NRCS Practice Overview

Instructions

Using the resources shared in the preparatory assignment, work in groups to create an informational “poster” about your assigned practice. At the end of the activity, a spokesperson for each practice will present their slide to the whole group.

Practice 394: Firebreak (Rebekah Antoun & Brandon Grady)

What is a firebreak?

It's about creating a strip of land, either bare dirt or with fire-resistant plants, to stop wildfires or help with controlled burns.

- If planted - The vegetation in the firebreak should be fire-resistant and noninvasive.
  - Bare soil (10 -15')
  - Vegetated (30 - 50')
- Be mindful of location of firebreaks (slopes, ridges, parallel to boundaries/forests/roads).
- Consider erosion: water bar and wing ditch placement depends on slope gradient refer to BMP.
  *water bar - berm of dirt used to collect and divert runoff water from a firebreak to minimize erosion
- Bare soil firebreaks need to be free of fuels and dead trees.
- Vegetated breaks need to be green during spring and fall fire seasons.
- Inspect firebreaks at least annually and rework bare ground firebreaks as necessary to keep them clear of flammable vegetation.
- Use existing natural firebreaks (roads, rivers, rock outcropping, etc)

Practice 338: Prescribed Burning (Rachel Bittner & Ashley Spencer)

Prescribed Burning - applying controlled fire to a predetermined area of land to meet landowner objectives for the property

Ex. pro: Wildlife hazard from biomass accumulation- activities reduce fuel load

Ex. con: Objectionable odor- increased smoke, particulates, and odors

You must follow a burn plan for this practice.

Resource Concerns - Degraded plant condition, fire management, pest pressure, livestock production limitations, terrestrial habitat

Practice 666: Forest Stand Improvement (Joshua Melton & Anna Grace White)

- Practice 666 is a Forest Stand Improvement Practice. It is a means to remove trees from a forested area to allow for canopy reduction, species composition correction, enhance sunlight for new growth and, Commercial harvest.
- There are 8 ways to implement 666. (Single stem- hand tools (1), Single stem- chemical (2), Chemical- ground-light equipment (3), Chemical-ground-heavy equipment (4), Chemical-aerial (5), Mechanical-light equipment (6), Mechanical-medium equipment (7), Mechanical-heavy equipment (8).
- Conservation benefits may include but are not limited to: improved timber crop production, improved plant health and vigor, reduced wildfire hazard, improved quantity and quality of forage, and improved wildlife habitat

Practice 646: Shallow Water Development and Management (Noah Davis & Shelby Garriott)

Purposeful and responsible flooding (inundation) to provide habitat for fish, waterfowl, and other aquatic or semi-aquatic wildlife.

Practice applies where water can be impounded or regulated by diking, excavating, ditching, or flooding

Considerations: water volume, rates of runoff, infiltration, evaporation, and transpiration, crop type.

Positive Effect: Increased Terrestrial Habitat for Wildlife and Invertebrates. Breeding grounds, feeding grounds

Negative Effect: Pathogens and Chemicals from Manure, Bio-Solids, or Compost Applications Transported to Groundwater. Sediment, microbe trapping.

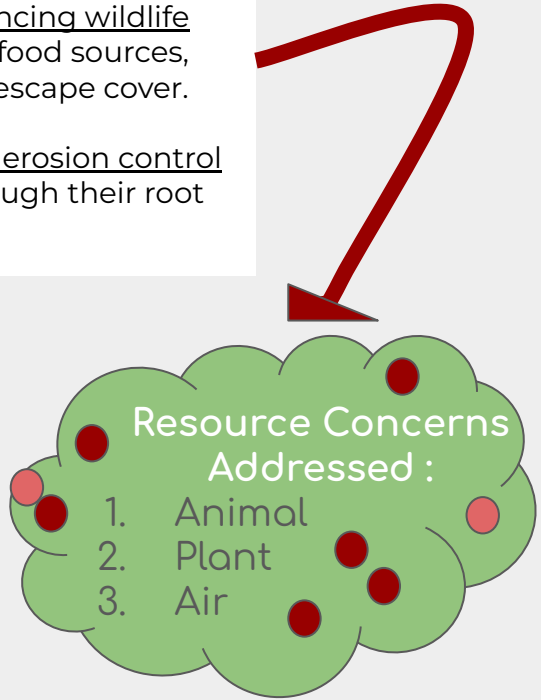
Practice 490: Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Stephanie Clingenpeel & Lauren Johnson)

- Use before planting tree/shrub
- Improves survival since you reduce competing vegetation (get to bare soil)
- Can use mechanical, chemical, or burning to get to the proper prep
  - Chopping
  - Disking
  - Mowing …
- Site prep will allow for adequate root depth and growth which will aid in erosion control as well as water quality
- Reduces fire hazard
- Considerations
  - Soil limitations, requirements of planted species, type and density of undesirables, terrain, acres, regeneration technique, and economic limitations

612: Tree/Shrub Establishment

Tree/shrub establishment is the planting trees or shrubs for the purpose of enhancing wildlife habitat through supplemental food sources, nesting/brooding habitat, and escape cover.

Shrubs or Trees can also serve as erosion control by anchoring in the ground through their root systems.



Positive effects

- Erosion
- Soil Organism Habitat Degradation
- Aggregate instability
- Terrestrial Habitat
- Plant Productivity and Health
- Carbon Sequestration

Negative effects = **NONE!**

CONSIDERATION: FLOOD TOLERANT/ FIRE TOLERANT & SHADE OR SUN

Practice 644: Wetland Habitat Management (Bailey Coffelt & Jason Hooks)

Create or improve habitat for waterfowl, furbearers, or other wildlife

Applied in wetlands or adjacent to wetlands, rivers, bayous

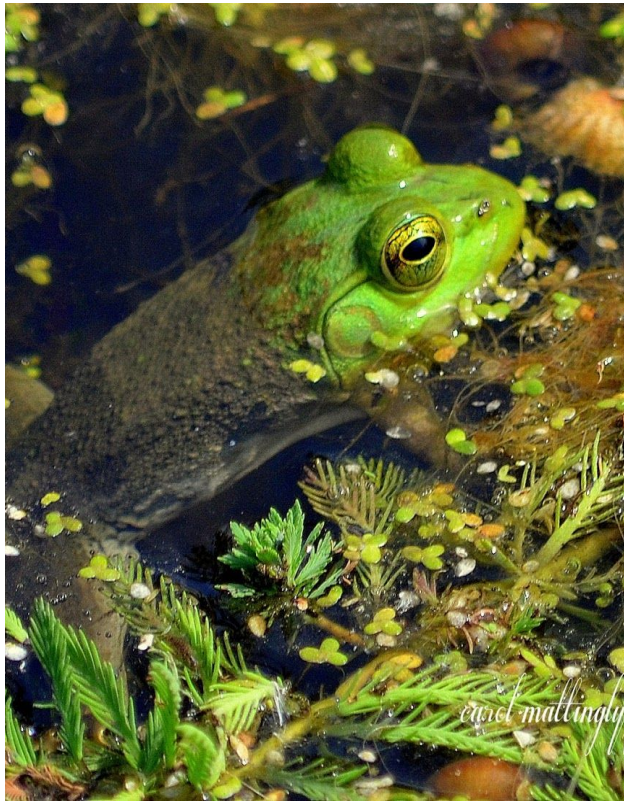
Seasonal Water depths for wildlife needs

Plant species required for food and cover by target species

Vegetation management

Strongest negative effect - odors - slightly worsening

Strongest positive effect - Plant structure and composition - moderate to substantial



Practice 420: Wildlife Habitat Planting (Caleb Miller & Cody Martin)

- Establishing herbaceous or herbaceous and shrubby wildlife habitat by planting of seeds or plants can provide essential wildlife food and cover. These plantings are particularly valuable when converting cropland or pastureland to dedicated wildlife habitat.
- This practice is used to convert existing poor quality habitat to high quality habitat.
- Design wildlife plantings with respect to season of use, life history, home range, condition of adjacent habitats, and landscape context.
- The practice lifespan is 5 years, with a target plant community dominated by species that will persist for the life of the practice.