

State Specific Training Module for Alabama

Purpose of this Module

This module will provide some general information that TSPs need to conduct conservation planning in our state. This information is general in nature so the TSP will need to follow up with additional reading, training, and work experience to make sure they have the knowledge, skill, licenses and certifications to conduct conservation planning in this state.

By no means do we suggest that these slides are adequate preparation to become a Certified Conservation Planner in Alabama. This designation requires years of education, training, and hands-on experience.



Alabama Planning Policy

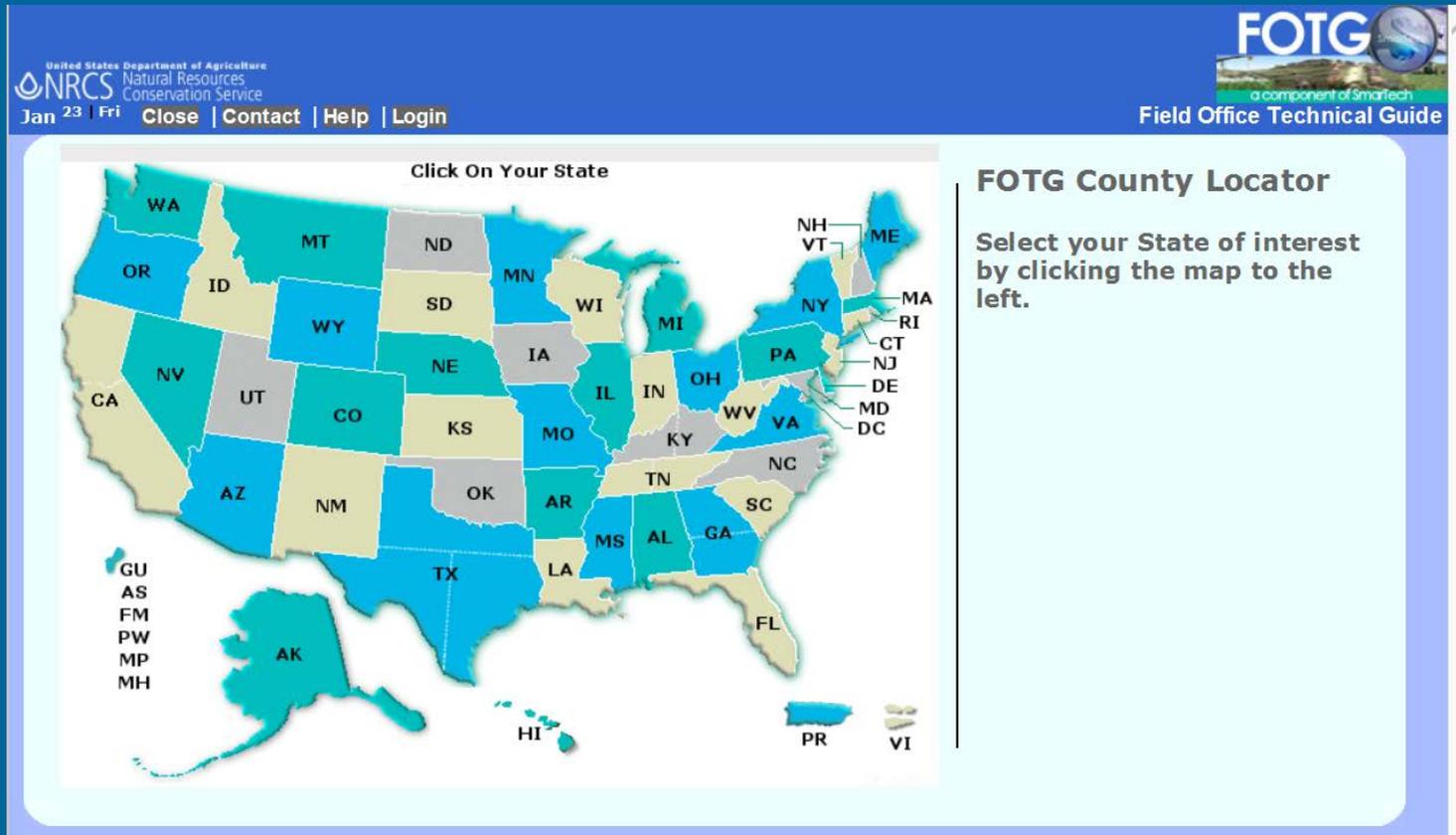
- **Alabama General Manual (GM) Supplement**
 - **Title 180 - Conservation Planning and Application (CPA)**
 - [AL3-Part 409, Amendment 3, January 2003](#)

http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs141p2_021983.pdf

Alabama Specific Training

- Conservation for New Employees
 - 3 week comprehensive course over a 4 month period. The course covers land use planning addressing Soil, Water, Air, Plant, Animal, Human, and Energy resource concerns specific to Alabama. Modules include wildlife training, forestry training, nutrient management, pest management, comprehensive nutrient management, pastureland, cropland, etc.
 - The class is open to TSP's. Contact Alabama State TSP Contact for enrollment information.

Alabama Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG)



The screenshot displays the FOTG website interface. At the top left, it shows the NRCS logo and the text "United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service". Below this, the date "Jan 23 | Fri" and navigation links "Close | Contact | Help | Login" are visible. On the right side, the "FOTG" logo is accompanied by a small image of a globe and the text "a component of SmartTech". Below the logo, the text "Field Office Technical Guide" is displayed. The main content area features a map of the United States with the instruction "Click On Your State". The map is color-coded by state, with various shades of blue and green. To the right of the map, the text "FOTG County Locator" is displayed, followed by the instruction "Select your State of interest by clicking the map to the left." The map includes state abbreviations for all 50 states, plus DC, GU, AS, FM, PW, MP, MH, AK, HI, PR, and VI.

Exercise – Browse to this web site

Section I FOTG

Click on each folder of the Alabama FOTG, including each link, each document and read the information within.

Refresh Menu

Search

- FOTG
 - Section I ▾
 - Table Of Contents
 - Notice Registers
 - Technical Notes
 - Tech Guide Notices
 - Reference Lists
 - Cost Data
 - Maps
 - Erosion prediction
 - Engineering References
 - Archive Materials - Section I

FOTG Home Page

What is FOTG?

Technical guides are the primary scientific references for NRCS. They contain technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, and related plant and animal resources.

[...more](#)

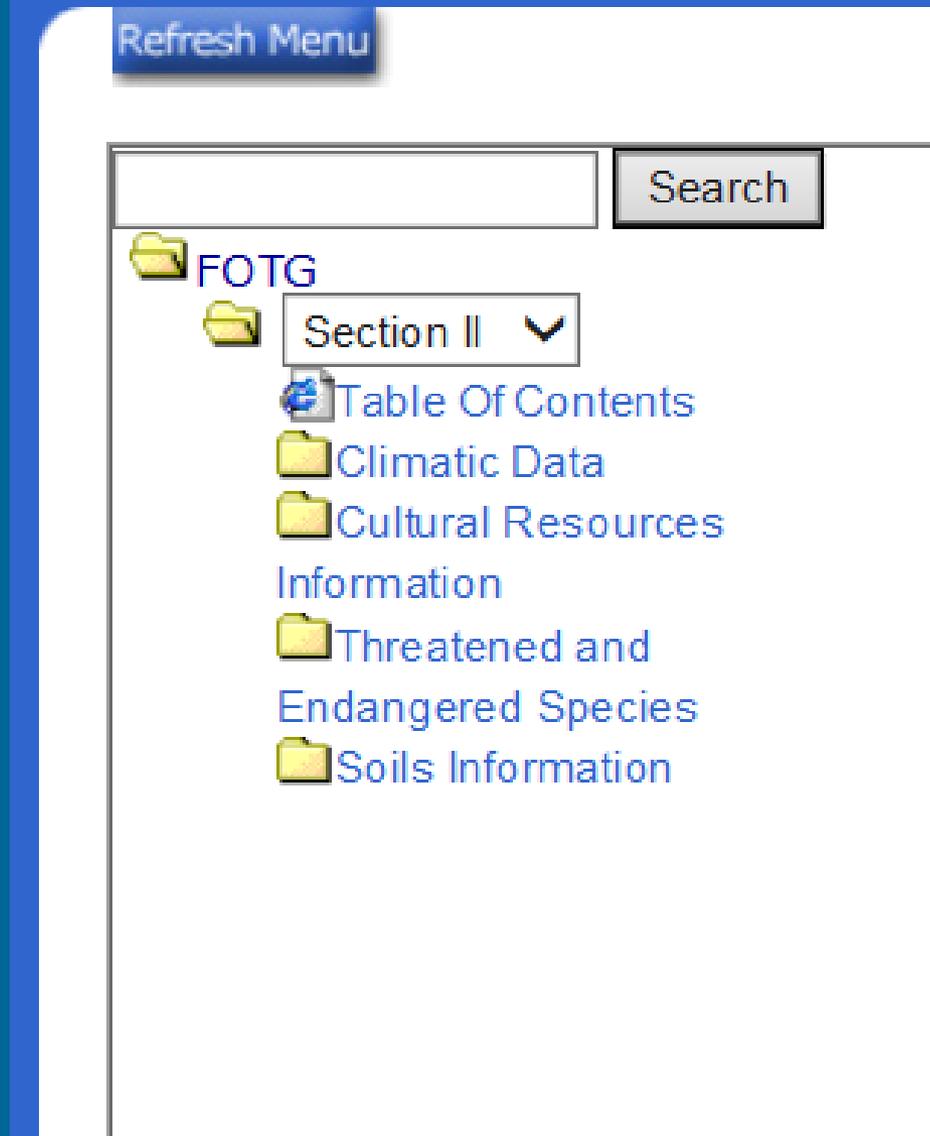
For additional information and requirements please contact your local [USDA Service Center](#).

What's in FOTG?

Section I -General References
Section II -Natural Resources Information
Section III-Conservation Management Systems
Section IV -Practice Standards and Specifications
Section V -Conservation Effects

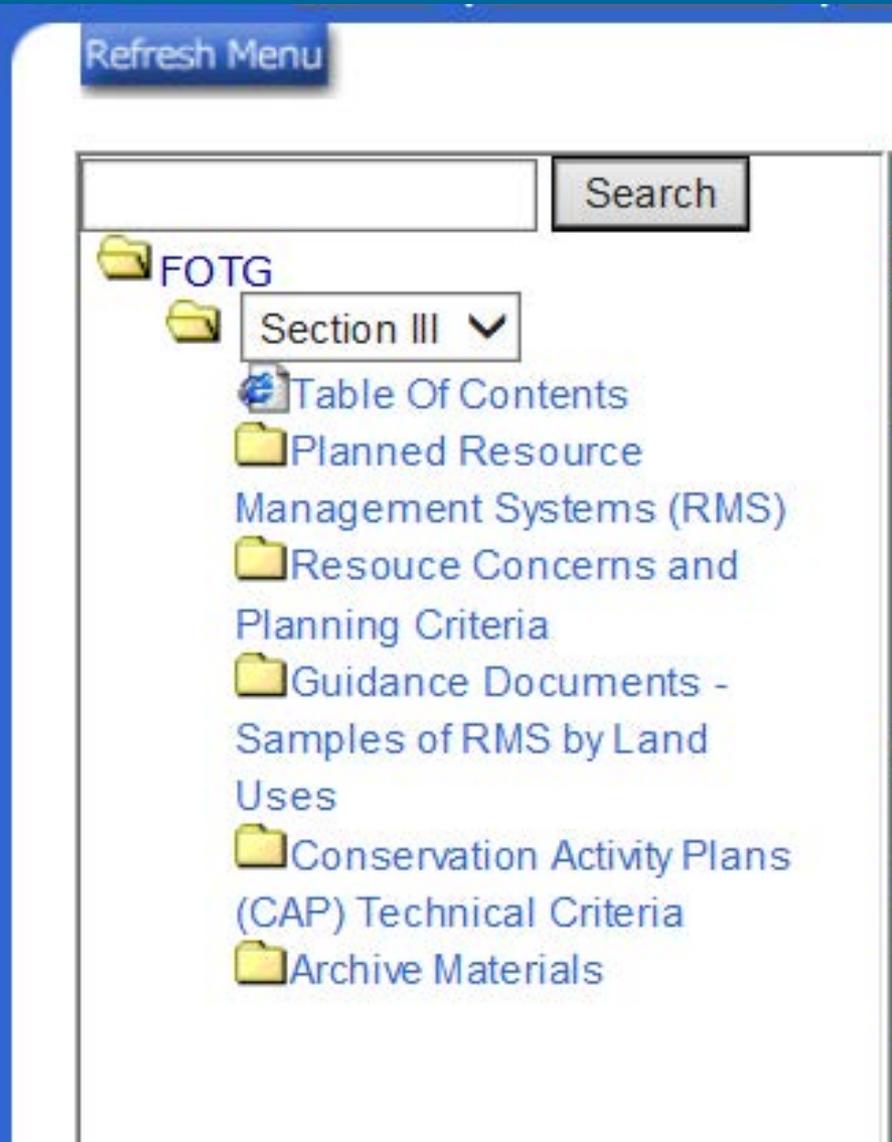
[...more](#)

Section II FOTG

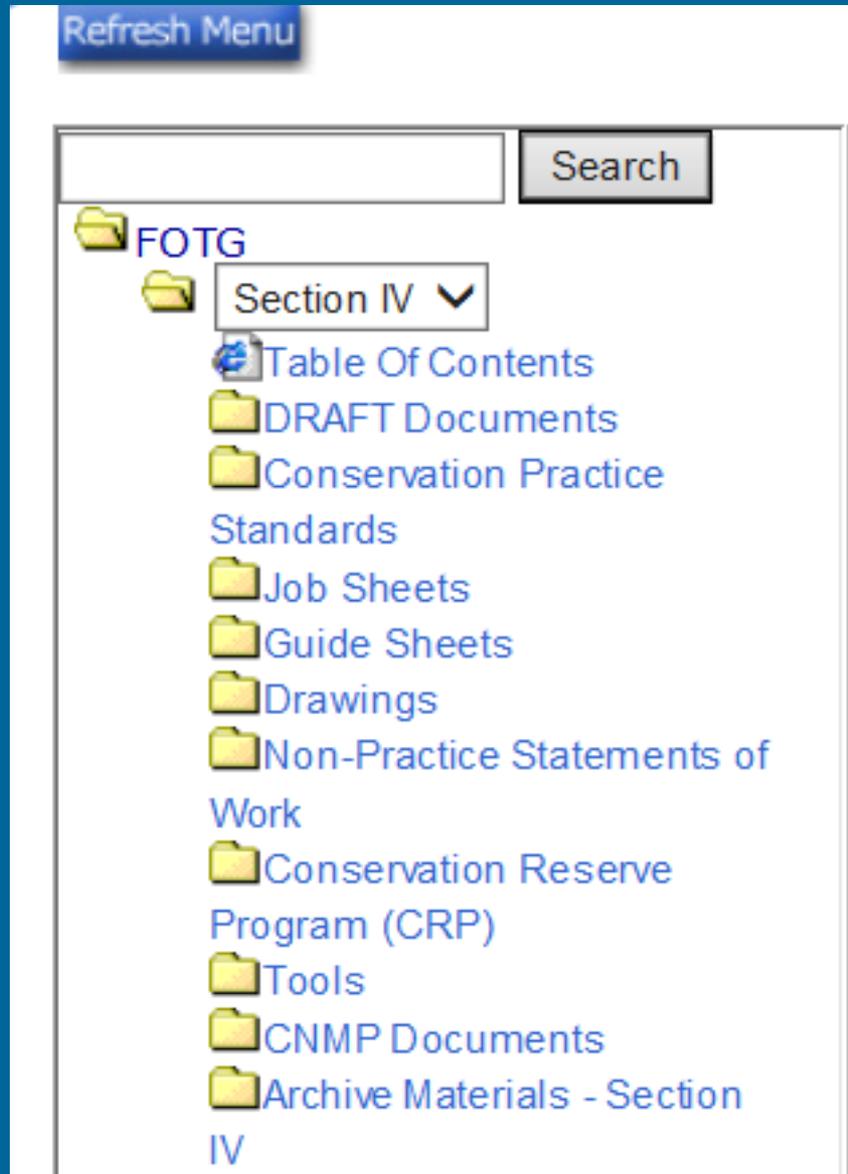


Update
showing
NEPA

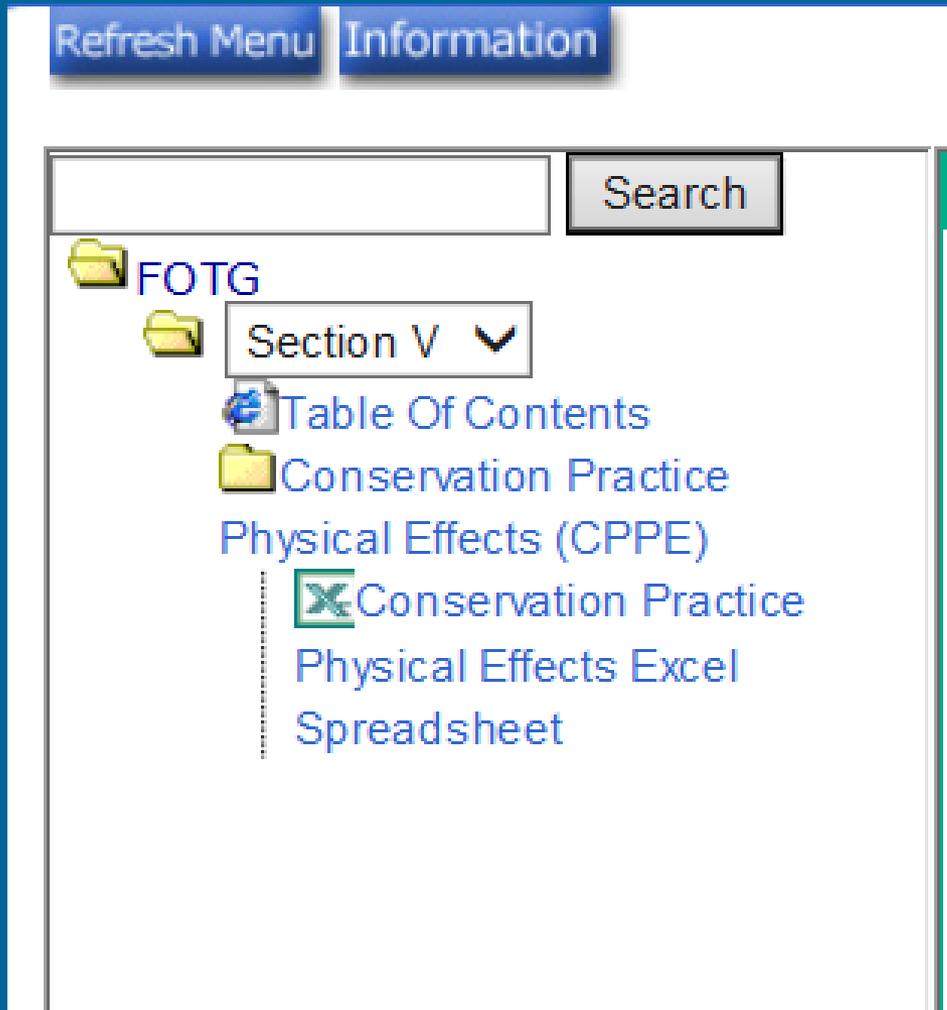
Section III FOTG



Section IV FOTG



Section V FOTG



Environmental Considerations in Conservation Planning

- Alabama CPA-52 Template
 - Find this template in Section II of the FOTG
 - Study each Fact Sheet for Alabama specific information
 - Fill out this form for each conservation plan to document completion of the Conservation Planning process.



Special Environmental Concerns

- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- Coastal Zone Management Areas
- Cultural Resources
- Endangered & Threatened Species
- Environmental Justice
- Essential Fish Habitat
- Floodplain Management
- Invasive Species
- Migratory Birds
- Prime and Unique Farmlands
- Riparian Areas
- Wetlands
- Wild & Scenic Rivers

Environmental Considerations in Conservation Planning

CLEAN WATER ACT/WATERS of the U.S.

1	CLEAN WATER ACT/WATERS of the U.S.	Client/Plan Information:
2	NECH 610.22	
3	Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheet	
4	Check all that apply to this Guide Sheet review: <input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 1	
5	<input type="checkbox"/> Alternative 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
6		
7	NOTE: This guide sheet should be tailored to meet the specific needs of individual State and local regulatory and permitting requirements. It is important for each State to coordinate with their individual State and Federal regulatory agencies to tailor State-specific protocols in order to prevent significant delays in processing permit applications.	Return to NRCS-CPA-52
8		
9		
10		
11		waters of U.S.
12	Complete both sections of this guide sheet to address Federal as well as State-administered regulatory requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA).	
13		
14		
15	SECTION I	
16	Federally Administered Regulatory Program - Section 404 of the CWA	
17		
18	STEP 1.	
19	Will the action(s) involve or likely result in the discharge or placement of dredged or fill material or other pollutants into areas that could be considered to be waters of the United States (Including, but not limited to wetlands, lakes, streams, channels, and other water conveyances, including some small ditches)? <i>More detailed information regarding waters of the United States and Federal permitting programs under CWA is found in the NECH 610.22.</i>	
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		
25	<input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," document on the NRCS-CPA-52, or notes section below, the finding, rationale, and information sources used and proceed with Section II below.	
26		
27	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes," go to Step 2.	
28		
29		
30	STEP 2.	
31	Is the action(s) an activity exempt from section 404 regulations (40 CFR Part 232)?	
32	Note: the exemption should be verified with the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) district.	
33		
34	Farm Ponds may be exempt. Refer to the Field Level Agreement (FLA) between the COE and NRCS. Exhibits 2, 3, 4, & 5 in the National Engineering Manual, Part 520, Subpart A, Alabama Supplement, AL02, October 2011	
35	http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/ From the eDirectives site, Go to Manuals/Manuals State Supplements/Alabama/Title 210/Part 520/Subpart A	
36	<input type="checkbox"/> No If "No," go to Step 3.	
37		
38	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes If "Yes," document on the NRCS-CPA-52, or notes section below, the finding, rationale, and information sources used to verify the exemption applies and proceed with Section II below.	
39		
40		
41		
42	STEP 3.	
43	Can the action(s) be modified to avoid the discharge of dredged or fill material or other pollutants into waters of	

Page 1

CPA-52 | Instructions | CleanAir | CleanAir (FS1) | CleanAir (FS2) | CleanWater | CleanWater FS | CoastalZone | CoastalZone

Ex. Clean Water Act: Red text in the CPA-52 is Alabama specific information

Overview of Major Land Uses

Land Use	Acres
Forest*	21,761,700
Pasture	4,945,300
Crop	2,462,000
Developed	2,106,000
Water	1,172,300
Other Ag. Land	808,000
Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands	113,200
Barren (rock/sand/clay)	90,000
Total Alabama Acres	33,458,500

*Includes over 2 million acres of wooded wetlands

Common Conservation Practices applicable to Alabama landscapes

- The next few slides show commonly applied conservation practices by land use type.
- Review these commonly used standards and their associated job sheets, specifications, technical notes, design tools, etc.

Common Conservation Practices in Cropland



Nutrient Management (590) (ac)

Conservation Crop Rotation (328) (ac)

Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till (329) (ac)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (595) (ac)

Cover Crop (340) (ac)

Residue Management, Seasonal (344) (ac)

Conservation Cover (327) (ac)

Contour Farming (330) (ac)

Common Conservation Practices in Cropland (continued)

Forage Harvest Management (511) (ac)

Field Border (386) (ac)

Irrigation Water Management (449) (ac)

Terrace (600) (ft)

Filter Strip (393) (ac)

Forage and Biomass Planting (512) (ac)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) (ac)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)



Common Conservation Practices in Cropland (continued)



Grassed Waterway (412) (ac)

Seasonal High Tunnel System for Crops (798) (ft²)

Sprinkler System (442) (ac)

Underground Outlet (620) (ft)

Restoration and Management of Rare and
Declining Habitats (643) (ac)

Critical Area Planting (342) (ac)

Irrigation System, Microirrigation (441) (ac)

Common Conservation Practices in Pastureland

Nutrient Management (590) (ac)

Prescribed Grazing (528) (ac)

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)

Herbaceous Weed Control (315) (ac)

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) (595) (ac)

Heavy Use Area Protection (561) (ac)

Watering Facility (614) (no)

Fence (382) (ft)

Livestock Pipeline (516) (ft)



Common Conservation Practices in Pastureland (continued)

Forage and Biomass Planting (512) (ac)

Forage Harvest Management (511) (ac)

Prescribed Grazing (528A) (ac)

Water Well (642) (no)

Filter Strip (393) (ac)

Pumping Plant (533) (no)

Brush Management (314) (ac)

Critical Area Planting (342) (ac)



Common Conservation Practices in Forestland



Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) (ac)

Prescribed Burning (338) (ac)

Firebreak (394) (ft)

Forest Stand Improvement (666) (ac)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) (ac)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)

Herbaceous Weed Control (315) (ac)

Common Conservation Practices in Forestland (continued)



Restoration and Management of Rare
and Declining Habitats (643) (ac)

Conservation Cover (327) (ac)

Brush Management (314) (ac)

Access Control (472) (ac)

Critical Area Planting (342) (ac)

Riparian Forest Buffer (391) (ac)

Forest Trails and Landings (655) (ft)

Common Conservation Practices on Ag. Farmsteads

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
Comprehensive Nutrient Management
Plan - (102)



Agricultural Energy Management Plan (128)

Prescribed Burning (338) (ac)

Farmstead Energy Improvement (374) (no)

Forest Stand Improvement (666) (ac)

Animal Mortality Facility (316) (no)

Nutrient Management (590) (ac)

Common Conservation Practices on on Ag. Farmsteads - continued

Waste Storage Facility (313) (no)

Roofs and Covers (367) (no)

Water Well (642) (no)

Herbaceous Weed Control (315) (ac)

Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining
Habitats (643) (ac)

Early Successional Habitat Development/
Management (647) (ac)

Wetland Restoration (657) (ac)

Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490)



Common Conservation Practices on on Ag. Farmsteads - continued

Access Control (472) (ac)

Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) (ac)

Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) (ac)

Pond (378) (no)

Critical Area Planting (342) (ac)

Conservation Cover (327) (ac)

Heavy Use Area Protection (561) (ac)

Mulching (484) (ac)



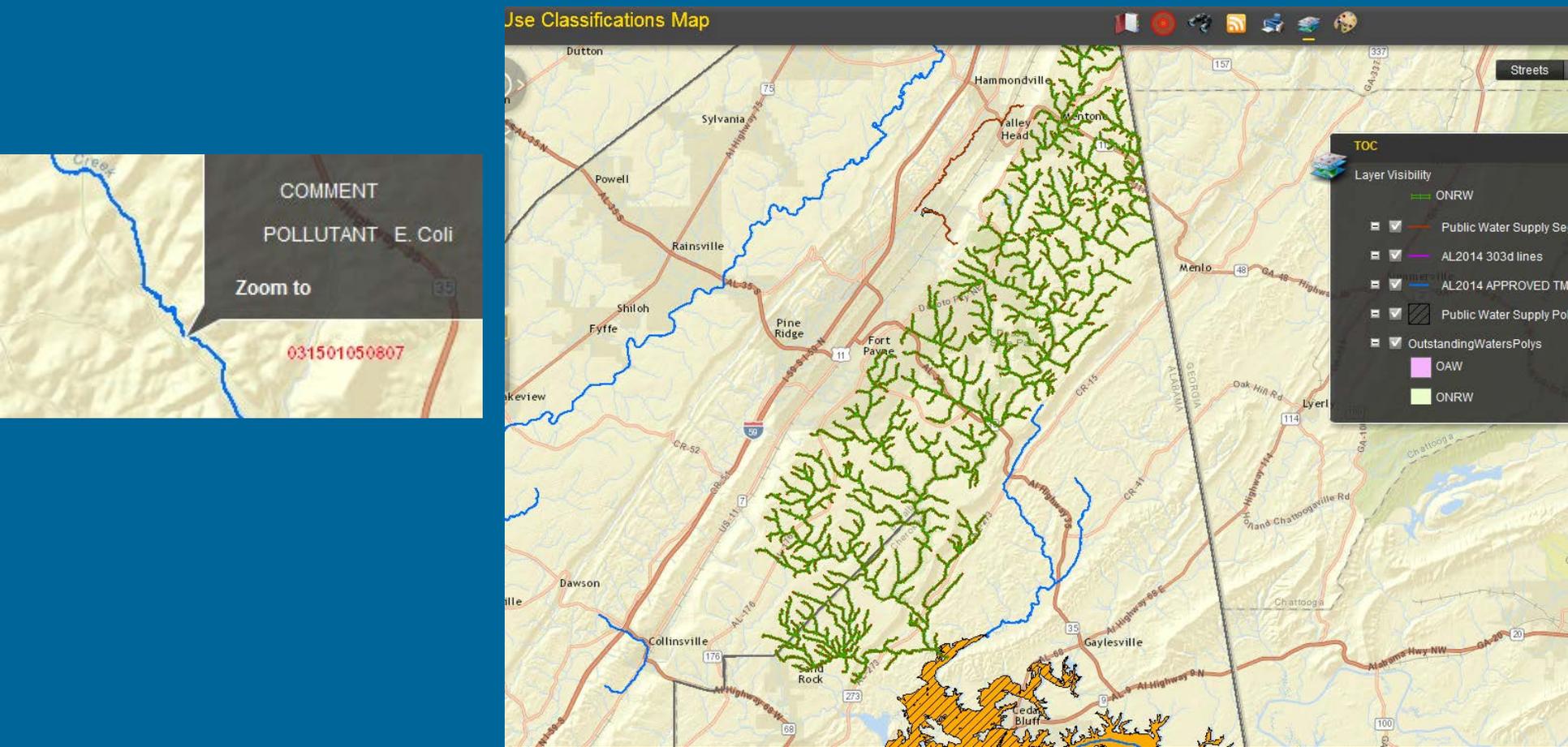


Gulf of Mexico

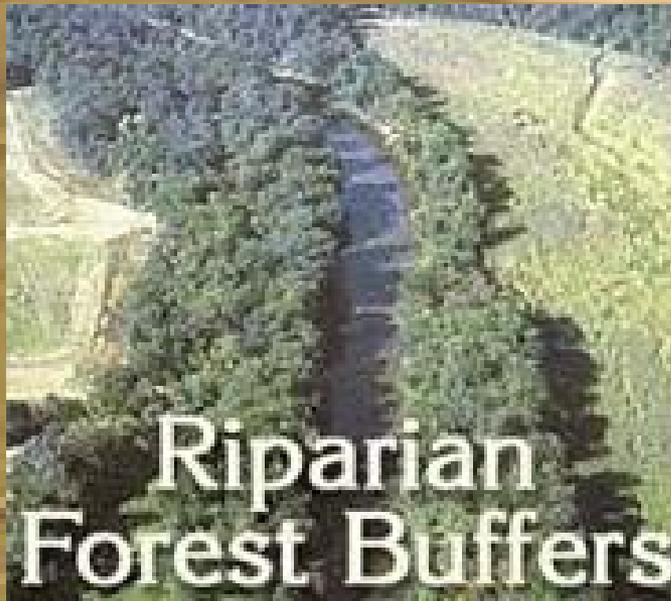
Natural Resource Conservation in the Gulf of Mexico

Water Quality – See ADEM’s GIS Viewer for Use Classifications and Impairment Information

http://gis.adem.alabama.gov/ADEM_Dash/use_class/index.html



NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT OF ANIMAL WASTE APPLIED TO PROTECT WATER QUALITY



PRECISION APPLICATION OF NUTRIENTS AND PESTICIDES





328 – Conservation Crop Rotation
345 – Residue Management –
Reduced Till
590 – Nutrient Management

330 – Contour Farming
412 – Grassed Waterway
329 – Residue Management – No Till



Woodland Grazing Suitability

- Evaluate sites for:
 - Species composition
 - Amount of herbaceous and woody vegetation
 - Basal area
 - Soils



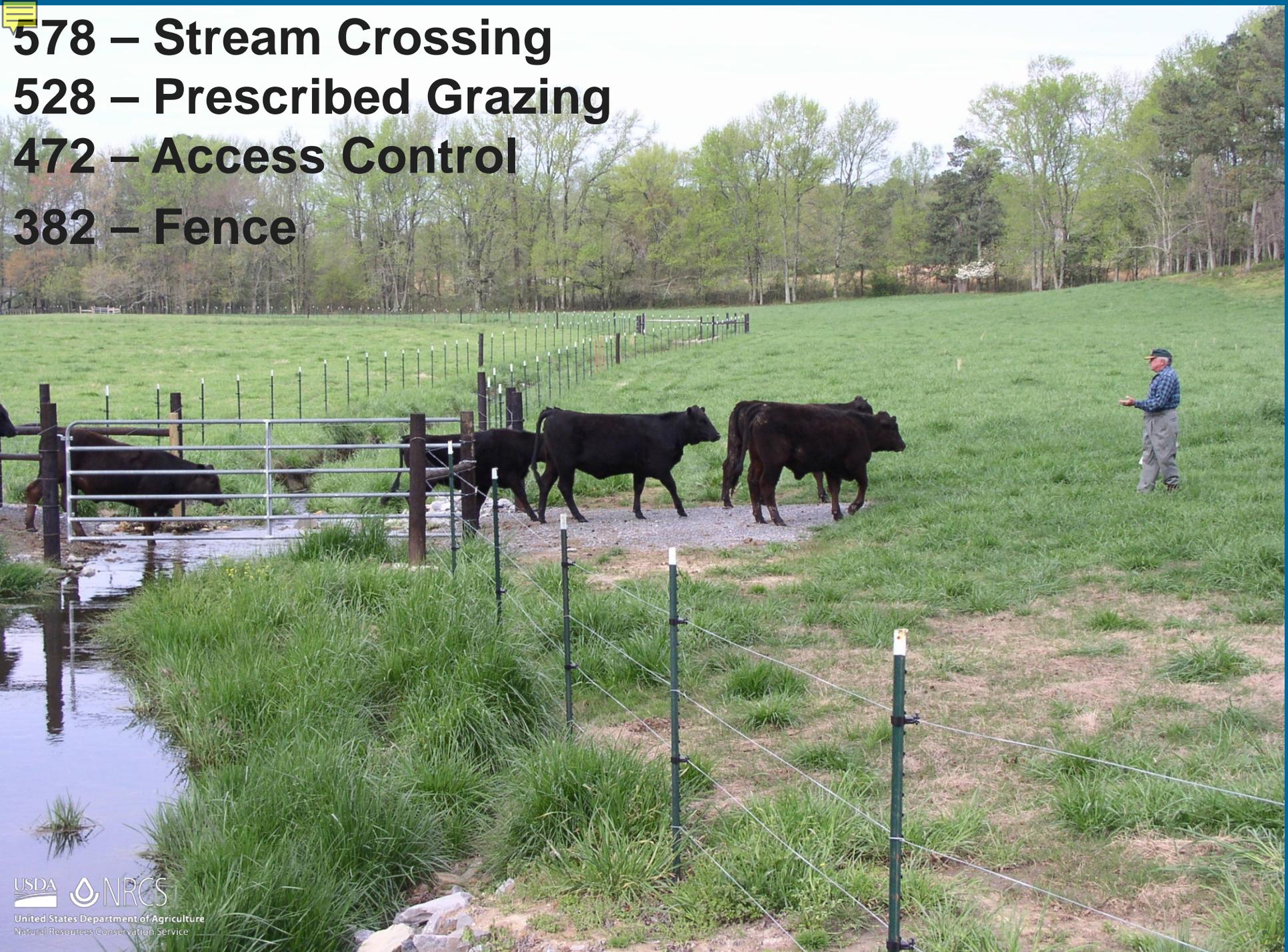


SITES NOT SUITABLE



VERY GOOD SITES

578 – Stream Crossing
528 – Prescribed Grazing
472 – Access Control
382 – Fence



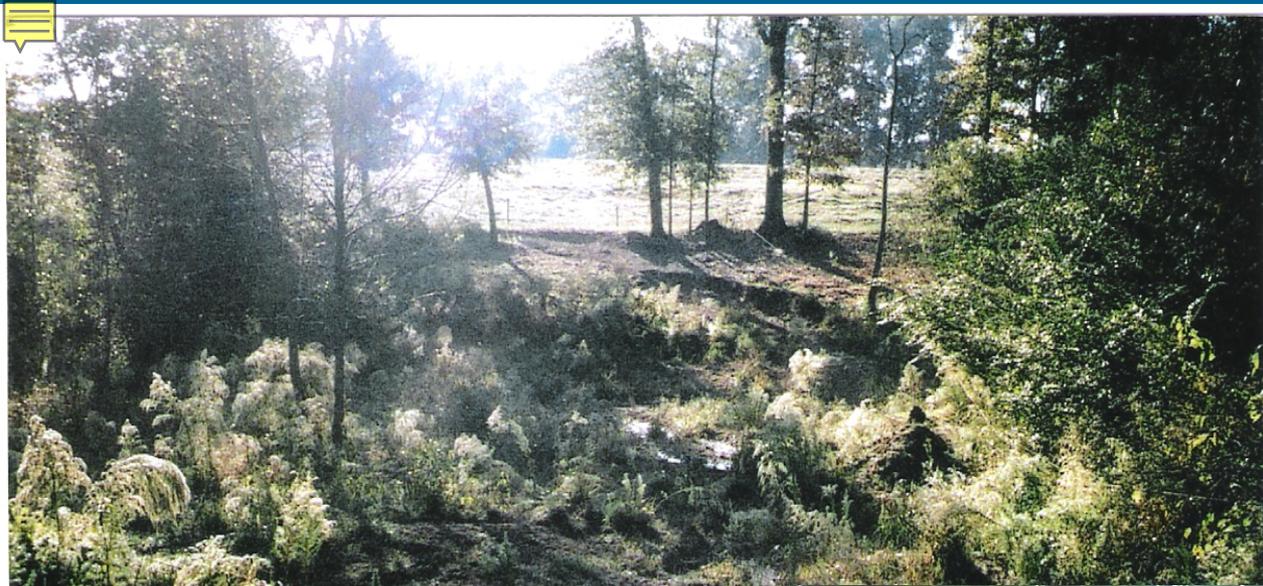
528 – Prescribed Grazing 382– Fence



Step 8: Implement Plan

- Plans
- Specs
- Job Sheets
- Guide Sheets





2004 8 5



645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management





644 – Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management

646 – Shallow Water Development & Management





645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

338 – Prescribed Burning

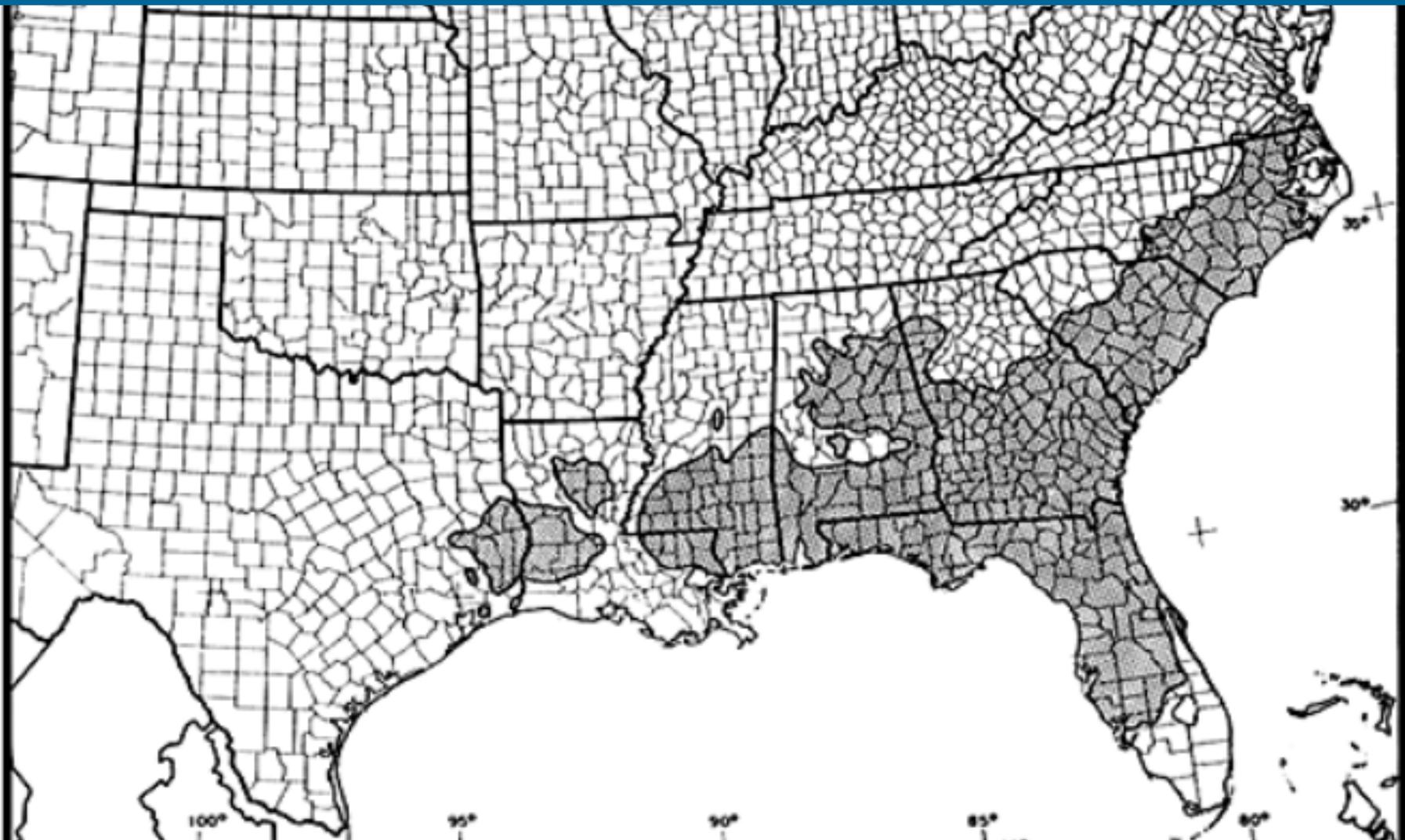




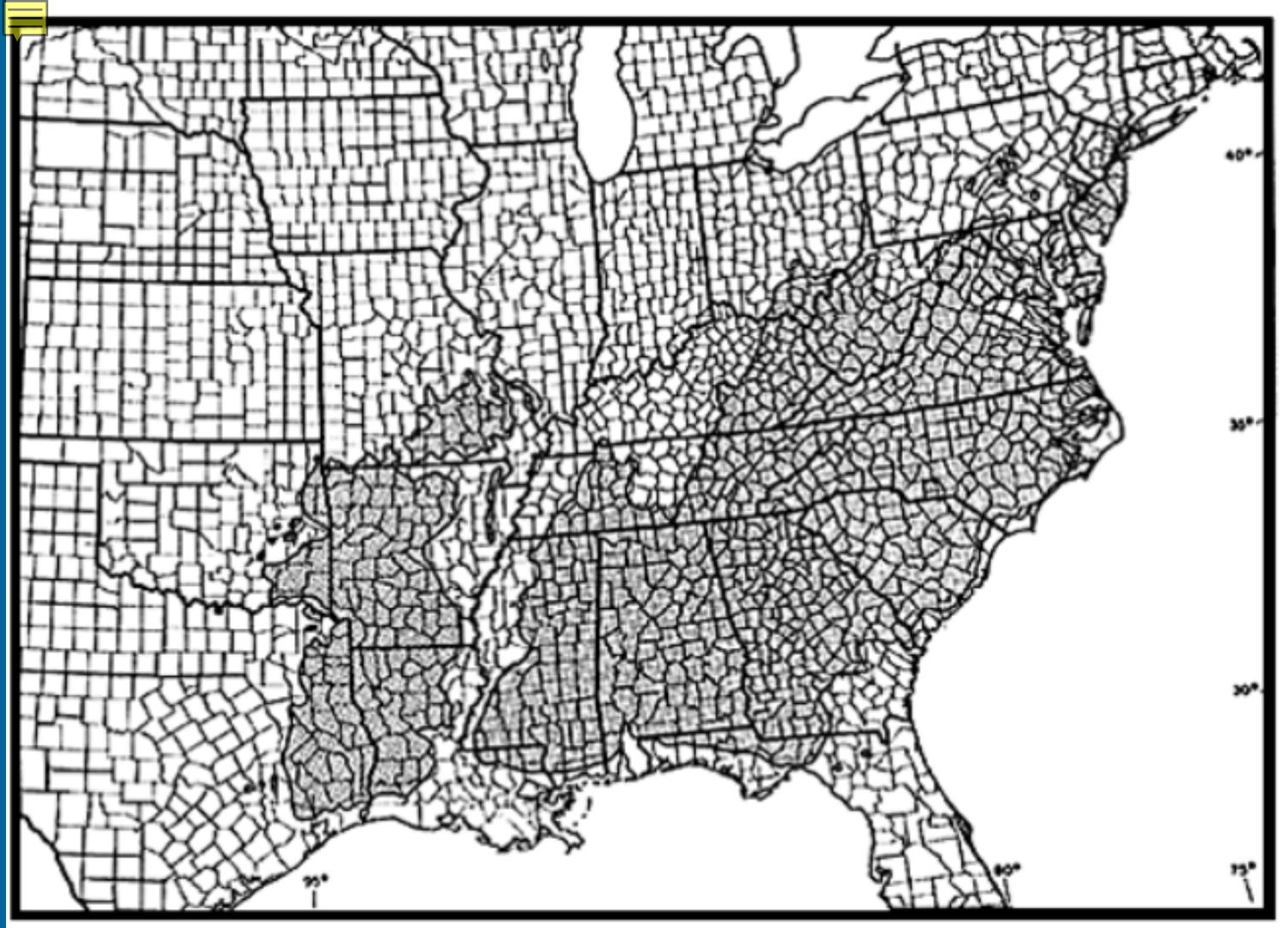
Gopher Tortoise

**643 – Restoration and
Management of Rare &
Declining Habitat**

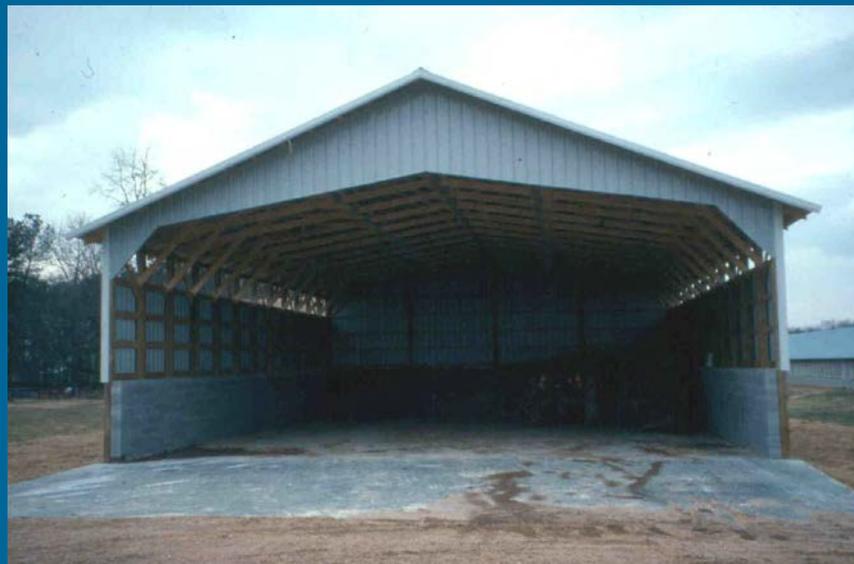
338 – Prescribed Burning



The native range of longleaf pine. (From Little, 1971.)



The native range of shortleaf pine.
(From Little, 1971.)





Organic Farming, Small Farms











Conservation Plan

Record of Decisions

➤ Conservation Plan

The conservation plan is a plan developed for the landowner. The landowner should be presented with alternatives and the Landowner makes the decisions. This is why the conservation plan is referred to as a “Record of Decisions”. A plan is not just a series of recommendations by the planner. A plan is a well thought out document where the landowner is integrally involved throughout the process.

Expected TSP Workflow

- The Assistant State Conservationist for Technology/State TSP Contact will be responsible for reviewing TSP conservation planning for Certification.
- The first two plans prepared by a TSP as part of an EQIP contract will be Field Reviewed as part of Alabama's Quality Assurance Process.
- Subsequent conservation plans will be reviewed by the District Conservationist (DC) at the local USDA Service Center.
- Alabama will conduct plan reviews for TSP planner certification renewals.
- Alabama will spot check up to 10% of Conservation Activity Plans for technical adequacy.
- TSPs will work with the local District Conservationist to make sure the proper environmental evaluations (NRCS.CPA.52) are completed.

Additional References

- Code of Alabama 1975 Title 34, Chapter 12 – Foresters - State Statute when Forester license is need for planning conservation practices
- Code of Alabama 1975, Title 34, Chapter 12 - State Statute when engineering license is need for planning conservation practices
- Code of Alabama 1975, Title 2, Chapter 27 - State Statute - A Commercial Applicator Permit (License) is required for pesticide consultants.
- Code of Alabama 1975, Section 9.13.270 - State Statute - in order for a prescribed burn to have liability protection; it must be supervised by a Certified Prescribed Burn Manager.

Alabama NRCS Website

<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/al/home/>

USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Alabama
United States Department of Agriculture

About Us | National Centers | State Websites

Topics | Programs | Newsroom | Contact Us

Browse By Audience | A-Z Index | Advanced Search | Help

Nutrient Management Standard Revised

This conservation practice standard will help producers manage the application of nutrients on agricultural lands in Alabama.



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Popular Topics

- > Continuous Program Signup
- > Financial Assistance
- > Easements
- > StrikeForce
- > Soil Health



Sign up for email updates:

In the News

- USDA selects Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Basin project for new, innovative program
- USDA selects first projects of new, innovative program to conserve key natural resources
- USDA selects Coastal Headwaters project for new, innovative program

Events & Deadlines

Highlights

NRCS Employees
E-Field Office Tech Guide
Join the Earth Team Volunteers
Civil Rights Advisory Committee
Technical Service Providers



StrikeForce in Alabama



2014 Farm Bill

Certificate of Completion

After viewing the State Specific Training module, please print and sign the completion certificate on the following slide.

The certificate is your acknowledgement that based on the information provided in this module, you have the proper knowledge, skills and ability to conduct planning in this state.

Send the signed certificate to the State TSP Coordinator. Copy the below link to your browser for a list of State TSP Coordinators.

<https://techreg.sc.egov.usda.gov/RptStateContact4Admin.aspx>

STATE SPECIFIC TRAINING MODULE COMPLETION CERTIFICATE

I, _____, hereby verify I have viewed and

TSP Name

understand the content of the Alabama State Specific Training Module
and affirm I have the knowledge, skills and ability to conduct
conservation planning services in that state.

TSP signature

Date



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