A logo of a duck

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Private Lands Leadership Academy 2025

TRAINING PROGRAM Preparatory Assignment

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 │ Virtual

**MODULE 2: Building the Conservation Delivery Toolbox**

1. Access NRCS Resources
   1. In the document titled, “PLLA NRCS Practice Overview Assignment,” Study your assigned Conservation Practice Overview and be prepared to explain it to the other participants at the beginning of Module 2. **While reviewing these practices, think about how these can fit into resource concerns you identify on someone’s property, and how you can converse with a landowner to achieve his or her objectives while treating these resource concerns.**
   2. Access the NRCS [Field Office Technical Guide](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/AR/documents/section=1&folder=441) (FOTG)
      1. Find your assigned Conservation Practice and Supporting Documents in Section 4, “Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents.” Review the included documents to understand how they inform your application of this practice in management planning.
   3. Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guides: NRCS Field Office Planners use the WHEG to determine existing site conditions for wildlife habitat based on land use. As conservation professionals, you can use the WHEG’s as an assessment tool during property visits.
      1. Select a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (*found in Section 4, Ecological Sciences Tools in the FOTG*) for a representative habitat for your area. **List the main habitat components that are assessed in your chosen WHEG.** *Hint:* The main habitat components are listed as headings for each section.
   4. Conservation Practice Physical Effects (CPPE)
      1. Using the Conservation Practice Tool tab in the CPPE Tool spreadsheet, select your assigned practice from the dropdown list at the top of the sheet. What is the rationale for the strongest positive effect? Strongest negative effect?
         1. CPPE can be found in Section 5 of the FOTG and in the Module 2 Resources Folder.
2. Access State Program Resources
   1. DMAP & Deer Management Guide
      1. Read the -*White-tailed Deer Data Executive Summary* (pp. 10-12) of the AGFC [White-Tailed Deer Strategic Management Plan](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SXIPHVXC6y4wQ80W62U5Vo4_XnvDOesJ/view)
   2. AR Prescribed Burn Associations
      1. Using the PBA Map of Arkansas, determine whether any of the counties you serve has a PBA and note the PBA name and point of contact.
3. Application: Ecoregions
   1. Using the PDF poster, select a Level IV Ecoregion that is found in your area and answer the following questions:
      1. What are the soil and geological characteristics of your ecoregion?
      2. Describe the predominant plant community in your ecoregion. How might that inform your management recommendations?
      3. What is a cultural resource or connection to your ecoregion?

https://enviroatlas.epa.gov/enviroatlas/interactivemap/

1. Academy Buddies
   1. Connect with your buddy at least once before the next meeting.