

Forest Management Plan Criteria Practice/Activity Code (106) (No.)

I. Definition

- A. A forest management plan is a site-specific plan developed for a client to address one or more resource concerns on nonindustrial private forestland 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—
1. Meet Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) quality criteria for the identified resource concern(s).
 2. Comply with Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws, regulations, and permit requirements.
 3. Meet the client's objectives.

II. Forest Management Plan Criteria

- A. This section establishes the minimum criteria to be addressed in the development of Forest Management Plans under the Conservation Activity Plan Code 106 (CAP-106).
1. General Criteria
 - a. A CAP-106 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 of a CAP-106 Forest Management Plan. The specific criteria required for each type of certification for TSP is located on the following Web site:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp>
 - b. A CAP-106 Forest Management Plan will contain, at a minimum, elements included in the national common forest management plan template, available from the NRCS Conservation Activity Plan Web site. It is acceptable to use a document containing equivalent information, rather than the template itself.
 2. Background and Site Information
 - a. Client information – Name, address, operation, size
 - b. Location and plan map of parcel
 - c. Documentation of existing practices
 - d. Past harvest history
 - e. Identification of resource concerns
 3. Client objectives, which may include these considerations and others
 - a. Forest stand improvement

- b. Wildlife habitat/riparian areas
 - c. Recreation
 - d. Agroforestry
 - e. Expected income
 - f. Pollinator habitat and protection
4. Existing Conditions
- a. Identify resource concerns based on an inventory to assess these concerns and opportunities for treatment. A forest inventory will be conducted using generally-accepted forest inventory methods. Describe the inventory process in the plan. The inventory typically includes forest management unit and stand boundaries, basal area, trees per acre, diameter distribution by species, site index, soil conditions, slopes, topography, aspect, natural and cultural features, roads, wildfire risk (surface and crown fires), risk of insect and disease infestation, product potential, fish and wildlife species and habitat elements, noxious and invasive species, water quality and other important features as applicable.
5. Desired Future Conditions
- a. Document long-term goals for forest composition and structure to provide for intended future uses. Express the desired future forest attributes in terms of basal area, trees per acre, diameter distributions, and species composition.
6. Documentation for the CAP-106 Forest Management Plan
- a. Forest management plan map, including boundaries, fields (Note: foresters may map stands of different forest types instead of fields), scale, north arrow, stand boundaries, and appropriate map symbols.
 - b. Soils map, including legend, interpretations, and suitability ratings for forest activities.
 - c. A wetland delineation map and associated wetland compliance documentation (Food Security Act of 1985), **if applicable**.
 - d. Conservation plan (record of decisions) including resource concerns, planned practice(s) using the practice names and codes shown below, the amounts to be applied, and the schedule for implementation.
 - 1) When any of the following practices are scheduled to be applied, the site-specific specifications shall be developed in the common forest management plan template, in a NRCS approved job sheet, or in a separate plan. A CAP-106 Forest Management Plan may include as appropriate, but is not limited to, the conservation practices listed below:

Code	Practice Name
311	Alley Cropping
379	Multi-Story Cropping
380	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment
381	Silvopasture
383	Fuel Break
384	Woody Residue Treatment

391	Riparian Forest Buffer
394	Firebreak
472	Access Control
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation
654	Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment
655	Forest Trails and Landings
660	Tree/Shrub Pruning
666	Forest Stand Improvement

- 2) 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 client’s objectives. For all other practices, the practice shall be documented for the planned amount, the fields (or stands) 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:

Code	Practice name
314	Brush Management
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment
327	Conservation Cover
338	Prescribed Burning
342	Critical Area Planting
382	Fence
395	Stream Habitat Improvement and Management
560	Access Road
578	Stream Crossing
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection
595	Integrated Pest Management
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
644	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

Practices beyond the basic forestry/agroforestry practices may be included in a plan but the design and implementation of these will be conducted by an appropriately certified TSP for those practices.

7. References

- a. Refer to the USDA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (http://efotg.sc.gov.usda.gov//efotg_locator.aspx , Select State, Select Section 4 Conservation Practices) for a complete list of potential conservation practices available in the State.

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

<p>Conservation Systems are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this system, contact your Natural Resources Conservation Service State Office, or visit the Field Office Technical Guide.</p>
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- A. Completed CAP-106 Forest Management Plan using the “Managing Your Woodlands: A template for your plans for the future,” or a document containing equivalent information. The plan will include a cover page with the name, address, and phone number of the client and the TSP, and a signature page with client, TSP, and NRCS signatures.
 1. Forest Management Plan map.—Boundaries, fields (i.e., foresters may refer to them as different stands of trees), scale, north arrow, stand boundaries, appropriate map symbols.
 2. Soils map and appropriate soil descriptions. The Web Soil Survey can provide the needed information: <http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/HomePage.htm>
 3. Resource assessment results (wind and water erosion, water availability, soil fertility, and others that may be needed)
 4. 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.
 5. For engineering/structural practices. The planned practice, when it will be applied, the extent, and location on the forest management plan map.

IV. Deliverables for NRCS Field Office:

- A. Complete hard copy and electronic copy of the CAP-106 Forest Management Plan provided to the client, with appropriate practice specifications (or job sheets) for the planned practices as appropriate.
- B. Digital Forest Management Plan map with fields, features, and structural practices located.
- C. Digital Soils map.

V. Coordination with State Forestry Agencies and U.S. Forest Service

- A. In accordance with section 2506 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008, NRCS will accept the following types of forest management plans as a qualifying EQIP plan of operations:
 1. Forest Stewardship Plan, as described in Section 5 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, 16 U.S.C. 2103a; or
 2. Another practice plan approved by the State Forester or Indian Tribe; or
 3. Another plan determined appropriate by the State Conservationist.
- B. To further enhance coordination, a national common forest management plan template has been developed and accepted by U.S. Forest Service, NRCS, and the American Tree Farm System. The template has also been endorsed by the National Association of State Foresters and the National Association of Conservation Districts. The template may be downloaded from the NRCS Conservation Activity Plan Web site.

VI. Definitions of Forest Stewardship Plan and Forest Management Plan (106)

1. Forest Stewardship Plans

The USDA-Forest Service's Forest Stewardship Program provides financial and technical assistance to State forestry agencies to assist landowners in developing Forest Stewardship Plans (FSPs) for nonindustrial private forest lands. FSPs are prepared by foresters employed by State forestry agencies or by private consulting foresters under the direction of those State agencies. FSPs are developed for the landowner's entire forested ownership and/or any land that will be planted to forest vegetation.

2. Forest Management Plan (CAP-106)

To distinguish among various types of forest management plans, NRCS uses the term "CAP-106 Forest Management Plan" while the plans developed through the USDA-Forest Service and State forestry agencies are called "Forest Stewardship Plans." Criteria are aligned so that these plans are equivalent.