

CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

PRESCRIBED BURNING

(Acre)

Code 338

DEFINITION

Applying controlled fire to a predetermined area.

PURPOSES

- To control undesirable vegetation.
- To prepare sites for harvesting, planting or seeding.
- To control plant disease.
- To reduce wildfire hazards by reducing excessive accumulations of plant residues.
- To improve wildlife habitat.
- To improve forage quantity and/or quality.
- To enhance seed and seedling production.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE

APPLIES

On pastureland, hayland, recreation land, wildlife land, or other lands as appropriate.

CRITERIA

General criteria applicable to all purposes

The procedure, equipment, and the number of trained personnel shall be adequate to accomplish the intended purposes as stated in the burn plan.

The expected weather conditions, human and vehicular traffic that may be impeded by heat or smoke, liability (e.g., utility lines) and safety and health precautions shall be integrated into the timing, location and expected intensity of the burn.

Timing of burning will be commensurate with soil and site conditions to maintain site productivity and minimize effects on soil erosion and soil properties (structure, soil moisture).

Comply with applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations during the implementation of this practice.

CONSIDERATIONS

Prescribed burning is a highly technical job requiring knowledge of fire behavior, suppression techniques, and environmental effects of fire.

Burning should be managed with consideration for wildlife needs such as nesting, feeding, and cover.

Existing barriers such as lakes, streams, wetlands, roads, and constructed firebreaks are important to the design and layout of this practice.

Notify adjoining landowners, local fire departments and public safety officials within the airshed prior to burning.

Consider cultural resources and threatened and endangered plants and animals when planning this practice.

Prior to the burn the latest weather forecast should be obtained from the National Weather Bureau. Weather conditions that affect fire behavior should be monitored during the burn.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

A written burn plan shall be prepared for each burn site by a qualified and certified individual. The burn plan will include:

- Description of the burn area including present vegetative cover.
- Objective and timing of burn (season).
- Acceptable conditions for prescribed burn.

(wind speed, relative humidity, fuel moisture, air temperature, time of day, soils and conditions, slopes, time of year, stage of vegetative growth)

- Preparation of the area for burning, including dimensions.
(firebreaks, mow strips, fireguards)
- Personnel needed and equipment, including safety equipment, needed to perform burn.
- Special precaution areas.
- Firing technique.
(method of burning fire breaks and main fire)

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Include all the monitoring that will be conducted during the burn until such time as the ash and debris on the site are at pre-burn temperatures. Sufficient fire suppression equipment and personnel shall be available to prevent any wildfire incidences or safety and health issue violations.

Burning can be hazardous to personnel conducting it and of particular danger is smoke. Safety is the paramount consideration. Safety measures for personnel include their being familiar with the burn plan as well as having adequate communication, transportation, and protective clothing. Avoid smoke where poison ivy is being burned.