



Forest Management Plan Template

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

June 2017

Landowner



536.10 Forest Management Plan Criteria

Note: Following is an excerpt from the national criteria for Practice/Activity Code 106 in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide, **but signifies the minimum criteria for all** forestry and agroforestry plans developed by both NRCS employees and partners.

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.

The forest management plan will:

- a) Manage forested areas for forest health, wood and/or fiber, water, recreation, aesthetics, wildlife habitat and plant biodiversity
- b) Meet Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) quality criteria for the identified resource concern(s).
- c) Comply with federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements.
- d) Meet the client's objectives.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to improve forest health, protect soil quality and condition, and maintain or enhance water quality and quantity. At the same time, forestry may also be used to improve forest productivity, maintain or improve plant diversity, improve aesthetics and recreational values. Other purposes may include improving wildlife habitat and achieving or maintaining a desired understory plant community for forest products, grazing and browsing.

WHERE USED

This practice is used on all forest land and land capable and suited to growing trees.

Operation and maintenance

Periodic inspections during treatment activities are necessary to ensure that objectives are achieved and resource damage is minimized. Follow-up and ongoing management activities will be needed to obtain desired results.

CONSIDERATIONS

Silviculture and wildlife management objectives and harvest-regeneration strategies may change over time and may be limited by prior management. Successful regeneration of desirable species and restoration of habitat types are usually dependent upon the appropriate planning and timely application of forest management activities.

Adjust the extent, timing, size of treatment area, or the intensity of the practice to minimize the cumulative effects (on-site and off-site), e.g., habitat fragmentation, nutrient cycling, biodiversity, and visual resources. This adjustment is especially true for endangered and threatened species. Time the activities so they minimally affect seasonal wildlife activities and retain essential wildlife habitat requirements.

★ Comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice, including, but not limited to, the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), LA Pesticide application regulations, Louisiana One-Call and LA Best Management Practice Guidelines.

SPECIFICATIONS

Site-specific requirements should be listed on the appropriate job sheet or specifications sheet that should be prepared and discussed with the client. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the LA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

Mechanical treatments are the process of modifying the physical soil and/or plant conditions with mechanical tools or equipment. Examples of tools may include shearing, chopping, disking, ripping, dragging, mulching, subsoiling, and aeration.

Chemical treatments may include individual stem treatments, band spraying or broadcast spraying. Herbicides used in forestry applications must have forestry in the label for use on forested areas.

FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN CRITERIA

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).

GENERAL CRITERIA

In accordance with Section 1240 (A), a forest management plan is developed by NRCS personnel, NRCS partners such as State forestry agencies, or certified Technical Service Providers (TSP).

Provide a forestry prescription that will meet NRCS policy in the NRCS National Forestry Manual, technical requirements of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide including meeting quality criteria in Section III, and planning procedures contained in the National Planning Procedures Handbook.

- a) Forestry prescription will contain actions to address any adverse impacts on resource or special concerns (threatened and endangered species, cultural issues, etc.) as noted on the NRCS-CPA-52.
- b) Only approved practices, as posted in the Louisiana NRCS eFOTG, will be used.
- c) Conservation practices identified in the forestry prescription will meet the criteria outlined under "General Criteria" and applicable "Additional Criteria" as posted in the Louisiana NRCS eFOTG.

BACKGROUND AND SITE INFORMATION

- 1) Landowner information – name, address, operation, size
- 2) Location map of the parcel
- 3) Documentation of existing practices
- 4) Previous timber harvest history
- 5) Identification of resource concerns

CLIENT OBJECTIVES, WHICH MAY INCLUDE THESE AND OTHERS

- a) Expected income
- b) Forest stand improvement
- c) Wildlife habitat/riparian areas
- d) Recreation
- e) Agroforestry

EXISTING CONDITIONS

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.

RECORD OF LANDOWNER DECISIONS AND DESIRED FUTURE CONDITIONS

- 1) Goals such as stocking, basal area, species composition, wildlife, recreation, etc. for stands where practices/activities are recommended to meet future goals.
- 2) Select a silvicultural reproduction system
 - a. Individual Tree Selection Regeneration Harvest System – typically an uneven-aged system
 - b. Group Selection Regeneration Harvest System – typically an uneven-aged system
 - c. Shelterwood Regeneration Harvest System – typically an even-aged system
 - d. Seedtree Regeneration Harvest System – typically an even-aged system
 - e. Clearcut Regeneration Harvest System – typically an even-aged system
- 3) Develop a regeneration plan consistent with the selected silvicultural reproduction system. An even-aged system typically has the majority of trees on the site originating about the same time so they are approximately the same age. An uneven-aged system typically has trees in various age classes usually 3 or more age classes on the same site. So on an uneven-aged system the trees originated at different times and no one age class dominates the site.

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) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Forest Stand Improvement (666) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Forest Trails and Landings (655) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Woody Residual Treatment (384) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Firebreak (394) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Fuel Break (383) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Multi-Story Cropping (379) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Prescribed Burning (338) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Riparian Forest Buffer (391) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Silvopasture Establishment (791) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Tree/Shrub Pruning (660) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Alley Cropping (311) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet
Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation (650) plus site-specific specifications or job sheet.

The practices listed under a) above are the primary NRCS forestry and agroforestry practices, but additional conservation practices may be needed to meet all the landowner's objectives. For all other practices the practice shall be documented for the planned amount, the fields where the practice is to be applied, and the planned year of application. Below are examples of additional conservation practices that may be planned on forestland:

Brush Management (314) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications
Herbaceous Weed Control (315) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications
Conservation Cover (327) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications
Prescribed Burning (338) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications and a prescribed burn plan
Critical Area Planting (342) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications
Fence (382) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications
Stream Habitat Improvement and Management (395) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications
Access Road (560) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications
Stream Crossing (578) plus site-specific job specifications and engineering design
Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580) plus site-specific job specifications and engineering design
Integrated Pest Management (595) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications
Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats (643) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) plus site-specific job sheet or specifications

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|--------------------------------------|--|
| Landowner | |
| Legal Description of Property | |
| Farm Number | |
| Tract Number | |
| Number of Stands | |
| Tract History | |
| Management System | |

| Landowner Objectives and Purpose | |
|---|---|
| yes | Mark all that apply |
| | Maintain or improve forest health |
| | Produce income from selling trees and/or other activities on this property |
| | Protect soil quality and condition |
| | Maintain or enhance water quality and quantity |
| | Maintain or improve forest productivity |
| | Improve aesthetic and recreational values |
| | Improve wildlife habitat |
| | Target Species: |
| | Achieve or maintain a desired understory plant community for forest products, grazing |

| Planning Information: (Identify the location of the information- see the possible codes below) | |
|--|--|
| General Information | |
| | Identify location where the information is documented |
| | Identification of any current or existing practices |
| | Identification of any resource concerns. |
| | Parcel location, including boundary lines |
| Present Condition – Overall Description of this property – detailed description under each identified stand | |
| | Identify location where the information is documented |
| | Type of silvicultural system or habitat management system |
| | Acreage |
| | Present condition |
| | Health and quality |
| | Other: <input type="text"/> |
| Resource Inventory Information | |
| | Identify location where the information is documented |
| | NRCS land uses/forest cover types, acreage and history/overall present condition |
| | Threatened and endangered species, rare or exemplary natural communities |
| | Fish and wildlife habitat (appropriate WHEG) |
| | Water resources, water quality, riparian areas |
| | Soil resources |
| | Topography and/or hydrology |
| | Access system, including roads, trails, landings |
| | Cultural resources |
| | Recreation and aesthetic values |
| | Forest/wildlife inventory methods use and accuracy |

| Future Condition – Stand/Habitat Descriptions and Management Activities | |
|--|--|
| | Identify location where the information is documented |
| | Silviculture or habitat management system specification(s) or job sheets |
| | Practice specifications for habitat management for targeted species |
| | Operation and Maintenance Plan, including specifications for the monitoring, evaluation and updating of the prescriptions annually |
| | Environmental compliance documentation (CPA52) |
| Maps (include legend, north arrow, scale, property boundary lines) | |
| | Location map, including boundary lines |
| | Land use/Stand map |
| | Soils Map and Description |
| | Topographic map and/or hydrology map |
| | Other: |
| | |
| | |
| <p>Identify where the documentation is located such as assistance notes, job sheets, forest management plan template or in the Conservation Plan narratives, etc.</p> <p>Information detailed in the CPA 52 (CPA52 5). The information is spelled out on the CPA52 and it is located on page 5 of the six part folder.</p> <p>Other Examples: AN 2 = assistance notes (description is contained in the assistance notes on page 2 of the six part folder; JS 5 = Job sheets (completed job sheets on page 5 of the six part folder); CP 4 = Conservation Plan with detailed narratives on page 2 of the six part folder; LM 2 = Location Map on page 2 of the six part folder TM 2 = Topographic Map on page 2 of the six part folder SM 2 = Soils Map on page 2 of the six part folder. MPT 5 = Management Plan Template on page 5 of the six part folder. WHEG 5 = Wildlife Habitat evaluation guide on page 5 of the six part folder.</p> | |

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| Stand/Field Number: | |
| Present Conditions | |
| 1) Stand Size: | |
| 2) Soil Mapping Units: | |
| 3) Existing Tree Species: | |
| 4) Current Stocking: | |
| 5) Current Description: | |
| 6) Current Conservation Practices: | |
| 7) Existing Resource Concerns: | |
| Desired Conditions | |
| 1) Recommended Tree Species: | |
| 2) Recommended stocking: | |
| 3) Management Recommendations: | |
| 4) Recommended Conservation Practices: | |
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|--|--|
| Stand/Field Number: | |
| Present Conditions | |
| 1) Stand Size: | |
| 2) Soil Mapping Units: | |
| 3) Existing Tree Species: | |
| 4) Current Stocking: | |
| 5) Current Description: | |
| 6) Current Conservation Practices: | |
| 7) Existing Resource Concerns: | |
| Desired Conditions | |
| 1) Recommended Tree Species: | |
| 2) Recommended stocking: | |
| 3) Management Recommendations: | |
| 4) Recommended Conservation Practices: | |
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Make more sheets if the tract has more than 2 stands, just open the forest management plan additional stand sheets for more blank stand entry forms.

Landowner Forest Management Decision

Selected Alternative:

| Farm No. | Tract No. | Stand No. | Conservation Practice to be Implemented |
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NRCS Representative Name and Title (type or print) _____

NRCS Representative Signature _____ **Date** _____

Landowner's Name (type or print) _____

Landowner's or their Representative Signature and Date

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Appendix 1

Forest Management Plan – Resource Concerns and Conservation Practice Standards

| Potential Resource Concerns | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Stand No. | <p>(1) <u>Soil Erosion</u></p> <p>A) Sheet and rill erosion B) Concentrated flow erosion - gully erosion C) Excessive bank erosion from streams, shorelines or water conveyance channels</p> <p>(2) <u>Soil Quality Degradation</u></p> <p>A) Subsidence B) Compaction C) Organic Matter Depletion D) Concentration of salts & other chemicals</p> <p>3) <u>Excess/Insufficient Water</u></p> <p>A) Excess Water - Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table & seeps B) Insufficient Water- Insufficient moisture management</p> | <p>(4) <u>Water Quality Degradation</u></p> <p>A) Excess nutrients in surface & ground water B) Pesticides transported to surface & ground water C) Excess pathogens & chemicals from manure, biosolids or compost applications D) Excess salts in surface & ground water E) Petroleum, heavy metals, and other pollutants transported to receiving water sources F) Excessive sediment in surface waters G) Elevated water temperature</p> | <p>(5) <u>Degraded Plant Conditions</u></p> <p>A) Undesirable plant productivity & health B) Inadequate structure & composition C) Excessive plant pest pressure D) Wildfire hazard excessive biomass accumulation E) Invasive & exotic species</p> <p>(6) <u>Inadequate Habitat for Fish and Wildlife</u></p> <p>A) Habitat degradation B) Inadequate cover C) Inadequate food</p> | <p>(7) Livestock Stock Limitation</p> <p>A) Inadequate feed & forage B) Inadequate livestock shelter C) Inadequate livestock water</p> <p>(8) <u>Inefficient Energy Use</u></p> <p>A) Equipment and facilities B) Farming/ ranching & field operations</p> <p>(9) <u>Air Quality Impacts</u></p> <p>A) Emissions of Particulate Matter (PM) & PM Precursors B) Emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) C) Emission of Ozone Precursors D) Objectionable Odors</p> |

Conservation Practices & Management Options

Access Control - Conservation Practice 472

- 1) Restrict livestock from entering newly established stands.
- 2) Reduce access to forest roads using gates or closure methods

Access Roads - Conservation Practice 560

- 1) Install water control measures to conform with State Forestry Best Management Practices

Critical Area Planting - Conservation Practice 342

- 1) Plant ground cover on areas of exposed soil to mediate erosion potential.

Firebreak - Conservation Practice 394

- 1) Install firebreaks for a prescribed burn.
- 2) Install water control measures on firebreaks in needed to conform with State Forestry Best Management Practices

Forest Stand Improvement - Conservation Practice 666

- 1) Herbicide Release to release desirable seedlings from competing vegetation.
- 2) Precommercial thinning overstocked seedling or sapling age tree stands.
- 3) Early Herbicide Release of seedling or sapling age tree stands from competing vegetation.
- 4) Mid-rotation Herbicide Release of maturing or mature tree stands to suppress encroaching mid-story and invasive vegetation.
- 5) Commercial thinning in sapling, maturing and mature to reduce tree stand stocking densities.
- 6) Regeneration Harvest in preparation for tree seedling planting.
- 7) Preparation Harvest for Natural Regeneration by seed tree or shelterwood method.

Forest Harvest Trails and Landings - Conservation Practice 655

- 1) Install water control measures to conform with State Forestry Best Management Practices

Integrated Pest Management - Conservation Practice 595

- 1) Manage herbicide application by following forest herbicides labels.
- 2) Follow Louisiana State Forestry Best Management Practices.
- 3) Invasive Species Suppression

Prescribed Burning - Conservation Practice 338

- 1) Site prep burn for tree planting
- 2) Prescribed burn for natural regeneration site prep
- 3) Implement a prescribed burning program on a 3-5 year burning schedule to manage wildlife habitat and encroaching vegetation.

Riparian Forest Buffer - Conservation Practice 391

- 1) Establish Streamside Management Zones to protect intermittent and perennial streams.

Silvopasture Establishment – Conservation Practice 381

- 1) Convert pasture and forest land to grazed forest land.

Tree/Shrub Establishment - Conservation Practice 612

- 1) Reforestation/Afforestation Tree Planting.

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation - Conservation Practice 490 Site Prep to plant trees

- 1) Herbicide Site Prep for tree planting.
- 2) Mechanical Site Preparation for tree planting.
- 3) Herbicide Site Prep for natural regeneration.
- 4) Mechanical Site Preparation for natural regeneration.

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management - Conservation Practice 645

- 1) Provide Food and Cover for targeted wildlife species.
- 2) Provide Wildlife Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species.

Management Recommendations & Conservation Practices

Stand Establishment

- 1) (Conservation Practice 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment) Reforestation/Afforestation Tree Planting
- 2) (Conservation Practice 490) Site Prep to plant trees
- 3) (Conservation Practice 338 Prescribed Burning) Site prep burn to prepare site to be planted to trees
- 4) (Conservation Practice 666 Forest Stand Improvement) Chemical Release to release desirable seedlings from competing vegetation
- 5) (Conservation Practice 666 Forest Stand Improvement) Natural Regeneration by seed tree or shelterwood cut
- 6) (Conservation Practice 490) Site Prep for natural regeneration
- 7) (Conservation Practice 338 Prescribed Burning)Prescribed burn for site prep to plant trees or natural regeneration
- 8) (Conservation practice 472 Access Control Domestic Animals) Keep livestock out newly established stand
- 9) (Conservation Practice 314 Brush Management) to chemically treat difficult plants to improve establishment success
- 10) (Conservation Practice 315 Herbaceous Weed Control) to release newly planted seedlings from vegetative competition

Intermediate Stand Management

- 1) (Conservation Practice 666 Forest Stand Improvement) Precommercial thinning young overstocked pine stands
- 2) (Conservation Practice 666 Forest Stand Improvement) Early Chemical Release of pine stands with competing vegetation
- 3) (Conservation Practice 666 Forest Stand Improvement) Mid-rotation release of pine stands to remove encroaching hardwood mid-story, invasive species
- 4) (Conservation Practice 338 Prescribed Burning) Implement a prescribed burning program on a 3-5 year burning schedule.
- 5) (Conservation Practice 394 Fire Break) Install firebreaks for a prescribed burn
- 6) (Conservation Practice 666 Forest Stand Improvement) Commercial thinning
- 7) (Conservation Practice 384 Woody Residual Treatment) to manage damaged stands and reduce the risk of wildfires
- 8) (Conservation Practice 666 Forest Stand Improvement) mechanical treatment of undesirable vegetation

Soil and Water Quality

- 1) (Conservation Practice 655 Forest Harvest Trails and Landings) Install water control measures State Forestry Best Management Practices
- 2) (Conservation Practice 560 Access Roads) Install water control measures Access Roads State Forestry Best Management Practices
- 3) (Conservation Practice 655 Forest Harvest Trails and Landings) Follow Louisiana Forest Best Managements Practices
- 4) (Conservation Practice 342 Critical Area Planting) Treat Areas with soil erosion
- 5) (Conservation Practice 391 Riparian Forest Buffer) Protect creeks, streams, etc following State Forestry Best Management
- 6) (Conservation Practice 595 Pest Management) Manage herbicide application by following forest herbicides label and follow Louisiana State Forestry Best Management Practices
- 7) (Conservation Practice 327 Conservation Cover) to establish vegetation
- 8) (Conservation Practice 654 Forest Roads and Trails Closure) limit use of forest roads, plant vegetation to stabilize the road, install water diversions like water bars.
- 9) (Conservation Practice 472 Access Control) block off access to forest roads or install gates to limit access

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

- 1) (Conservation Practice 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management) Provide Food and Cover for targeted wildlife species
- 2) (Conservation Practice 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management) Provide Wildlife Habitat for Threatened and Endangered Species
- 3) (Conservation Practice 338 Prescribed Burning) conduct burning to reduce litter and improve food and cover for wildlife

Grazed Forest

- 1) (Conservation Practice 391 Silvopasture Establishment) to develop the forages and tree stocking levels to provide suitable grazing areas for livestock
- 2) (Conservation Practice 666 Forest Stand Improvement) mechanical or chemical treatments to reduce tree density to allow more sunlight to reach the forest floor
- 3) (Conservation Practice 338 Prescribed Burning) conduct burning to reduce liter material and promote the development and growth of herbaceous vegetation