

307.37 Northern Bobwhite Pilot Project

Name and Acronym: Northern Bobwhite Pilot Project (NBPP)

Initiative Description

The NBPP is part of Working Lands for Wildlife. Under the NBPP, NRCS helps landowners and managers conserve, restore, and enhance working lands by managing for early successional habitat. Priorities for the effort are:

- Establishing field borders and buffer strips.
- Integrating native plants into conservation cover and pasture plantings.
- Thinning mature forests through brush management and prescribed fire to invigorate understory vegetation.

Program Contact Information

For questions specific to NBPP, please contact the East WLFW coordinator or the branch chief of the Areawide Planning Branch. For general programmatic questions, please contact the branch chief of the Financial Assistance Program Division Programs Branch.

Participating States

Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

State conservationists (STC) will allocate NBPP funds only within priority areas identified through the [Northern Bobwhite, Grasslands, and Savannas Framework for Conservation Action](#).

Eligible Conservation Practices

The STC will make available through NBPP the conservation practices listed below, depending on the state's needs and consistent with the Framework for Conservation Action.

Practice Code	Practice Name
112	Prescribed Burning Plan - Written
113	Prescribed Burning Plan - Applied
114	Integrated Pest Management Plan - Written
115	Integrated Pest Management Plan - Applied
146	Pollinator Habitat Plan - Written
147	Pollinator Habitat Plan - Applied
314	Brush Management
315	Herbaceous Weed Treatment
327	Conservation Cover

Practice Code	Practice Name
328	Conservation Crop Rotation
329	Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till
338	Prescribed Burning
340	Cover Crop
345	Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till
382	Fence
384	Woody Residue Treatment
390	Riparian Herbaceous Cover
391	Riparian Forest Buffer
393	Filter Strip
394	Firebreak
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting
422	Hedgerow Planting
484	Mulching
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
512	Pasture and Hay Planting
516	Livestock Pipeline
528	Prescribed Grazing
533	Pumping Plant
543	Land Reclamation, Abandoned Mined Land
544	Land Reclamation, Currently Mined Land
550	Range Planting
560	Access Road
561	Heavy Use Area Protection
603	Herbaceous Wind Barriers
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment
614	Watering Facility
642	Water Well
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
647	Early Successional Habitat Development/Management
649	Structures for Wildlife
650	Windbreak/Shelterbelt Renovation

Practice Code	Practice Name
655	Forest Trails and Landings
666	Forest Stand Improvement

Business Tool Requirements

This guidance establishes action items to be completed by STCs to support NBPP.

1. **ProTracts Guidance:**

STCs must establish subaccounts in ProTracts and corresponding ranking pools in the Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART). STCs must select the “WLFW Northern bobwhite” account type in ProTracts.

2. **CART Ranking Guidance:**

States must use the NBPP national ranking template and guidance (available in [440 NI 310](#)) to develop the ranking pools for NBPP. The national templates provide the approved land uses and primary resource concerns. The default weightings for each resource concern category and subcategory on the template reflect the relative priority of the concerns. To prioritize state-specific primary natural resource concerns, states may adjust the weightings as needed within the ranges identified on the NBPP national ranking template. The national ranking guidance provides the applicability and ranking questions.

3. **Funding and Allocation Guidance:**

Funds for NBPP projects may not be used for general program funding. In the event a state cannot use its NBPP-dedicated funding, funds must be returned to national headquarters with the appropriate amount of technical assistance funds.