



PRESCRIBED FORESTRY

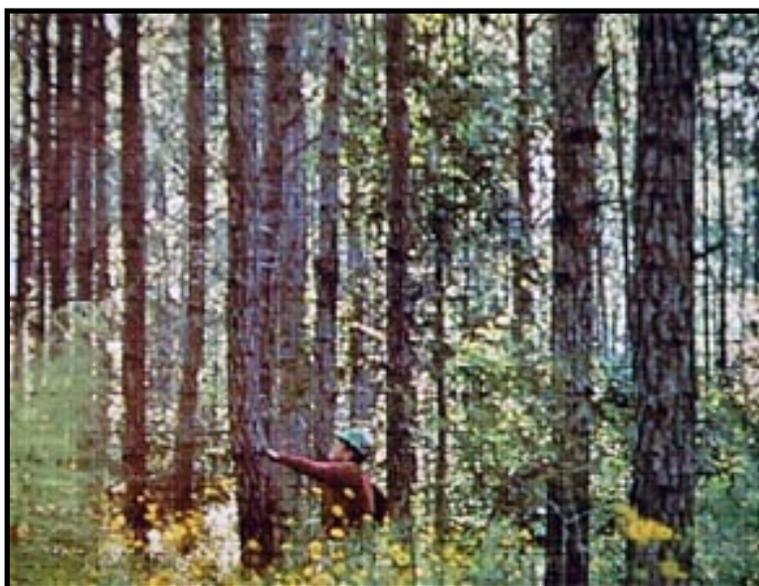
Conservation Practice Jobsheet

409

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

April 2009

Landowner _____



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, prescribed forestry may also be used to improve forest productivity, maintain or improve plant diversity and improve aesthetic and recreational values. Other purposes 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

**NRCS, LA
APRIL 2009**

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 and LA Best Management Practice Guidelines.

SPECIFICATIONS

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet and are presented in the form of brief checklists. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the LA NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard and specification guide for Prescribed Forestry, Code 409 for specific requirements.

Grazing land mechanical treatment is the process of modifying the physical soil and/or plant conditions with mechanical tools. Examples of tools may include disking, chiseling, ripping, subsoiling, and aeration.

WHERE TO GET HELP

For assistance in prescribed forestry, contact your local Natural Resources Conservation Service or your local Conservation District office.

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). 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/>

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-MOCPA-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 all 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

PRESENT 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. Selection Regeneration Harvest System
 - b. Shelterwood Regeneration Harvest System
 - c. Seedtree Regeneration Harvest System
 - d. Clearcut Regeneration Harvest System
- 3) Develop a regeneration plan consistent with the selected silvicultural reproduction system.

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

- 5) Plan may include, but is not limited to, the conservation practices listed below:
 - a. **Access Control** (472) plus site specific specifications or job sheet
 - b. **Forest Stand Improvement** (666) plus site specific specifications or job sheet
 - c. **Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment** (654) plus site specific specifications or job sheet
 - h. **Silvopasture Establishment** (791) plus site specific specifications or job sheet
 - i. **Tree/Shrub Site Preparation** (490) plus site specific specifications or job sheet
 - d. **Forest Trails and Landings** (655) plus site specific specifications or job sheet
 - e. **Firebreak** (394) plus site specific specifications or job sheet
 - f. **Prescribed Burning** (338) plus site specific specifications or job sheet
 - g. **Riparian Forest Buffer** (391) plus site specific specifications or job sheet
 - j. **Tree/Shrub Establishment** (612) plus site specific specifications or job sheet
 - k. **Alley Cropping** (311) plus site specific specifications or job sheet

PRESCRIBED FORESTRY – PLANNING AND DESIGN SHEET

Landowner/Cooperator _____
 Farm # _____ Tract # _____ Field(s) _____
 Designed by _____ License # _____ Date _____
 Signature _____

Purpose/Objective of the Practice (Check all that apply)

	Maintain or improve forest health
	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 and Design Checklist (Check all that will be required). Add items as appropriate

General Information

	Landowner or primary contact – name, address, phone
	Plan Preparer – name, address, phone, license number
	Plan date
	Planning period
	Town and Country
	Tax map information, including tax status and legal obligations
	Parcel location, including boundary lines and surrounding neighbors

Present Condition – Stand/Habitat Descriptions

	Cover type, including composition of overstory, understory and ground cover, and type of silvicultural system or habitat management system
	Acreage
	Structure
	Age/history/present condition
	Volume, stocking and growth rate
	Health and quality
	Goals and objectives
	Other:

Resource Inventory Information

	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
	Water resources, water quality, riparian areas
	Soil resources
	Topography and 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	
	Silviculture or habitat management system specification(s), including models used or other basis with literature cited
	Practice specifications for habitat management for targeted species
	Practice specifications to protect environmental functions and values
	Projected Regeneration and Harvesting Plan, including when appropriate the practice schedule (type, quantity, timing)
	Operation and Maintenance Plan, including specifications for the monitoring, evaluation and updating of the prescriptions annually
	Environmental compliance documentation
	Risk assessments
Maps (include legend, north arrow, scale, property boundary lines)	
	Location, including boundary lines with lat./long. on corners, access system
	Land use/Forest cover
	Soils
	Water resources
	Topography and hydrology
	Wildlife habitat (MNAP or better)
	Other:

PRESCRIBED FORESTRY – INSTALLATION AND CHECKOUT SHEET

Landowner/Cooperator _____
 Farm # _____ Tract # _____ Field(s) _____
 Approved by _____ License # _____ Date _____
 Signature _____

Purpose/Objective of the Practice (Check all that apply)

	Maintain or improve forest health
	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 and Design Checklist (Check all that will be required). Add items as appropriate

General Information

	Landowner or primary contact – name, address, phone
	Plan Preparer – name, address, phone, license number
	Plan date
	Planning period
	Town and Country
	Tax map information, including tax status and legal obligations
	Parcel location, including boundary lines and surrounding neighbors

Present Condition – Stand/Habitat Descriptions

	Cover type, including composition of overstory, understory and ground cover, and type of silvicultural system or habitat management system
	Acreage
	Structure
	Age/history/present condition
	Volume, stocking and growth rate
	Health and quality
	Goals and objectives
	Other:

Resource Inventory Information

	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
	Water resources, water quality, riparian areas
	Soil resources
	Topography and 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	
	Silviculture or habitat management system specification(s), including models used or other basis with literature cited
	Practice specifications for habitat management for targeted species
	Practice specifications to protect environmental functions and values
	Projected Regeneration and Harvesting Plan, including when appropriate the practice schedule (type, quantity, timing)
	Operation and Maintenance Plan, including specifications for the monitoring, evaluation and updating of the prescriptions annually
	Environmental compliance documentation
	Risk assessments
Maps (include legend, north arrow, scale, property boundary lines)	
	Location, including boundary lines with lat./long. on corners, access system
	Land use/Forest cover
	Soils
	Water resources
	Topography and hydrology
	Wildlife habitat (MNAP or better)
	Other:

Checkout/Completion Certification

NRCS Representative Name and Title (type or print) _____

NRCS Representative Signature _____ **Date** _____

As-Built Notes (include date completed by client, treated acres and describe any changes to original design):

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**NRCS, LA
APRIL 2009**