

# Conservation Practice Adoption Motivations, 2023

Forestry and Grazing Practices

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), in cooperation with the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), conducted the Conservation Practice Adoption Motivations Survey (CPAMS) to ascertain farmers' and ranchers' conservation practices adoption behaviors and adoption motivations on cropland, grazing land, forest land and concentrated livestock feeding operations.

The survey included two phases. The survey's first phase, which was conducted in 2021 and released in 2022, included cropland and confined livestock. The second phase, conducted in 2023, included forest land on farms and farm and ranch grazing land and rangeland.

## Forestry Conservation Practices

Of the respondents who reported using specific conservation practices on their forest land, the most widely used forest land conservation practices were wildlife habitat management (85.6%) and forest stand improvement and related practices (56.6%). (Fig. 1)

Of the forest land acres using forestry conservation practices, 88.2% were used for wildlife habitat management, while 70.4% were used for forest stand improvement and related practices. (Fig. 2)

The top motivations in the decision to utilize forestry conservation practices were addressing conservation needs and the practices being used successfully by other woodland owners.

Fig. 1. Forestry Conservation Practice (% of survey respondents utilizing)

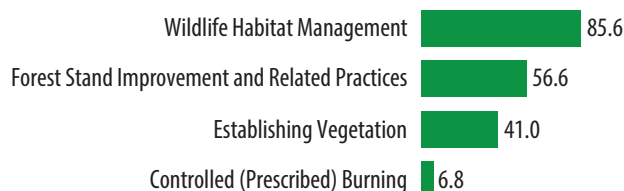
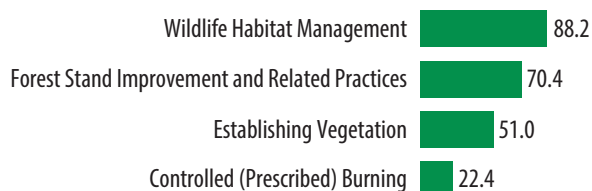


Fig. 2 Forestry Conservation Practice (% of total forest land acres used for conservation practices)



## Top Forestry Conservation Practices

**Wildlife habitat management** practices include providing and maintaining habitats to enable wildlife movement and/or provide food and cover for wildlife.

**Forest stand improvement** includes cutting or killing selected trees in the overstory to achieve desired forest conditions. Brush management includes cutting or killing shrubs or other understory vegetation. Woody residue treatment includes practices to manage and/or remove dead or cut down branches, treetops, or slash remaining after forest management activities or natural disturbance.

## Grazing Conservation Practices

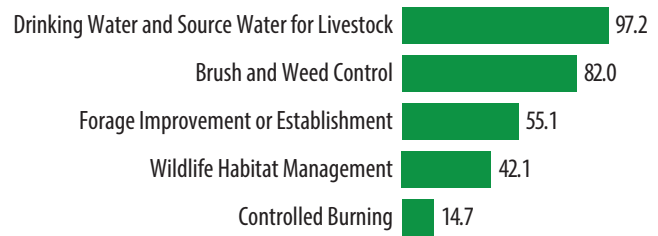
Of the respondents who reported using specific conservation practices on grazing land, the two most widely used grazing conservation practices were drinking water and source water for livestock (97.2%) and brush and weed control (82.0%). (Fig. 3)

The top two objectives in deciding to use a conservation practice on grazing land were improving forage production or forage quality (71.7%) and enhancing soil health or soil quality (68.4%). (Fig. 4)

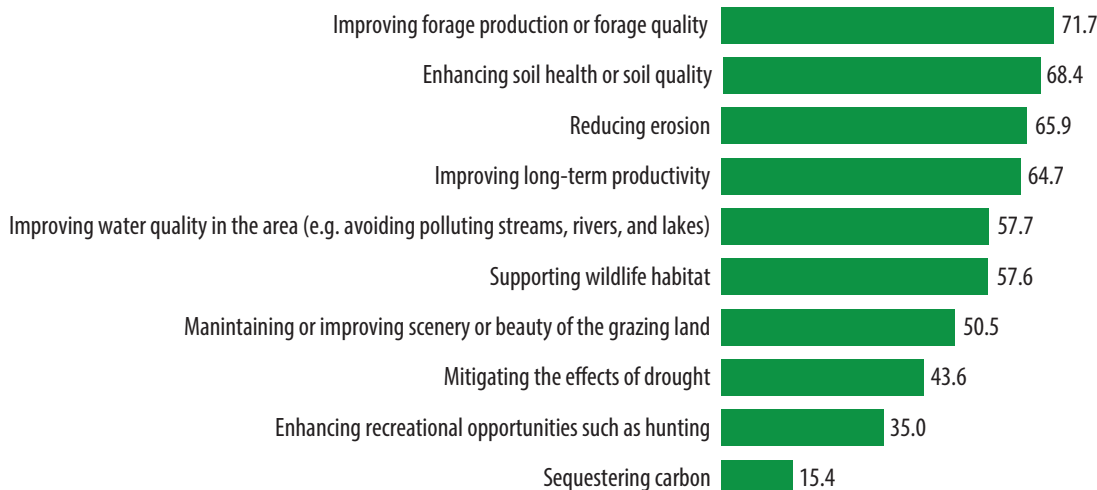
The top motivations in the decision to utilize drinking water and source water for livestock were to build, rebuild, and improve livestock water quality and to build, rebuild, and improve long-term productivity.

Forage production or quality improvement and preservation of long-term productivity were the top motivations for using brush and weed control.

**Fig. 3 Grazing Conservation Practice** (% of survey respondents utilizing)



**Fig. 4 Objectives for Using Conservation Practice, Grazing** (% of survey respondents utilizing)



*Among respondents who reported using grazing conservation practices, 97.2% used drinking water and source water for livestock. The top objective for using this practice was improving forage production or forage quality.*

## About the Survey

In 2023, approximately 43,000 producers across the nation received a survey for either the forestry or grazing version of CPAMS. Data collection was conducted from June through September 2024.

CPAMS is a joint project between NASS and NRCS aimed at better understanding conservation practice adoption and the role of technical and financial assistance. CPAMS collected data on conservation practices in the United States. The resulting state and regional level data will be used by NRCS to help improve promotion of conservation practices and education of customers. The response rates for the forestry and grazing versions were 25.7% and 34.2%, respectively.