

# Wildlife Subcommittee Discussions

## 338 Prescribed Burning Policy Change -

### MINNESOTA INSTRUCTION 190-384 – BURN PARTICIPATION FOR PRESCRIBED BURNING JOB APPROVAL AUTHORITY

**On-duty, as a burn team member:** NRCS employees, while on-duty, are allowed to directly engage in prescribed burns to maintain and advance their Job Approval Authority. On-duty planners may take part in prescribed burns conducted by Federal and State agencies, or recognized non-governmental organizations, that are supervised by a certified Burn Boss. While working on a burn team, planners may not serve as a Burn Boss (in charge of the burn) or conduct ignition activities (actively lighting fire). Planners must seek advanced approval from their supervisor before participating in prescribed burns as part of their duties.

• **On-duty, as an observer:** NRCS employees, while on-duty, are allowed to observe live-fire prescribed burns as part of a training or while providing technical assistance to a producer in the certification of conservation practices.

• **Off-duty:** Employees may use off-duty activities to meet JAA requirements. Employees have greater flexibility in this regard and may elect to observe or directly engage in prescribed burn activities as a volunteer or otherwise. Experiences gained from off-duty prescribed fire activities may be counted towards Job Approval Authority.



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# Wildlife Subcommittee Discussions

## National Changes Combining CPS 644-645 and Reduction of Redundancy in Wildlife CPS Scenarios

Natural Resources Conservation Service  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD  
WILDLIFE HABITAT MANAGEMENT  
CODE 645  
(ac)

**DEFINITION**  
Manipulating existing habitat by implementing actions to benefit target non-domesticated and non-feral vertebrate or invertebrate animal species.

**PURPOSE**  
This practice is used to maintain or improve existing habitat by reducing or eliminating threats, addressing identified habitat deficiencies (e.g. – food, cover, shelter, etc.) or improving connectivity of available habitat for the target wildlife species or guild by:

- Manipulating the vegetation to alter plant species diversity, composition, structural diversity, etc.
- Annual planting to provide food or cover.
- Altering the timing or manner of planting and harvesting of crops.
- Altering the timing or manner of management and maintenance of existing agricultural systems.



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# Wildlife Subcommittee Discussions

644 - Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management	645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management	647 - Early Successional Habitat Development	643 - Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats	649 - Structures for Wildlife
Artificial structure - Nesting Island	Change in operational timing - Foregone	Brush management	Beaver dam analogue	Anti-mortality structure - carnivore deterrent
Artificial structure - Turtle	Change in operational timing - Disking	Deep tillage	Beetle bank (creation and seed)	Anti-mortality structure - carnivore deterrent (New for)
Disking	Change in operational timing - Mowing	Disking	Brush management	Anti-mortality structure for wildlife
Monitoring	Disking	Disking + mowing	Brush management (forest thinning)	Anti-mortality structure - fence wire replacement
Planting - Annual	Fence management	Edge feathering	Grazing	Artificial structure - Bat
Shallow water habitat creation	Fence management - Carnivore Deterrent	Fertilizing	Low tech stream restoration	Artificial structure - Bird
Topographic feature creation	Fence management - Carnivore Deterrent	Forest thinning	Monitoring	Artificial structure - Bird/bat/pollinator
Water management	Forest thinning	Mowing	Oyster restoration	Artificial structure - Bird/turtle
	Hinge cutting	Patch clearcut	Planting - perennial	Artificial structure - Fish
	Large log placement	Spraying	Shallow water habitat creation (excavation)	Artificial structure - Nesting Island
	Monitoring		Topographic feature creation	Artificial structure - Snake
	Patch clearcut		Ditch Fill	Artificial structure - Turtle
	Planting - Annual			Beaver dam analogue
	Planting - Perennial			Brush pile
	Shallow water habitat creation (excavation construction)			Brush pile (with rocks)
	Snag creation			Edge feathering
	Topographic feature creation			Hinge cutting
				Large log placement
				Multiple types of structures applied per acre (boxes, logs, etc.)
				Rock pile
				Snag creation
The background colors indicate where existing categories of scenarios would be realigned to.				
645 - Wildlife Habitat Management (644+645 combined)				
647 - Early Successional Habitat Development				
643 - Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats				
649 - Structures for Wildlife				



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# Wildlife Subcommittee Discussions

## Practice Scenario Payment Schedules

Changes to 420 Plug Planting Scenario to Better Match Actual Costs.

Increase Payments for Prescribed Burning Scenarios to Match Actual Costs.



# Wildlife Subcommittee Discussions

**PF/NRCS Area biologist Introductions**

**Wildlife CPS JAA reviews/edits – May 1<sup>st</sup> Completion Date**

**Ongoing wildlife IR revisions**

**Discussion with Partners on Future Areas of Focus.**



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