CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E338137Z2

Short-interval burn

Conservation Practice 338: Prescribed Burning

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 year

Enhancement Description

Increase the frequency of prescribed burning to help restore ecological conditions in forests and woodlands. Several years of intense burning in certain forest and woodland conditions can regenerate desirable tree species, improve the condition of fire-adapted plants and native herbaceous vegetation, create wildlife habitat (snags and den/cavity trees), limit encroachment of competing vegetation including non-native species, and reduce the future risk of damage from intense, severe wildfires.

Criteria

• States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Burning (Code 338) as listed below, and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.

• Apply to sites where prescribed burning has previously been implemented at longer intervals (10-20 years), and where burn frequency must be increased to achieve the objectives listed in the enhancement description.

• The prescribed burning frequency will be reduced from the previous regimen to an interval of no more than 3 years between burns.

• Assess the existing fuel load using appropriate tools and methods for the geographic area.
• Assess the need for pre-treatment of vegetation and fuels, and for application of complementary NRCS Conservation Practice Standards such as Fuel Break (Code 383), Firebreak (Code 394), and Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384).

• If invasive plants are present, use methods and timing that will prevent or control their spread.

• A written plan must be developed and all necessary approvals secured prior to conducting a prescribed burn. The plan will include the following components at a minimum:
  o The objectives of the burn and the expected post-burn conditions.
  o Maps, images and/or descriptions of the proposed burn area and any associated or adjacent smoke sensitive areas.
  o Inventory of available fuels.
  o Required weather and fuel conditions under which the burn will be conducted.
  o Firing sequence and methods.
  o List of equipment and personnel needed and job assignments.
  o Any pre-burn preparation needed to safely and effectively conduct the burn
  o List of appropriate authorities, agencies, departments, individuals, and facilities to be contacted and necessary signatures of approval.
  o Checklist for a post-burn evaluation.

• **Burning criteria:**
  o Follow all components of the burn plan.
  o A current fire weather forecast is required prior to conducting a prescribed burn. Collect weather parameters and other data that affect fire behavior for the day of the burn and monitor the appropriate weather parameters during the burn. Weather conditions outside those prescribed in the written plan will result in postponement or cessation of the burn.
Documentation and Implementation Requirements:

Participant will:

☐ Prior to implementation, determine and document the sites with at least 1 application of prescribed burning with intervals of greater than 3 years (commonly 10-20 years), and where burn frequency must be increased to achieve the objectives listed in the enhancement description. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed)

☐ Prior to implementation, assess the existing fuel load using appropriate tools and methods for the geographic area. Determine the need for pre-treatment of the vegetation and fuels to facilitate a desired fire intensity to achieve the enhancement objectives. Apply as needed, complimentary conservation practices such as NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Fuelbreak (Code 383), Firebreak (Code 394) and Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384) to achieve appropriate conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed)

☐ Prior to implementation, acquire a written burn plan for the enrolled land use acres that meets the enhancement criteria and any additional state NRCS requirements. Provide to NRCS for approval.

☐ Prior to implementation of a prescribed burn, acquire all necessary approvals and permits (local, state, federal as applicable).

☐ During implementation, and prior to ignition of each prescribed burn, acquire a current fire weather forecast and ensure all weather conditions are within those prescribed in the written burn plan. If conditions are not within prescription, postpone burn.

☐ During implementation, and prior to ignition of any prescribed burn, notify NRCS to confirm NRCS verification for any planned changes will meet NRCS or State required enhancement criteria.

☐ During implementation, install and maintain erosion control measures as needed for the site. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

☐ After implementation of each prescribed burn, conduct a post-burn evaluation as required within the burn plan and provide to NRCS.

NRCS will:

☐ Prior to Implementation and as needed, provide technical assistance in determining sites for enhancement implementation that meet specified criteria.
Prior to implementation and as needed, provide explanation and technical assistance to the following NRCS Conservation Practice Standards as they relate to implementing this enhancement:

- Prescribed Burning (Code 338)
- Fuelbreak (Code 383)
- Firebreak (Code 394)
- Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384)
- CPS’s for planning the use of additional erosion control, as needed for the site.

Prior to implementation, review and certify the prescribed burn plan meets the enhancement criteria and any additional state NRCS requirements.

During Implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.

After implementation of each prescribed burn, review the post burn evaluation provided by the participant. Discuss any encountered issues, and as needed, provide assistance for changes in planning and procedure for the remaining prescribed burns.

NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____________________________ Contract Number _________________________

Total Amount Applied __________________________ Fiscal Year Completed _________________

______________________________  _________________________
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature     Date