

Course Name: Prescribed Burning	
Course Coordinator: State Forester, State Biologist	Course Number: MI0035

Overview: This course provides an understanding of NRCS policy on prescribed burning and teaches basic considerations and methods needed to plan and design prescribed burns with cooperators. The course will include classroom study, experience in design of prescribed burns, components of a burn plan and observation of a prescribed burn, provided the weather cooperates.

Purpose: To provide the trainee with the necessary information and knowledge about NRCS prescribed burning policy, fire ecology, fire behavior and smoke management, and prescribed burning techniques and equipment in order to appropriately utilize the Prescribed Burning (338), Firebreak (394) conservation practice standards, and adequately convey important planning considerations to clients

Prerequisites:

- View the “Introduction to Prescribed Burning” (USDA-NRCS, February 2007) CD-ROM
- Participants must have read and understood the following documents:
 - Prescribed Burning (338) Conservation Practice Standard
 - Firebreak (394) Conservation Practice Standard
 - Firebreak Conservation Design Sheet (394)

Duration:

This is a two-part, two-day course. Part one is conducted in the classroom (approximately 8 hours). Part two is conducted in the field (approximately 3 hours).

Target Audience:

NRCS and conservation partner employees providing conservation planning assistance to customers.

Expected Outcomes:

The minimum conservation planning proficiency level expected of participants is “4. Apply independently – can perform independently unless special problems are encountered; only a general check of work is required.” Note: this proficiency level refers only to activities permitted by NRCS policy. At the completion of this course the, NRCS employee participants should meet the requirements for Class I Prescribed Burn Job Approval Authority. Refer to the NRCS-Michigan Prescribed Burn Policy, GM-190-413, Supplement MII for more information.

Resources Needed:

Part 1 (classroom):

- Room with tables and chairs for 8 to 25 participants
- Computer with projector and a projector screen
- Access to several pieces of prescribed fire and firefighting equipment

Part 2 (field exercise):

- One or more sites available and scheduled for a prescribed burn

- Non-NRCS prescribed burn crew to implement and demonstrate burning and suppression techniques.
- Participants are responsible for wearing natural fiber clothes, and bringing leather boots and gloves, in order to participate in the prescribed burn.

Outline for: **Prescribed Burning**

Part 1 – Classroom

Review outline of course and objectives
Pre-test (assessment of current knowledge level)
NRCS prescribed burning policy and Job Approval Authority
NRCS-MI Prescribed Burning (338) and Firebreak (391) practice
Michigan fire history and ecology
Fire behavior and smoke management
Fire safety and equipment
Ignition and burning techniques
Components of a burn plan
Additional training and experience opportunities
Assessment test

Part 2 – Field Exercise

Review/discuss burn plan
Observe/participate in prescribed burn
Group discussion and conclusion (“after action review”)
Course evaluation