

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

CONSERVATION ACTIVITY PLAN CRITERIA
for
Forest Management
Practice/Activity Code (106) (No.)

1. 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.

2. Forest Management Plan Criteria

This section establishes the minimum criteria to be addressed in the development of Forest Management Plans.

A. General Criteria

1. A Forest Management Plan shall be developed by certified technical service providers. In accordance with Section 1240 (A), the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) program provides funding support through contracts with eligible producers to obtain services of certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs) for development a Forest Management Plan (FMP). The specific criteria required for each type of certification for TSP is located on the TSP registry (TechReg) web site at: <http://techreg.usda.gov/>

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

C. 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.

CAP 106 - 2

- 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 plus site specific specifications or job sheet:
 - **Access Control** (472)
 - **Forest Slash Treatment** (384)
 - **Forest Stand Improvement** (666)
 - **Forest Trails and Landings** (655)
 - **Firebreak** (394)
 - **Fuel Break** (383)
 - **Prescribed Burning** (338)
 - **Riparian Forest Buffer** (391)
 - **Silvopasture Establishment** (791)
 - **Tree/Shrub Establishment** (612)
 - **Tree/Shrub Pruning** (660)
 - **Tree/Shrub Site Preparation** (490)

3. 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.

4. 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.

NOTE: A Conservation Plug-in version is a preferred deliverable. If a Conservation Plug-in version is provided to NRCS, Hardcopies of the Plan, Conservation Plan Map, and Soils Map are not required.