



Natural Resources Conservation Service
2118 West Park Court
Champaign, IL 61821
Phone: 217/353-6600
Fax: 217/353-6676

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TECHNICAL GUIDE NOTICE IL - 259

Purpose: To inform employees of additions to the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) for Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) criteria.

Background: Recent correspondence from Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), announced an eleven month joint effort initiated by Illinois forestry leadership from state, federal, academic and non-profit forestry programs active in the state has resulted in new and uniform standards for landowner forest management plans. The plan requirements known as the Illinois Forest Management Plan have been developed in a standard outline format and have been adopted for use for the IDNR Illinois Forestry Development Act, the Illinois Certified Tree Farm Program, and the Illinois USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. The IFMP will provide consistency between program requirements and facilitate implementation of forest improvement practices in Illinois. The required components of the new Illinois Forest Management Plan are also designed to achieve the latest standards and requirements of the USDA Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program.

The FOTG can be accessed through the Illinois home page by clicking on "FOTG" or at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/>.

Location

Section III. F. Conservation Activity Plans Technical Criteria

Summary of Significant Changes

November 2011

Illinois Forest Management Plan (IFMP) Outline

After October 1, 2011, NRCS Forest Management Plans (FMP-CAP 106) contracted under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) will be prepared consistent to the IFMP outline and specifications. The new IFMP outline contains all criteria in the existing FMP-CAP 106 Criteria and serves as the Illinois specific detail required to meet each criteria section.

IFMP Signatures and Approvals Page

In addition to the required use of the IFMP outline for plan development, the accompanying *Signatures and Approvals* page will be used to document completion, review and acceptance of all plans either developed under the EQIP or used as an EQIP plan of operations for implementation.

IFMP Checklist

In order to assist plan developers, landowners, and potential reviewers, a correlated IFMP check-sheet has been developed. Use of the check sheet is recommended during plan development to ensure all items are addressed appropriately and completely.

A letter has been sent to all Illinois Technical Service Providers informing them of the above requirements.

Plans developed in accordance with the specifications outlined in the IFMP are only required for plans developed after October 1, 2011 (Federal FY2012). Recommendations are that all plans prior to Federal FY2012 and not yet initiated be considered for development under the IFMP outline.

Questions pertaining to the IFMP outline, associated documents or coordination effort between agencies can be directed to Wade Conn, Illinois NRCS State Forester wade.conn@il.usda.gov

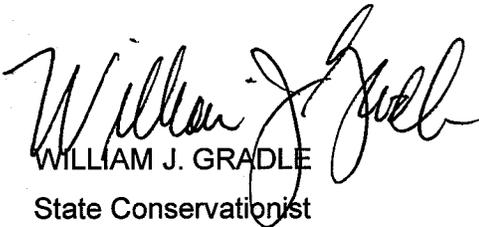
As always, questions pertaining to the TSP program and TSP's can be directed to Glen Franke, Illinois NRCS Resource Conservationist glen.franke@il.usda.gov

All items will be posted to the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG)

Section III / F. Conservation Activity Plans Technical Criteria / Forest Management Plan

<http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx>

Technical Guide Notice IL-259 is filed under Section I, "FOTG transmittals" at the FOTG site.



WILLIAM J. GRADLE
State Conservationist

DIST: Illinois NRCS Employees

Attachments:

IFMP Outline

IFMP Signatures and Approvals Page

IFMP Checklist