



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Conservation Practice Implementation Requirements for Alaska

Understanding what Implementation Requirements are, where to find them, how to read them, and how to apply them in conservation planning in Alaska

Introduction

NRCS conservation practices are used to improve natural resources with respect to soil, water, air, plants, animals, and energy, with human considerations as a factor in every decision.

(SWAPAE+H)



Introduction

Conservation practice implementation includes the design, layout, construction, inspection and certification, operation and maintenance of planned conservation systems and practices.

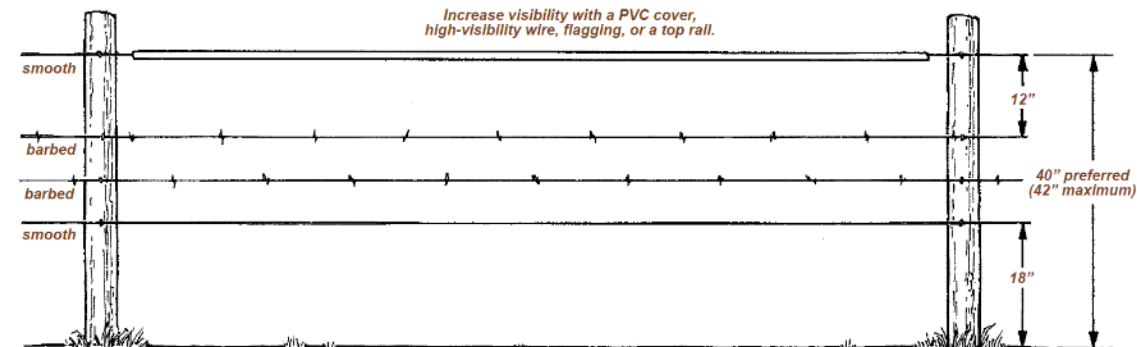
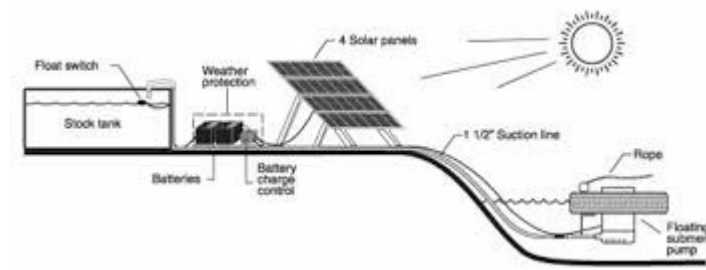
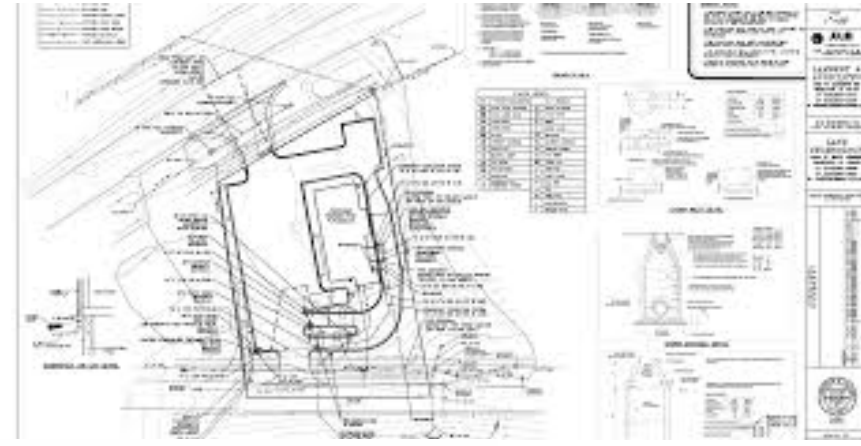


Purpose and Use

Implementation Requirements (IR) are site-specific information and instructions necessary to install or implement a conservation practice according to the conservation practice standard (CPS).

Purpose and Use

Implementation Requirements may include engineering designs, drawings, spreadsheets, photos, narrative instructions, installation criteria, operation and maintenance requirements, or a combination of these documents.



Effective IRs give a customer or contractor all the information they need to apply a conservation practice to NRCS standards in the correct amount on the targeted treatment area.

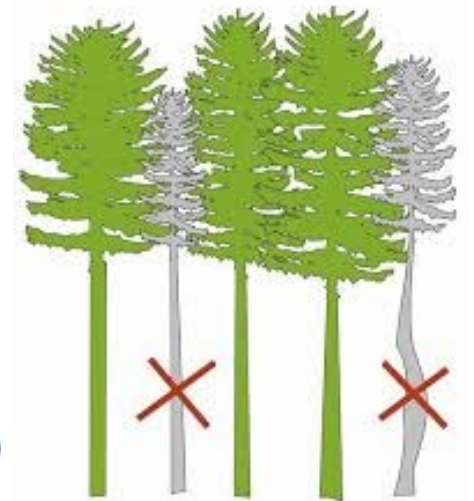
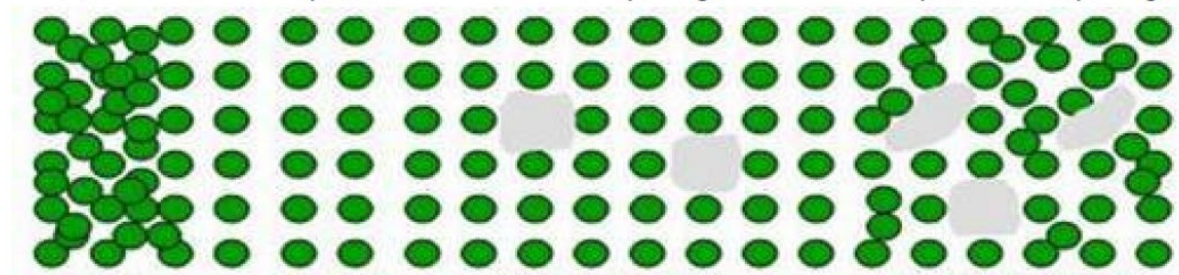
THINNING OR HARVESTING							
All forest activities shall comply with Alaska Forest Resources Practices Act.							
Treatment Description (specify if these trees will be removed or left): Leave downed vegetation in place. Treat slash using practice 384 - Woody Residue Treatment.							
Trees to Manage:	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alaska cedar (yellow)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Paper birch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quaking aspen	Other:
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Sitka spruce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	W. hemlock	<input type="checkbox"/>	Alder sp.	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	White spruce	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tamarack	<input type="checkbox"/>	Willow sp.	
Tree Species		Site Index/Basal Age		Tree Species			
Sitka spruce		110 / 25					
Western hemlock		60 / 25					
Forest Harvest System:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Precommercial Thinning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Seed Tree			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commercial Thinning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shelter Wood			
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Clear Cut	<input type="checkbox"/>	Coppice			



(a)

Bird's-eye view of current stand condition (check one)

- Wild stand
 Evenly spaced
 Evenly spaced with openings
 Variable density spaced with openings



Current spacing (in feet) Large (>9" DBH) 15 (ft) Pole (5-8" DBH) 8 (ft) Seedling (<5" DBH) 2 (ft)
 Size and shape of openings Variable



Some practices have IR templates. Others require the Conservation Planner to draft appropriate IR specific to the site and situation.

Conservation Planners have flexibility to determine what specifications must be met to address the resource concern(s) in a particular instance at a particular location on a particular operation.

Specifications

Minimum Width

- Open Land – (pasture, range grass) – 20 feet
- Forest and shrub scrub – 30 feet

Design Width-

- For all uses – 10 times the height of the understory shrub and or herbaceous vegetation or minimum

Maximum Width-

- Open Land – (pasture, range grass) – 40 feet
- Forest and shrub scrub – 150 feet maintained nonflammable vegetation

Temporary fire breaks

- 10 times the adjacent highly flammable vegetation or 20 feet, whichever is greatest.

SPECIFICATION WORKSHEET

Client: _____ Contract Item Number: _____
 Unit: _____ Treatment Feet: _____ Acres Protected _____
 Location: _____ Date: _____
 Farm Number: _____ Tract(s): _____ Field(s): _____

Plan Objectives (include what is being protected from fire :)

Forested Fire Break _____ Open Area Fire Break _____

Permanent _____ Temporary _____ Intended Surface Cover (Bare soil) _____,
 Native (existing) plant cover _____, Cover to be established _____.

List appropriate plant establishment practices and specifications _____

Designed Width _____ Height (adjacent vegetation) (Understory) _____ (Overstory) _____

Describe the adjacent vegetation cover

IR Preparation Guidance

To successfully write clear and effective IR to correctly apply a practice, a Conservation Planner must first answer several questions. The type and number of questions may vary depending on the location, situation and particular practice, but some typical example questions include...
(following slides)

IR Preparation Guidance

What purpose, criteria, conditions, and considerations are described in the Conservation Practice Standard?

What resource concern(s) need(s) to be addressed, and to what level of quality criteria?

What site-specific environmental conditions exist that may make practice implementation challenging?



IR Preparation Guidance

What site-specific environmental conditions exist that may hinder long-term success of the practice?

What human considerations may help or hinder the practice's success (available workforce, available equipment, available time, knowledge, skill, etc.)

What training is required, if any?



IR Preparation Guidance

What operation and maintenance requirements are needed to ensure the practice functions for its entire lifespan?

During what time of year should the practice be implemented?

What supporting practices should be considered, if any?



IR Preparation Guidance

What information, and to what level of detail, must a customer or contractor have to implement the practice successfully, on time, and to the standard required?

Should a Technical Specialist be consulted for expert analysis and guidance?

Will skilled labor be required to perform the work of implementation?

Alaska-Specific IR Guidance

A Conservation Planner working in Alaska must specifically consider conditions and circumstances that are unique to implementation of conservation practices in the state, such as: (following slides)

Alaska-Specific IR Guidance

What permits may be required in the treatment area?

The state, borough or municipality may have permit requirements before practice implementation can begin. This is especially true for projects that occur within a river or stream.

Alaska-Specific IR Guidance

What materials are readily available in Alaska?

The Planner should avoid including seed, chemicals, plant materials, or construction components that are either not available in the state or will require an undue financial burden upon the customer to obtain.

Alaska-Specific IR Guidance

What type of equipment is readily available to the customer or contractor?

Planners should attempt to adjust implementation requirements according to equipment that can be easily obtained and/or reasonably transported to the treatment site.

Alaska-Specific IR Guidance

How is the treatment area accessed?

The location of the treatment area, and the types of transportation access available, may also determine the type of materials, equipment and labor force that can effectively and efficiently be deployed to implement the practice.



Alaska-Specific IR Guidance

If the practice cannot be successfully implemented using the resources, labor, materials and equipment that are readily available to the customer, then another conservation practice should be selected, or other alternatives considered.

Summary

Clear, detailed, and carefully-considered Implementation Requirements will help ensure that appropriate, effective conservation will be applied and successfully treat the targeted resource concern.

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