**Prescribed Burning Conservation Activity Plan Criteria**
**Practice/Activity Code (112) (No.)**

## 1. Definition

A prescribed burning conservation activity plan is a site specific plan developed for a client which addresses one or more resource concerns on land through the use of fire for any of the following purposes:

- Control vegetation on rangeland, pastureland, forest land, hayland, and wildlife land.
- Prepare sites for harvesting, planting or seeding.
- Control plant disease.
- Reduce wildfire hazards.
- Improve wildlife habitat.
- Improve plant production quantity and/or quality.
- Remove slash and debris.
- Enhance seed and seedling production.
- Facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals.
- Restore and maintain ecological sites

The Prescribed Burning Plan will:

A. Meet NRCS quality criteria for, rangeland/pasture/grazed woodland health and productivity, and other identified resource concerns.

B. Comply with federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements regarding outdoor burning, fire control, smoke management, and air quality including, but not limited to IEPA Open Burn Permit.

C. Follow any additional criteria established in NRCS State specific standards and specifications for CP 338 Prescribed Burning for the State in which the CAP 112 is planned.

D. Meet the client's resource objectives.

## 2. Prescribed Burning Management Plan Technical Criteria

This section establishes the minimum criteria to be addressed in the development of Prescribed Burning Plan.

A. General Criteria: A Prescribed Burning Plan shall be developed by certified Technical Service Providers (TSPs). 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 TSPs for development of (112) Prescribed Burning Plan. The specific TSP criteria required for Prescribed Burning Plan development is located on the TSP registry (TechReg) web site at:
http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp

B. Background and site information

1. Landowner information – name, address, operation, size

2. Approved Signature and date of the Client, TSP, and NRCS concurrence
3. Location, plan map and description of the burn area

C. Identify Resource Management Objectives

D. Existing Conditions

1. Identify the ecological site or forage suitability group for reference conditions where ESDs or FSGs are available
2. Pre-burn vegetation cover: vegetative species, diversity, and condition by land use, ecological site and/or forage suitability group.
3. Existing fence locations, watering sources, location of utilities such as electric power lines and natural gas pipelines, existing barriers such as lakes, streams, wetlands, roads and constructed firebreaks
4. All resource concerns (not meeting Quality Criteria)

E. Desired Future Conditions

1. Post burn vegetative cover
2. Plant species composition

F. Prescribed Burn Plan Documentation

1. Conservation plan map
    a. scale
    b. north arrow,
    c. planned and existing boundaries, fields, paddocks,
    d. locations of physical resources such as watering systems, fences and gates,
    e. land use
    f. appropriate map symbols,
    g. identification of forage suitability groups and/or ecological sites by field
    h. Soils– legend
2. Burn plan map
    a. Burn ignition point delineated
    b. Burn prescription- wind direction with firing sequence delineated
    c. Location of crews, equipment
    d. Safety zones
3. Resource concerns addressed by the prescribed burn plan
4. Required weather and environmental conditions for burn prescription, including but not limited to temperature, relative humidity wind speed, wind direction, and soil moisture.
5. Description of the burning method to be used.

6. Pre-burn preparation.
7. Ignition method and firing sequence.
8. Notification check list of adjoining neighbors, local fire departments and public safety officials as appropriate.
9. Equipment and materials checklist/personnel assignments and needs/safety requirements.
10. Smoke management plan.
11. Post –burn evaluation criteria
12. Post- fire vegetative monitoring plan with methods and frequency defined.
13. Operation and Maintenance Plan for all practices
14. Copy of a current certificate or license by the designated agency in States where certification or licensing is required for prescribed burning activity.
15. Approval signatures
16. Conservation plan (record of decisions) *(MS Word Document)* to address the resource needs for the "Prescribed Burning Plan". The record of decisions shall include the planned practice, schedule for implementation, and site-specific specifications to apply the conservation practice. The site-specific specifications can be on an NRCS Job sheet available for the conservation practice or in a narrative form. The plan may include, but are not limited to the conservation practices listed below:

    * Practices requiring site-specific specifications:

| Code | Practice Name |
|---|---|
| 394 | Fire Break |
| 383 | Fuel Break |
| 384 | Woody Residue Treatment (when fire is used) |
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8. Additional facilitating or accelerating practices to assist in meeting the resource objective(s) for planning consideration but not requiring site-specific specifications include:

| Code | Practice name |
|---|---|
| 528 | Prescribed Grazing |
| 314 | Brush Management |
| 315 | Herbaceous Weed Control |
| 550 | Range Planting |

| | |
|---|---|
| 644 | Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management |
| 645 | Upland Wildlife Habitat Management |
| 659 | Wetland Enhancement |
| 342 | Critical Area Planting |
| 647 | Early Successional Habitat Development |
| 460 | Land Clearing |
| 643 | Restoration & Management of Rare and Declining Habitats |
| 666 | Forest Stand Improvement |
| 595 | Integrated Pest Management |

**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.
- All the items listed in F. 1 thru 15 of this document **OR** completed Illinois Prescribed Burning Plan Job Sheet (338JS).
- Soils map and appropriate soil descriptions
- Ecological Site description map where available
- Resource assessment results if applicable (wind and water erosion, and others that may be needed)
- For the practices 338, 383, 384, and 394 require site-specific specifications be prepared and document 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 all other planned practices identify in the plan when the practice will be applied, the extent, the practice location, and for structural practices locate the practice on the conservation plan map.

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

- Complete Hardcopy and Electronic copy of the client's plan (MS Word copy) and other appropriate digital supporting documents.
- Digital Conservation Plan Map with fields, features, and structural practices located.
- Digital Soils Map.
- Digital Ecological Site Description map if ESDs are available.