

PART 413 – PRESCRIBED BURNING

SUBPART A – GENERAL

413.0 Purpose

This document establishes USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Idaho, policy for providing technical assistance for prescribed burning and the application of the Idaho conservation practice standard Prescribed Burning, Code 338. The policy shall be used in conjunction with NRCS national policy (General Manual, Section 190, Part 413, Prescribed Burning) located in the national electronic directives system at http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/scripts/lpsiis.dll/GM/GM_190_413_a.htm.

413.1 Background

NRCS supports and encourages the appropriate use of prescribed burning on non-Federal lands to meet specific resource management objectives and on Plant Material Centers for the development, evaluation, and production of conservation plant materials. The national standard for prescribed burning is located in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (Conservation Practice Code 338). The standard does not, and is not, intended to preempt or supersede requirements established by Local, State, Tribal, or Federal agencies, but is intended to serve as a baseline for effective planning and implementation of prescribed burns.

413.2 Authorities

The following references provide authority for this policy:

- A. The Soil Conservation Domestic Allotment Act, as amended (Public Law 74– 46, 49 Stat.163, 16 U.S.C. 590a) – provides the basic authority for NRCS to carry out conservation measures on the land and to assist land users in conducting conservation activities. NRCS has specific responsibilities to assist owners and operators in planning and applying conservation programs.

413.3 Definitions

- A. Class of Burn – A description of the physical and/or chemical properties of the fuel and the burn area. This will also include topography, size, and complexity. Examples of classes of burns might be grass, volatile trees over 10 feet tall, nonvolatile woody species, greater than 12 percent slopes, 640 acres, etc.
- B. The Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 – 7671q) – A Federal statute that contains requirements addressing air quality concerns as they pertain to the protection of public health and public welfare, including air quality concerns associated with all prescribed burns.
- C. Client – An individual, group, or unit of government that is the recipient of NRCS technical assistance. Examples of NRCS clients are landowners, managers, or partners who are primarily responsible for the business entity in its dealings with NRCS. Specific client types are person, group, Tribe, corporation, organization, conservation district, and units of government.

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D. Fire Boss – The individual designated by the client as the person in charge of the prescribed burn and is the decision-maker during the application of a prescribed burn.

E. Prescribed Burn Certification – Documentation of the technical adequacy an NRCS employee has achieved relative to level of prescribed burn job approval authority assigned to the employee. Technical adequacy is achieved or maintained through training, continuing education, or equivalent, as necessary to comply with NRCS State standards. The appropriate NRCS State specialist must certify the level of technical adequacy of the NRCS employee before the job approval authority is approved by the State Conservationist.

F. Prescribed Burn Job Approval Authority – The level of technical assistance that an NRCS employee is qualified to provide based on the complexity of the prescribed burn. The extent of technical assistance will be restricted by the assigned level of prescribed burn job approval authority issued by the State Conservationist. An NRCS employee must meet the initial training and experience requirements as outlined in Title 190 General Manual Idaho Amendment ID-13 Part 413.12, Certification, and Authority, to be issued prescribed burn job approval authority.

G. Prescribed Burn Plan – A document providing critical information necessary to implement a prescribed burn. At a minimum, the required specific data include location of the burn, resource management objectives, pre-burn vegetation, required weather conditions, smoke management plan, notification checklist, burning method to be used, pre-burn preparation, firing sequence, job assignments, equipment checklist, identified escape routes and safety zones, plan for post-burn evaluation and management, and necessary signatures of approval.

H. Prescribed Burning – Any fire ignited by management actions under certain, predetermined conditions to meet specific objectives related to hazardous fuels or identified resource concerns.

I. Smoke Management – The policies and practices implemented by air and natural resource managers directed at minimizing the amount of smoke entering populated areas or impacting sensitive sites, avoiding significant deterioration of air quality and violations of National Ambient Air Quality Standards, and mitigating human-caused visibility impacts in Class I areas.

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SUBPART B – POLICY

413.10 Prescribed Burning

NRCS supports and encourages the use of prescribed burning within the context of Conservation Practice Prescribed Burning (Code 338), contained in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices. Prescribed burning is appropriate on lands where its application will appropriately address specific resource management concerns and objectives identified through the planning process

Prescribed burning may be planned on any land use as a tool to manipulate or manage the vegetation on a predetermined area where the intensity and extent of the burn are controlled in accordance with a written, site-specific prescribed burn plan. A site-specific prescribed burn plan is required when applying Prescribed Burning in accordance with NRCS-Idaho standards and specifications. Planning will be in accordance with (1) the National Planning Procedures Handbook, (2) Idaho Conservation Practice Standard 338, Prescribed Burning – Section IV, Idaho Field Office Technical Guide, (3) GM 190 – Part 413, Subpart B and (4) this Idaho amendment to national policy.

413.11 Training

- A. NRCS personnel must be adequately trained to achieve prescribed burn certification and prescribed burn job approval authority to assist clients regarding the Conservation Practice Prescribed Burning (Code 338) during the planning process.
- B. At the minimum, 16 hours of awareness training are required for prescribed burn certification and prescribed burn job approval authority to include prescribed burning as a practice in the conservation planning process. This training must include fire ecology and behavior, fire effects on resources (SWAPA), safety, and smoke management. Continuing education equivalent to 16 hours is required at a minimum of every 5 years.
- C. State Conservationist will determine the additional training necessary for each level of prescribed burn certification and prescribed burn job approval authority. Continuing education is required at a minimum of every 5 years to maintain each level of prescribed burn job approval authority.
- D. NRCS encourages employees to participate in prescribed burn training activities and workshops, including those conducted by other agencies or organizations. Training from other sources can meet prescribed burn certification and prescribed burn job approval authority as approved by State Conservationist.
- E. Appendix A – Prescribed Burning Training provides guidance on training and requirements to obtain Job Approval Authority for prescribed burning.

413.12 Certification and Authority

A. Certification documents the knowledge, skills, and abilities an individual employee has relative to the assigned level of prescribed burn job approval authority. Certification must include records of the employee's prescribed burn plan development, formal training, and participation in actual prescribed burns for the level of prescribed burn job approval authority assigned. To achieve or maintain a level of job approval authority, employees must demonstrate appropriate experience and complete necessary training, and/or continuing education requirements as identified by the State Conservationist. A record of this certification is maintained in the employee's personnel file.

B. Prescribed burn job approval authority is established in any State, where prescribed burning is an approved conservation practice in the Field Office Technical Guide and offered as an alternative in the conservation planning process. Prescribed burn job approval authority is granted by the State Conservationist. Prescribed burn job approval authority criteria are as follows:

- (1) Sixteen hours of awareness training in prescribed burning constitute the required minimal level of authority for an NRCS employee to offer prescribed burning as an alternative practice in the conservation planning process.
- (2) Authority levels are progressive in nature, allowing employees to plan burns that are more complex only when they are qualified to do so.
- (3) The prescribed burn plan must be approved by an individual with the appropriate level of prescribed burn job approval authority prior to delivery to the client.
- (4) Employees cannot approve prescribed burn plans without authority and certification for the class of burn being planned.
- (5) To obtain a level of prescribed burn job approval authority to develop a prescribed burn plan, the employee must have participated in at least one training burn at the level being assigned.
- (6) Additionally, NRCS employees must demonstrate good judgment, knowledge, skills, and abilities in prescribed burning, in order to obtain prescribed burn job approval authority.
- (7) Appendix B- Prescribed Fire – Job Classification and Approval Authority provides guidance on prescribed burning job class and approval authority.

D. Where laws and regulations require certification, licensing, or both, for prescribed burning authority, NRCS personnel must be certified, licensed or both by the designated agency to participate in prescribed burning activities.

E. Prescribed burn job approval authority may be granted to employees who have documented evidence of previous training or experience that equals or exceeds NRCS prescribed burning requirements. NRCS employees with extensive training, experience, and education in prescribed burning may provide supporting documentation to the State Conservationist to receive consideration for certification and job approval authority.

F. Any NRCS employee who violates NRCS Prescribed Burning Policy will have job approval authority immediately revoked.

413.13 Planning Prescribed Burns

- A. Burns planned with NRCS assistance must adhere to Federal, Tribal, State, and local laws and requirements such as outdoor burning, fire control, smoke management, and air quality etc.
- B. Clients are responsible for obtaining all permits and clearances as required by law and regulation.
- C. Clients must be informed in writing of their potential liability.
- D. A written, detailed, prescribed burn plan, which thoroughly addresses and meets the minimum prescribed burn conservation practice standard and specifications established by each State, is developed prior to implementation. When NRCS does not develop the prescribed burn plan, documentation must be provided showing the burn met NRCS standards.
- E. Separate prescribed burn plans must be developed for each prescribed burn. Prescribed burn plans are valid only for the location and time frame planned. If a client decides to change the location of the burn, or is unable to burn during the prescribed time frame and conditions, a new or revised prescribed burn plan must be prepared prior to conducting the burn.
- F. At Plant Materials Centers, burns planned as a management or study tool will be limited to no more than 10 acres per field.

413.14 Technical Planning and Application Assistance

- A. NRCS assistance to clients regarding prescribed burning can include conservation planning, prescribe burn plan development, training (including training burns), and on the ground assistance with prescribe burn application.
- B. Extent of assistance an individual NRCS employee can provide is restricted by the individual's level of prescribed burn job approval authority.
- C. Employees without appropriate level of prescribed burn job approval authority are encouraged to participate, under the supervision of an employee with proper certification and prescribed burn job approval authority or others with appropriate authority (State certification, NWCG certification etc.), as a means of receiving training and experience.
- D. For purposes of training landowners, managers, and NRCS employees, NRCS personnel with appropriate prescribed burn job approval authority may participate in the following activities (permitted only during designated training experiences):
 - (1) Serve as designated fire boss,
 - (2) Serve as a team leader for the implementation and completion of the burn,
 - (3) Direct field operations and make decisions, adjustments, and corrections necessary to ensure that the fire meets the planned objectives and that all participants are safe; and
 - (4) Assist with ignition of the fire.
- E. The Conservation Practice Prescribed Burning (Code 338), is reported as planned or applied only when the prescribed burn plan has been reviewed and approved by an

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employee with the appropriate level of prescribed burn job approval authority for the class of burned planned and applied. When the prescribed burn plan is developed by partners or others approved by NRCS, NRCS may certify and report the applied practice met the standard based on appropriate documentation of the practice application.

F. Employees at plant materials centers with the appropriate level of prescribed burn job approval authority and certification can conduct burns at plant materials centers for the development, evaluation, and production of conservation plant materials and to maintain natural areas.

413.15 Safety

A. Safety is the first consideration in prescribed burning. The Prescribed Burn Plan will document all the conditions and factors that must be in place for the burn to be accomplished safely and the fire boss must certify such immediately prior to the ignition of the prescribed burn. If unfavorable atmospheric, fuel, logistical or other conditions exist or are predicted by a weather forecast, the fire boss must postpone the burn until burn plan parameters can be met. If NRCS personnel are present on the burn to provide prescribed fire application assistance prior to ignition and unfavorable conditions exist, NRCS employees are required to immediately inform the fire boss or client of the concerns and request that they take corrective action, which may include postponing the burn. Should the designated fire boss or client not take corrective action and continues to implement the burn under conditions outside the parameters of the prescribed burn plan, NRCS employees are required to inform the fire boss and client that NRCS participation is prohibited and assistance is withdrawn and employees will return to field office and document appropriately.

B. During a properly applied prescribed burn, and an emergency situation develops, NRCS employees are to follow the direction of the designated fire boss and act responsibly to assist in resolving the situation.

C. The client (landowner or his/her designee) must be on-site throughout the prescribed burn period. NRCS personnel will not serve as the client's designee.

D. All persons present on a fire will wear natural fiber clothing or "nomex" clothing, leather gloves, hardhat if burning in forest, shrub or woodland, eye protection, and leather boots. Employees and all other persons must also be physically capable of performing the activities associated with prescribed burning.

413.16 NRCS Employee Liability

Employees acting in accordance with all Federal, Tribal, State, and local laws and within the scope of their work accept no greater or less liability than that associated with the performance of any other assigned duty. Any questions concerning liability are referred to the State Conservationist.

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SUBPART C – RESPONSIBILITIES

413.20 National Headquarters Office

- A. The Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, under the direction of the Chief, is responsible to:
1. Provide national leadership for policy and procedures for assisting clients on prescribed burning,
 2. Approve prescribed burn policy.
 3. Designate the NRCS Applied Fire Ecologist.
- B. The Regional Associate Chiefs are responsible to:
1. Ensure that States and equivalent within their region are following the Prescribed Burn Policy,
 2. Conduct a biannual review of states and equivalent of the prescribed burn certification and job approval authorities for states that include the Conservation Practice Prescribed Burning (Code 338) in the Field Office Technical Guide.
- C. The Director of the Ecological Sciences Division is responsible to:
1. Ensure the development, implementation, and evaluation of policy and procedures on assisting clients and operators on prescribed burning,
 2. Ensure the Conservation Practice Prescribed Burning (Code 338) is maintained within national laws, regulations, and executive orders.
- D. The National Range and Grazing Lands Ecologist of the Ecological Sciences Division is responsible to:
1. Recommend to the Director of Ecological Sciences Division development, implementation, evaluation, and revisions of prescribed burn policy on an as needed basis,
 2. Develop procedures and assist NRCS employees on clarification of prescribed burning policy,
 3. Ensure the Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Burning (Code 338) is current and technically accurate.
- E. The Designated NRCS Applied Fire Ecologist is responsible to:
1. Ensure that prescribed burn policy and procedures are current, and technically accurate,
 2. Ensure that necessary prescribed burn guidance and exhibits are contained in the National Range and Pasture Handbook and the National Plant Materials Manual,

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3. Provide assistance, training materials, and training regarding prescribed burning at the national and regional level.

413.21 National Technology Support Center Offices

Directors of National Technology Support Centers are responsible to:

- A. Provide assistance to the service area in development of Prescribed Burn Certification and Prescribed Burn Job Approval Authority where the Conservation Practice conservation Practice Prescribed Burning (Code 338) is included in the Field Office Technical Guide,
- B. Assist the service area in identification, development, and delivery of prescribed burn training,
- C. Ensure that staff assigned to support the service area on prescribed burn training acquires adequate level of expertise to accomplish the mission.

413.22 State/Caribbean Area and Pacific Islands Area Offices

The State Conservationist/Director of the Caribbean Area and Pacific Islands Area is responsible to:

- A. Ensure that employees operate within National, Federal, State, Tribal and local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures for prescribed burning,
- B. Provide adequate training and equipment for employees involved in prescribed burning activities,
- C. Develop prescribed burn job approval authority criteria and ensure that employees act within their assigned levels of authority,
- D. Identify and approve partners and others qualified to provide prescribed burn plan development, application, and training,
- E. Determine the amount and kind of training necessary for each level of job approval authority,
- F. Ensure that prescribed burn job approval criteria are reviewed and concurred with, in advance, by the appropriate technical specialist,
- G. Develop a system of certification for documenting continuing education and training to achieve and maintain proficiency and prescribed burn job approval authority,
- H. Ensure that only qualified NRCS employees are used for reviews and spot checks of prescribed burning activities, or develop a system for reviews by approved partners and others of prescribed burning activities including prescribed burn plan development,
- I. Develop a system to approve all prescribed burning training activities in the State, Caribbean Area, and Pacific Islands Area.
- J. Work with districts, state agencies, other federal agencies, universities, cooperative extension, consultants, NGO's, and other partners to promote prescribed burning as a safe and effective management tool for multiple land uses and purposes in the state. 413.23 Field Offices (or equivalent)

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The Field Office (or equivalent) technical leader (e.g., Area Conservationist, District Conservationist, Team Leader, and Group Leader, or equivalent) is responsible for providing local leadership in implementing prescribed burning policy and procedures in accordance with job approval authority and/or certification.

413.24 Plant Materials Centers

The Plant Materials Center technical scientist (or equivalent) responsible person (e.g. Manager, Assistant Manager, Biological Technician, Farm Manager,) is responsible for providing leadership in implementing prescribed burning policy and procedures at Plant Materials Centers, in accordance with job approval authority and/or certification.

Appendix A

Prescribed Fire - Training

Idaho NRCS employees that (1) provide technical assistance on prescribed burning, (2) develop and approve conservation plans that include Prescribed Burning, (3) develop site-specific prescribed burn plans and/or (4) certify the application of Prescribed Burning must be adequately trained in the ecological principles and safe use of fire on soil, water, air, plant and animal resources and human considerations within the designated burn area.

Idaho NRCS employees who include prescribed burning as a practice in the conservation planning process will complete a minimum of 16 hours of training in prescribed burning. This training must include fire ecology and behavior, fire safety, and smoke management. Training may also include as appropriate fire effects on wildlife, soils, hydrology, and vegetation response.

In order to independently develop and approve a prescribed burn plan, an NRCS/NEDC prescribed burning course or equivalent shall be completed. Equivalent courses will be determined by the State Rangeland Management Specialist, State Forester and Assistant State Conservationist (Technical Services) (ASTC-TS).

Employees shall provide written documentation of training and experience to obtain Job Approval authority for prescribed burning.

Below is a list of additional courses that may be used to obtain JAA for prescribed burning

I-100 Intro to ICS

This is a self-paced module which addresses the Incident Command System organization, basic terminology and common responsibilities.

S-130 Firefighting Training

This is a field course providing entry-level firefighting skills through 11 instructional units of study. They consist of:

1. Safety orientation
2. Firefighter orientation
3. Tools and equipment
4. Firing Devices
5. Use of water
6. Suppression
7. Securing the control line
8. Use of maps
9. Scouting
10. Hazardous materials
11. Standards for survival

S-190 Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior

This course provides instruction in the primary, environmental factors which affect the start and spread of wildfire, and recognition of potentially hazardous situations.

S-131 Advanced Firefighting Training

This is an eight-hour course designed to meet the training needs of both advanced firefighter/squad boss (FFT1) and incident commander type 5 (ICT5). Individual instructional units cover fire line reference material, documenting activities, fire line communications, tactics and safety.

S-290 Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior

This is a classroom-based, skills course designed to prepare the prospective supervisor to undertake safe and effective fire management operations. It is the second course in a series which collectively serves to develop fire behavior prediction knowledge and skills.

S-230 Crew Boss (Single Resource)

This is a classroom-based, skills course to produce trainee proficiency in the performance of all duties associated with the single resource crew boss from initial dispatch through return to home unit. Instructional topics include: preparation and mobilization, assignment preparation, tactics and safety, off-line duties and demobilization/post-incident activities. This course is designed for use throughout the United States, and includes examples from all geographical areas. Regions or areas using this course may wish to add material specific to their location. Instructional aids: pre-course reading of the Wildland Suppression Tactics Guide with a final examination.

Objectives – 1) Identify the crew boss's responsibilities prior to and during mobilization, incident activities, and demobilization. 2) Describe the required training and certification process which must be fulfilled to become a qualified crew boss (single resource).

S-234 Ignition Operations

This is an entry-level course providing training in the functional roles and responsibilities connected with firing operations. The course covers planning, ignition procedures and techniques, and equipment applicable to wildland and prescribed fire. This course also addresses the role of the ignition specialist or firing boss as the organization manages escalation from a non-complex to a complex fire situation.

Objectives - 1) Describe the role and responsibility of the Single Resource Boss (FIRB), Firing and Prescribed Fire Ignition Specialist (RXI2) for planning, execution, safety, training and coordination of an on-incident burn operation. 2) Analyze an ignition/firing plan and describe its validity. 3) Write an ignition/firing plan to include ignition method, firing tactics, resource needs and safety.

S-200 Initial Attack Incident Commander

This course is designed to provide the individual in charge of the initial attack of small, non-complex fires the training needed for readiness and mobilization, size-up of the fire and the administrative requirements that must be completed by the incident commander.

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Objectives - 1) Gather essential data about the fire and lead the initial attack resources to the fire. 2) Size-up the fire; plan the strategy and tactics with available resources. 3) Communicate information to the designated officer. 4) Brief and deploy initial attack resources and make adjustment to the plan when necessary. 5) Maintain adequate records and participate in post-fire activities with the designated officer.

RX-310: Intro to Fire Effects.

Given basic fire regimes, management objectives, biotic adaptations, resource responses, cultural limitations, surface and subsurface heat as it relates to fuel consumption and fuel moisture, pre/post-burn environmental conditions, and land use activity, the student will be able to: describe fire as an ecological process; describe applications and limitations of fire use; describe first order fire effects and how to measure them; describe the interaction of fire characteristics on natural and cultural resource components that determine first order effects; and discuss how to manipulate fire treatments to achieve desired first order fire effects.

S-390: Intro to Wildland Fire Behavior Calculations

This is the third of a series designed to develop knowledge and skills required for effective fire behavior prediction. This course introduces fire behavior calculations by manual methods, using nomograms. The trainee gains an understanding of the determinants of fire behavior through studying input (e.g. wind, slope, fuels and fuel moisture). Trainees also learn how to interpret fire behavior output.

RX-300: Prescribed Fire Burn Boss

This course is designed to prepare the student for the use of fire to accomplish resource objectives by evaluation and implementation of a prescribed fire. Development of a burn plan is the primary product of this course, which includes developing resource management objectives; safety and monitoring; operational criteria; legal liabilities; use of fire and fire effects; and smoke management and prescription design.

RX-410: Smoke Management Techniques

This course is designed to provide the experienced, prescribed fire, burn boss type 2, prescribed fire behavior analyst and air quality and fire management planners with advanced training in the legal, professional and ethical bases underlying current smoke management practices. In addition to theory, students will also gain a greater understanding of how to effectively participate in the regulatory process, as well as plan for and execute prescribed burning in compliance with governing regulations.

Appendix B

Prescribed Fire – Job Classification and Approval Authority

NRCS personnel must be adequately trained to achieve prescribed burn certification and prescribed burn job approval authority to assist clients regarding the Conservation Practice Prescribed Burning (Code 338) during the planning process.

At the minimum, 16 hours of awareness training are required for prescribed burn certification and prescribed burn job approval authority to include prescribed burning as a practice in the conservation planning process. This training must include fire ecology and behavior, fire effects on resources (SWAPA), safety, and smoke management. Continuing education equivalent to 16 hours is required at a minimum of every 5 years.

Level A: Awareness

Level A (Awareness) job approval authorizes the employee to plan and approve alternatives which include prescribed burning during the conservation planning process.

Qualifications: Must obtain a minimum of 16 hours of classroom training or equivalent

Maintenance: Continuing education equivalent to 16 hours every 5 years

Level I:

Level I job approval authorizes the employee to develop prescribed burning plans. An employee with Level I Job Approval Authority for Prescribed Burning would be able to plan and approve the following.

Class I – Maintenance Burn

- Size of area: Less than 320 acres
- Vegetation: Low volatile herbaceous and woody species less than four feet tall
- Terrain: 15 percent slope or less

** Prescribed burns may be planned on CRP with slopes greater than 15% with 8 foot fire line of bare mineral soil

Qualifications: Level I job approval - An employee must have planned at least three Class I burns which have been approved and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class I burns.

Maintenance: For Level I approval, an employee must obtain continuing education equivalent to 16 hours every 5 years

Level II: Level II job approval authorizes an employee to review burn plans prepared by employees at Level A and Level I. An employee with Level II Job Approval Authority for Prescribed Burning would be able to plan and approve the following.

Class II – Maintenance

- Size of Area: Less than 640 acres
- Vegetation:
 - A) Volatile herbaceous species and live, volatile wood species less than four feet tall.
 - B) Post-timber slash burning (pile and burn) in order to pile and burn timber harvest or forest improvement slash.
- Terrain: 15 percent slope or less

Qualifications: Level II job approval - An employee must have planned at least three Class II burns which have been approved and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class II burns.

Maintenance: For Level II approval, an employee must obtain continuing education equivalent to 16 hours every 5 years

Level III: Level III job approval authorizes an employee to review burn plans prepared by employees at Level II and below. An employee with Level III Job Approval Authority for Prescribed Burning would be able to plan and approve the following.

Class III– Maintenance Burn

- Size of Area: Less than 640 acres
- Vegetation:
 - A) Forest understory burning in order to interrupt fuel ladders beneath a mature forest canopy.
 - B) Post-timber harvest, broadcast slash burning in order to dispose of logging or forest improvement residues.
 - C) Volatile herbaceous species and live, volatile wood species greater than four feet tall.
- Terrain: 25 percent slope or less

Qualifications: Level III job approval - An employee must have planned at least three Class III burns which have been approved and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class III burns.

Maintenance: For Level III approval, an employee must obtain continuing education equivalent to 16 hours every 5 years

Level IV: Level IV job approval authorizes an employee to review burn plans prepared by employees at Level III and below. An employee with Level IV Job Approval Authority for Prescribed Burning would be able to plan and approve the following.

Class IV– Maintenance Burn / Reclamation Burn

- Size of Area: No Restrictions
- Vegetation: No Restrictions
- Terrain: No Restrictions

Qualifications: Level IV job approval - An employee must have planned at least three Class IV burns which have been approved and must have demonstrated good judgment, knowledge, and skills for Class IV burns.

Maintenance: For Level IV approval, an employee must obtain continuing education equivalent to 16 hours every 5 years

Prescribed burn management plans are valid only for the area planned and for the burning season planned. If the land owner decides to change the location or is unable to burn during the prescribed time frame, a new plan must be prepared prior to conducting the burn.

Prescribed burns planned with NRCS assistance must adhere to all applicable State and local laws and permits regarding open burning, fire control and air quality. The landowner will be responsible for obtaining all necessary permits.

Job approval authority may be granted to employees who have documented evidence of previous training or experience that equals or exceeds the NRCS prescribed burning training requirements. Any employee who violates the NRCS Prescribed Burning Policy will have their job approval revoked immediately.