

PRESCRIBED BURNING

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service—Practice Code 338



PRESCRIBED BURNING

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

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to all land uses for the following purposes:

- Control undesirable vegetation
- Prepare sites for planting or seeding
- Control plant diseases
- Reduce wildfire hazards
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Improve forage quantity and quality
- Slash and debris removal following forest management activities
- Enhance seed/seedling production
- Facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals

This is a highly specialized practice that 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 carefully planned before the burn and monitored during the burn. Existing barriers, such as streams, lakes, roads, wetlands, and constructed firebreaks, are important considerations in planning the practice.

COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES

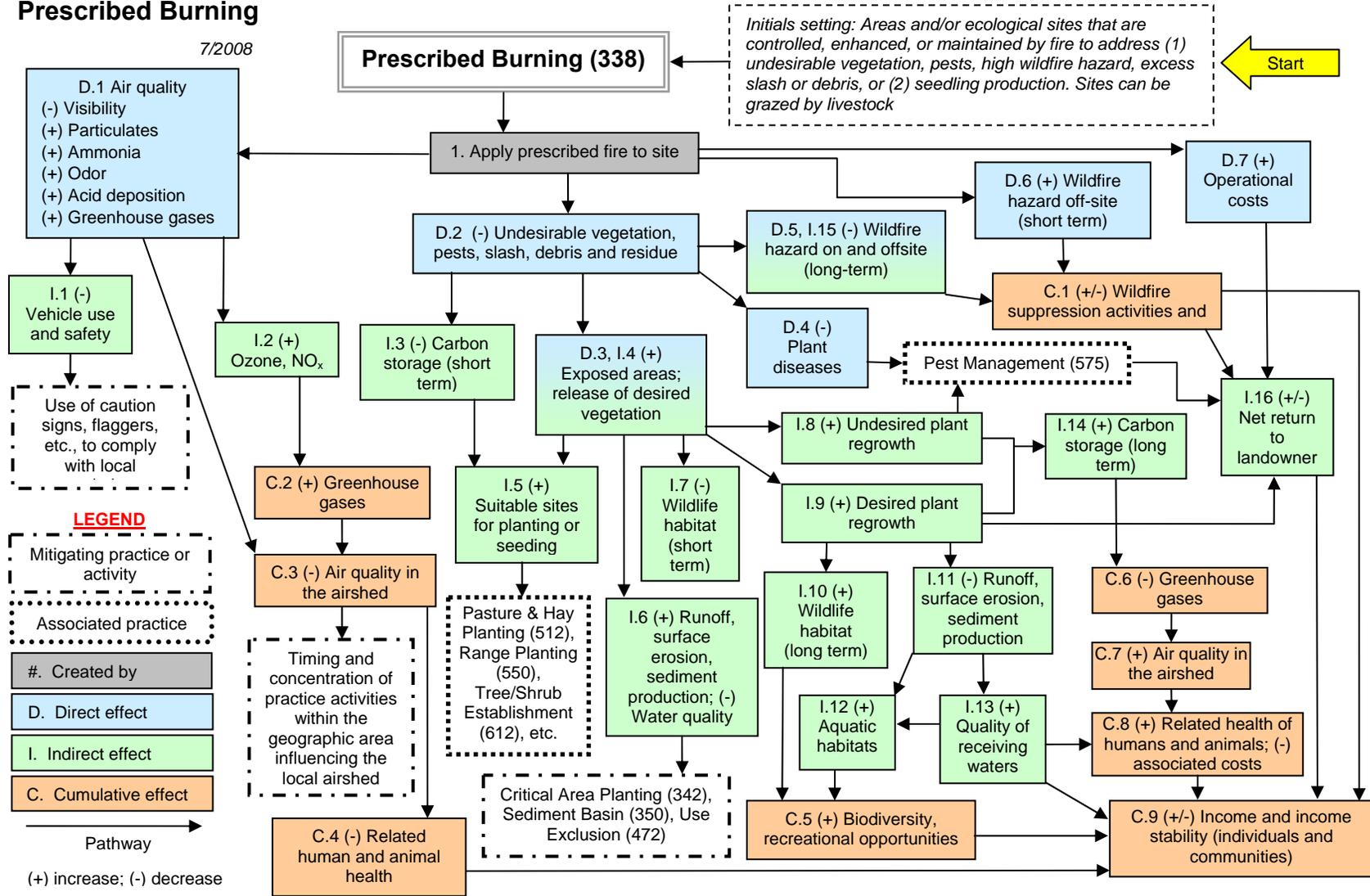
Prescribed Burning is commonly used in a Conservation Management System with practices such as Forest Stand Improvement (666), Forest Trails and Landings (655), Pest Management (595), and other associated harvesting, planting, and seeding practices and activities.

For more information, refer to the practice standard in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide and associated specifications and design criteria.

The following page identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.

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Note: Effects are qualified with a plus (+) or minus (-). These symbols indicate only an increase (+) or a decrease (-) in the effect upon the resource, not whether the effect is beneficial or adverse.

The diagram above identifies the effects expected to occur when this practice is applied according to NRCS practice standards and specifications. These effects are subjective and somewhat dependent on variables such as climate, terrain, soil, etc. All appropriate local, State, Tribal, and Federal permits and approvals are the responsibility of the landowners and are presumed to have been obtained. All income changes are partially dependent upon market fluctuations which are independent of the conservation practices. Users are cautioned that these effects are estimates that may or may not apply to a specific site.