



April 1, 2014

IOWA INSTRUCTION 190-384 THIRD EDITION - THREATENED AND ENDANGERED
SPECIES HABITAT EVALUATION IN SITUATIONS
WHERE CLIENTS INTEND TO CLEAR TREES

IA384.0 PURPOSE:

This Iowa Instruction provides direction for situations where clients have communicated intent to clear trees.

IA384.1 SCOPE

Previous Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) direction regarding guidance to clients considering tree clearing projects resulted in frequent contacts by clients to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for consultation. The USFWS has provided clarified guidance to the NRCS on which actions require consultation. This instruction reflects that clarified guidance.

IA384.2 FILING INSTRUCTION

This Iowa Instruction will be posted on the Iowa NRCS Employee Website, which can be accessed under the Topics/People/NRCS Employees/Iowa NRCS eDirectives or at this link [Iowa NRCS eDirectives website](#).

IA384.3 EXHIBITS

See attachment.

/s/Jay T. Mar
State Conservationist

Attachment

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(IA Instruction 190 – 384 Third Edition – April 2014)

IOWA INSTRUCTION 190-384 THIRD EDITION - ENDANGERED AND
THREATENED SPECIES HABITAT EVALUATION IN SITUATIONS WHERE CLIENTS
INTEND TO CLEAR TREES

1. PURPOSE:

This Iowa Instruction provides direction for situations where clients have communicated intent to clear trees.

2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Previous Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) direction regarding guidance to clients considering tree clearing projects resulted in frequent contacts by clients to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for consultation. The USFWS has provided clarified guidance to the NRCS on which actions require consultation. This instruction reflects that clarified guidance.

3. PROCESS:

NRCS employees are frequently informed during Highly Erodible Land determinations, Wetland determinations or other contacts that clients intend to clear trees. If conservation planning assistance is requested during those contacts potential impacts to threatened or endangered species will be considered during the conservation planning process.

If conservation planning assistance is not requested and the client communicates the intent to conduct an activity that is considered minor no further action is required.

Minor activities include:

- Clearing trees from an old farmstead or yard;
- Returning a tree nursery to commodity production;
- Squaring off or maintaining field edges;
- Clearing fence rows, or
- Cutting cedars, locusts and/or shrubs from pastures.

However, if the client communicates an intent to conduct other activities that affect five (5) acres or more **that are not considered minor**, the client will be given a copy of the "Protect Threatened and Endangered Species" flyer (Attachment 1) and this will be noted on the CPA-15.

Approved By: /s/

Date: April 3, 2014

Jay T. Mar
State Conservationist
Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

Attachment

(IA Instruction 190 – 384 Third Edition – April 2014)

PROTECT THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Threatened and endangered species are protected by both Iowa and Federal laws. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) cannot assist with projects that may harm a protected species or critical habitat.

Bald eagles, although not a threatened or endangered species, are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Tree canopies should be inspected for bald eagle nests prior to clearing. If a nest is present, consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to clearing.

To find out if your project may affect state protected species, contact the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to request an Environmental Review. To find out if your project may affect federally protected species, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Environmental Review for Natural Resources
Conservation and Recreation Division
502 East 9th Street, Des Moines, IA 50319-0034
Phone: (515) 281-8967
www.iowadnr.gov/Environment/ThreatenedEndangered.aspx

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Rock Island Illinois Field Office
1511 47th Avenue, Moline, Illinois 61265
Phone: (309) 757-5800 FAX: 309-757-5807
Email: RockIsland@fws.gov
www.fws.gov/midwest/RockIsland/te/index.html



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Prairie Fringed Orchid