

(338) Prescribed Burning and (394) Firebreak

FY 2017 Environmental Quality Incentive Program Requirement Sheet

For wildlife, a site- and species-specific wildlife habitat management plan is preferred for all EQIP applications. If no such plan has been approved by the NRCS area biologist or NRCS partner biologist, the conservation planners must follow this requirement sheet to address limiting habitat factors identified in the TN NRCS Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG).

Eligible lands: Private agricultural land, nonindustrial pine forestland, and hardwood forestland.

The goal of the prescribed burn will dictate the timing of the burn. Fall (growing season) burns are recommended for control of invading woody vegetation and to increase forb cover. Burning in late February to early April may top-kill woody vegetation but resprouting likely will occur. Burning at this time may stimulate native grass growth.

WARNING: Burning INCORRECTLY OR OUT OF PRESCRIPTION will almost certainly prevent objective accomplishment and may even damage non-target areas (e.g. timber, structures, etc.).

EQIP Prescribed Burning and Firebreak Practice Requirements:

Prescribed burns may be applied from August 15-April 14.

1. Burn no more than half of the acres consisting of NWSG, forestland, or natural herbaceous vegetation in one year.
2. Implement prescribed burns according to the Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF) guidelines and follow NRCS National and State prescribed burning policies. Landowners shall obtain a burning permit from TDF, as required (currently from October 15th to May 15th), and must follow all other applicable federal, state or local restrictions.
3. Landowners are responsible for obtaining a qualified burn team to implement an NRCS-approved prescribed burn plan.
4. Green firebreaks (FOTG standard code 394) must have a minimum width of 10 feet, not to exceed a maximum of 50 feet.
5. Mowing to reduce old growth of green firebreaks is permissible.
6. Haying of perennial green firebreaks is allowed outside of the nesting season of April 15-August 15 only prior to the scheduled burn.
7. For Prescribed Fire, Certified Conservation Planners must complete the December 2013 338 TN Implementation Requirements sheet in eFOTG.

Follow FY 2017 Approved Seeding Mixtures document for species selection, rates, and mixtures. NRCS area biologist or NRCS partner biologist may approve alternative species, rates, and mixtures.