed to erosion and requires burn permits or hauling costs. Forestry mulching grinds vegetation in place and leaves it as a protective layer, keeping the topsoil and root structure intact and eliminating burn piles altogether.

For most homesites, pastures, hunting land, trails and fence lines, mulching is faster, cleaner and more cost effective. Where a site needs stumps removed or major earthwork, mulching can be combined with grading or stump grinding. Mike will look at your land and recommend the right mix rather than a one size fits all approach.

Property value is closely tied to usability. A wooded tract that can be walked, driven and seen is worth more to most buyers than the same acreage hidden behind a wall of brush. Clearing a building site, an access road and a few views can transform how a property is perceived, and it is one of the more affordable improvements a rural landowner can make.

Get more info

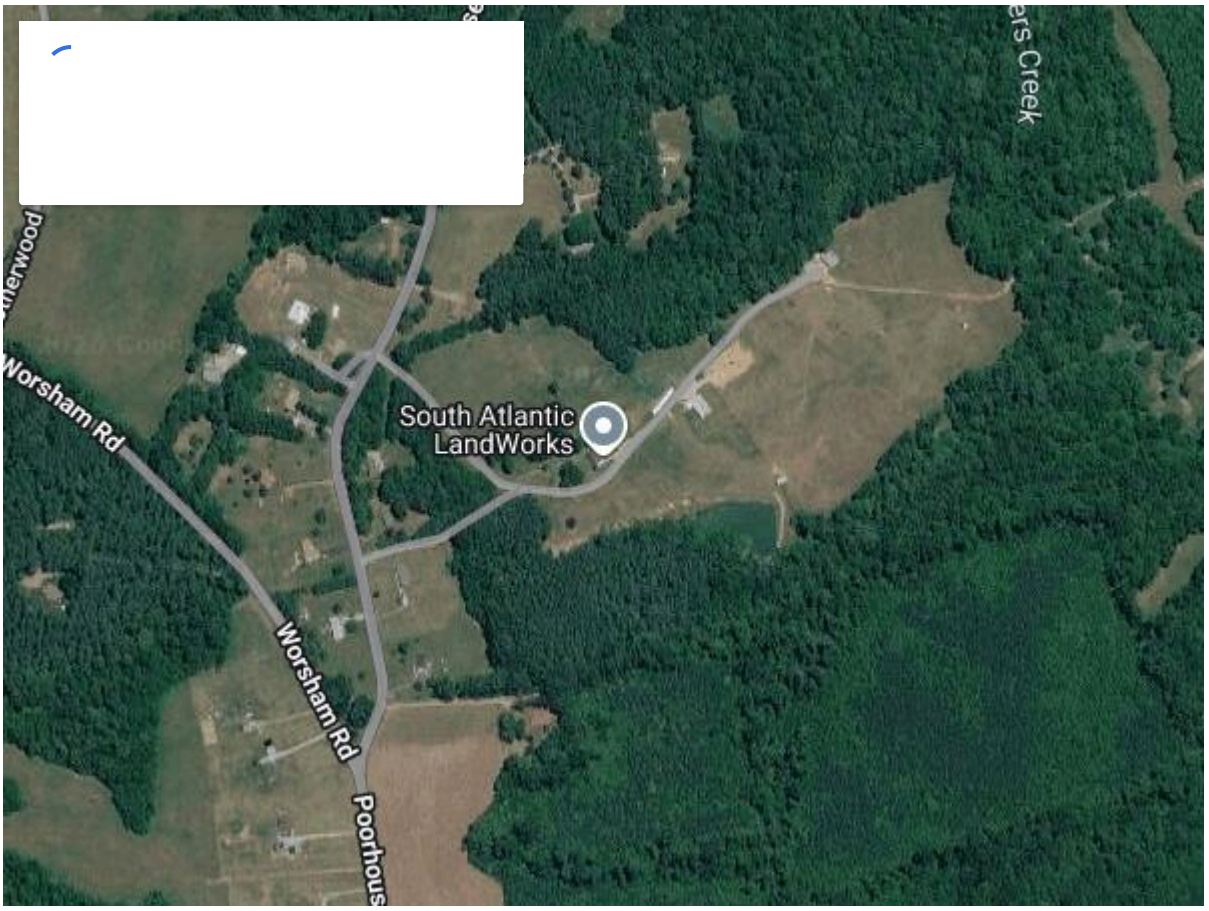
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Rural landowners often juggle several projects at once, from fencing to building to timber work. Having a clearing contractor who also grades and grinds stumps simplifies the schedule and means fewer people to coordinate. It also means the person doing the clearing understands what the next stage of the project needs.

Low ground disturbance means root systems and topsoil stay in place, so the land stays stable while you decide on the next phase of your project. The crew runs CAT track equipment, including a CAT 275 compact track loader with a forestry mulching head. Wide tracks keep ground pressure low, which means fewer ruts and less damage on soft Piedmont clay. The crew respects your property and your neighbors. Work areas are agreed in advance, equipment stays inside the limits you set and the site is left tidy at the end of every day.

Find out how quickly your property can be transformed. Call 434-603-1964 for a free estimate on land clearing, forestry mulching, grading or property cleanup.

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.