

PART 413 – PRESCRIBED BURNING

SUBPART C – RESPONSIBILITIES

413.20 National Headquarters

- A. The Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, under the direction of the Chief, is responsible to—
- (1) Provide national leadership for policy and procedures for assisting clients on prescribed burning.
 - (2) Approve prescribed burn policy.
 - (3) Designate the NRCS fire ecologist.
- B. The regional conservationists are responsible to—
- (1) Ensure that States and equivalent within their region are following the prescribed burn policy.
 - (2) Conduct a biannual review of States and equivalent of the prescribed burn certification and job approval authorities (JAAs) for States that include the Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Prescribed Burning (Code 338) in the Field Office Technical Guide.
- C. The director of the Ecological Sciences Division is responsible to—
- (1) Ensure the development, implementation, and evaluation of policy and procedures on assisting clients and operators on prescribed burning.
 - (2) Ensure the CPS Prescribed Burning (Code 338) is maintained within national laws, regulations, and Executive orders.
- D. The national range and grazing lands ecologist of the Ecological Sciences Division is responsible to—
- (1) Recommend to the director of Ecological Sciences Division development, implementation, evaluation, and revisions of prescribed burn policy on an as-needed basis.
 - (2) Develop procedures and assist NRCS employees on clarification of prescribed burning policy.
 - (3) Ensure CPS Prescribed Burning (Code 338) is current and technically accurate.
- E. The designated NRCS fire ecologist is responsible to—
- (1) Ensure that prescribed burn policy and procedures are current and technically accurate.
 - (2) Ensure that necessary prescribed burn guidance and exhibits are contained in Title 190, National Range and Pasture Handbook (190-NRPH), and Title 190, National Plant Materials Manual.
 - (3) Provide assistance, training materials, and training regarding prescribed burning at the national and regional level.

413.21 National Technology Support Centers

Directors of national technology support centers are responsible to—

- (1) Provide assistance to the service area in development of prescribed burn certification and prescribed burn JAA where CPS Prescribed Burning (Code 338) is included in the Field Office Technical Guide.
- (2) Assist the service area in identification, development, and delivery of prescribed burn training.
- (3) Ensure that staff assigned to support the service area on prescribed burn training acquires adequate level of expertise to accomplish the mission.

413.22 States and Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas

The State conservationists and directors of the Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas are responsible to—

- (1) Ensure that employees operate within national, Federal, State, Tribal, and local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures for prescribed burning.
- (2) Provide adequate training and equipment for employees involved in prescribed burning activities.
- (3) Develop prescribed burn JAA criteria and ensure that employees act within their assigned levels of authority.
- (4) Identify and approve partners and others qualified to provide prescribed burn plan development, application, and training.
- (5) Determine the amount and kind of training necessary for each level of JAA.
- (6) Ensure that prescribed burn job approval criteria are reviewed and concurred with, in advance, by the appropriate technical specialist.
- (7) Develop a system of certification for documenting continuing education and training to achieve and maintain proficiency and prescribed burn JAA.
- (8) Ensure that only qualified NRCS employees are used for reviews and spot checks of prescribed burning activities, or, develop a system for reviews by approved partners and others of prescribed burning activities including prescribed burn plan development.
- (9) Develop a system to approve all prescribed burning training activities in the States and Caribbean and Pacific Islands Areas.
- (10) Work with districts, State agencies, other Federal agencies, universities, cooperative extension, consultants, nongovernmental organizations, and other partners to promote prescribed burning as a safe and effective management tool for multiple land uses and purposes in the State.

413.23 Field Offices (or equivalent)

The field office (or equivalent) technical leader (e.g., area conservationist, district conservationist, team leader, and group leader, or equivalent) is responsible for providing local leadership in implementing prescribed burning policy and procedures in accordance with JAA and certification. The NRCS employee responsible for doing the initial check or spot check of the completed prescribed burn conservation practice needs to be satisfied that the work is complete (see Title 450, General Manual, Subpart B, Section 407.11, “Certifying Completed Work”). If JAA is insufficient to support a knowledge-based level of satisfaction, the employee should request personnel with experience and higher level of job authority to review the applied practice. These personnel may be from an adjoining State or a national technology support center. The employee may also request training to reach a level of knowledge, experience, and JAA to be satisfied with the prescribed burning activities and practice documentation.

413.24 Plant Materials Centers

The Plant Materials Center (PMC) technical leader or manager is responsible for providing leadership in implementing prescribed burning policy and procedures at PMCs, in accordance with JAA and certification.