

Conservation Practice Standard Overview

Prescribed Burning (338)

Prescribed burning is applying controlled fire to a predetermined area of land.

Practice Information

This practice can be applied for the following purposes:

- control undesirable vegetation
- prepare sites for planting or seeding
- enhance seed/seedling production
- control plant diseases
- remove slash and debris following forest management activities
- reduce wildfire hazards
- improve forage quantity and quality
- facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals
- improve wildlife habitat

Application of this highly specialized practice requires intensive training and sufficient support personnel and equipment. A safe, successful burn must be timed for proper humidity, wind conditions, air temperature, and fuel conditions (ignitable vegetation). Safety precautions are planned before the burn and monitored during the burn.

All burn plans must address the following:

- location and description of the burn area
- resource management objectives
- preburn vegetation cover
- preburn preparation



- required weather conditions
- equipment checklist
- personnel needs and assignments
- safety requirements
- firing sequence and ignition method
- notification checklist
- approval signatures
- postburn evaluation criteria

Common Associated Practices

Prescribed Burning (338) is commonly applied with practices such as Forest Stand Improvement (666), Forest Trails and Landings (655), Range Planting (550), Forage and Biomass Planting (512), Integrated Pest Management (595), and other associated harvesting, planting, and seeding practices.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.