

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD AND GENERAL SPECIFICATION**

**FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN**

(No.)

Code 106

**Definition**

A forest management plan is a site specific plan developed for a client, which addresses one or more resource concerns on land where forestry-related conservation activities or practices will be planned and applied. These criteria were developed to implement Section 1240 (A) of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, which allows for the development of forest management plans as one of the purposes of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The forest management plan will:

- a) Meet Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) quality criteria for the identified resource concern(s).
- b) Comply with federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements.
- c) Meet the client's objectives.

**Forest Management Plan Criteria**

**General Criteria**

**A. Environmental Evaluation**

An Environmental Evaluation (EE) (CPA 52) is to be prepared for all activity plans to demonstrate NRCS compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, National

Act, Endangered Species Act, Environmental Justice, Air Quality, and other designated environmental concerns and environmental laws. The environmental effects from the activity plans on environmental resource concerns should be clearly documented on the EE (CPA-52 form). The following is

abbreviated guidance for preparation of the EE:

- a) Planners and TSPs should follow the EE guidance delineated in the National Environmental Compliance Handbook.
- b) The EE describes the existing conditions for all applicable resource concerns.
- c) The EE will assess the resources potentially impacted by the no action, proposed action and any reasonable alternatives.
- d) Guide sheets will accompany the EE, as needed, to provide information on how to assess and deal with special environmental concerns.
- e) The findings section of the EE is to identify whether NRCS has determined based on the analysis of the EE: (1) that a site specific environmental assessment (EA) or an environmental impact statement (EIS) should be prepared based on the significance of potential impacts, or (2) the EE can be tiered to a state, regional, or national programmatic EA or EIS because the proposed effects have been sufficiently analyzed in a State, regional, national programmatic EA or EIS.

Historic Preservation

**NRCS, ALASKA  
January 2010**

Conservation practice specifications are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this specification, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service Alaska [State Office](#), or download it from the electronic [Field Office Technical Guide](#) for Alaska

### **B. Background and Site Information**

1. Landowner information – name, address, operation, size
2. Location and plan map of parcel
3. Documentation of existing practices
4. Past harvest history
5. Identification of resource concerns

### **B. Client Objectives, which may include**

#### **these considerations and others**

1. Expected income
2. Forest stand improvement
3. Wildlife habitat/riparian areas
4. Recreation
5. Agroforestry
6. Pollinator Habitat and Protection

### **D. Existing Conditions**

1. Identify resource concerns based on an inventory to assess these concerns and opportunity for treatment. The inventory will typically include forest management unit and stand boundaries, site index, basal area, species, size class, wood product potential, soil conditions, slopes, topography, aspect, natural and cultural features, roads, wildfire risk (surface and crown fires), risk of insect and disease infestation, fish and wildlife species and habitat elements, noxious and invasive species, water quality and other important features as applicable.

### **E. Desired Future Conditions**

1. Goals such as stocking, basal area, species composition, wildlife, pollinator habitat and protection, recreation, etc. for stands where practices/activities are recommended to meet future goals.

### **F. Forest Management Plan Documentation**

1. Forest management plan map – boundaries, fields, scale, north arrow, stand boundaries, appropriate map symbols

2. Soils map – legend, interpretations, suitability index for forest activities

3. A wetland delineation map and associated wetland compliance documentation (Food Security Act of 1985), if applicable.

4. Conservation plan (record of decisions) (*Utilizing Customer Service Toolkit – Plug-In or MsWord Document*) to include the planned practice(s), the amounts to be applied, the schedule for implementation, and the appropriate site specific specifications and/or job sheet for each practice. A Forest Management Plan may include, but is not limited to, the conservation practices listed below:

- **Access Control** (472)
- **Forest Stand Improvement** (666)
- **Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment** (654)
- **Forest Trails and Landings** (655)
- **Forest Slash Treatment** (384)
- **Firebreak** (394)
- **Fuel Break** (383)
- **Riparian Forest Buffer** (391)
- **Tree/Shrub Site Preparation** (490)
- **Tree/Shrub Establishment** (612)
- **Tree/Shrub Pruning** (660)

**G. Deliverables for the Client – a hardcopy of the plan that includes:**

- Cover page – name, address, phone of client and TSP; Total Acres of the Plan, signature blocks for the TSP, producer, and a signature block for the NRCS acceptance.
- Soils map and appropriate soil descriptions
- Resource assessment results (wind and water erosion, water availability, soil fertility, and others that may be needed)
- For management practices. The planned practices and the site specific specifications on how each practice will be applied; when the practice will be applied, and the extent (acres or number) that will be applied.

- For engineering/structural practices. The planned practice when it will be applied and extent, and located on the conservation plan map.

**H. Deliverables for NRCS Field Office:**

- Complete Hardcopy and Electronic copy of the client's plan (MsWord copy).
- Digital Conservation Plan Map with fields, features, and structural practices located.
- Digital Soils Map.
- Completed CPA 52 and appropriate worksheets.