ATTACHMENT TO 338 PRESCRIBED BURNING JOB SHEET

EQIP 338-Prescribed Burning PRACTICE GUIDELINES

EQIP FY 2009 Scenarios:

Prescribed burn (<=20ac.) & Prescribed burn (>20ac.) – *use for all practice purposes EXCEPT preparing a site for tree planting or seeding*

Tree/shrub site preparation burn – *use ONLY for the purpose of preparing a site for tree planting or seeding*

Practice Life: 1-3 years depending on purpose (1 for site prep, 2 for wildlife, 3 for forest health/productivity)

Participant: _____

EQIP Contract Number: _____

Purposes of Cost Share Practice

- Control undesirable vegetation
- Prepare sites for harvesting, planting or seeding
- Control plant disease
- Reduce wildfire hazards
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Improve plant production quantity and/or quality
- Remove slash and debris
- Enhance seed and seedling production
- Facilitate distribution of grazing and browsing animals
- Restore and maintain ecological sites

Conditions for Practice Eligibility

- The landowner must participate in the EQIP application and contract; and, must meet all EQIP requirements including private nonindustrial forestland owner criteria. Other participants are subject to EQIP eligibility requirements.
- Practice must be determined recommended, needed and feasible by an appropriate professional. For forest health, productivity or site preparation, a forest management, stewardship or practice plan approved by a registered forester is required. A wildlife management plan or other approval by an authorized wildlife biologist* is acceptable for wildlife management and productivity.

  * authorized biologists include – NRCS, NC Wildlife Resources Commission, US Fish and Wildlife and Wildlife Society Certified biologists

Minimum Practice Requirements (EQIP payment rate includes all practice requirements)

- North Carolina Practice Standard for Prescribed Burning (338) will be used.
- A prescribed burning plan must be prepared by a certified prescribed burner or NC Division of Forest Resources (NCDFR) burn boss prior to beginning any burning.
- The type and intensity of burn must meet the intended practice purpose and consider plant species, size classes, stocking levels, available fuel, moisture conditions, and season of year in the burning prescription.
- Prescribed burns must comply with North Carolina smoke management and air quality guidelines.
- All necessary permits must be obtained prior to implementation of the practice.
- Burn must be conducted by a certified prescribed burner; NCDFR Burn Boss; or, by the land owner in accordance with NC Prescribed Burn law.
- Adequate firebreaks are required and must be documented in the conservation plan. Firebreaks are not part of prescribed burning and should be planned where needed and scheduled with all prescribed burns. Cost share assistance is available under EQIP for practice code 394-Firebreak.
- Practice must be part of a contract that obligates at least $1000.

Additional Conservation Planning Criteria:
Forest Stand Improvement (666) is required in the conservation plan where fire is applied for forest health, productivity or other silvicultural reason. Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) is required in the conservation plan where fire is applied for wildlife management and productivity. Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (490) is required in the conservation plan where fire is used to prepare a site for tree planting.

Considerations for Implementing Prescribed Burning

- For forest health and productivity, prescribed burning may recur a maximum or every three (3) years. For wildlife management and productivity, prescribed burning may recur a maximum or every two (2) years. The number of burns that occur in a contract is dependant on state program policy, which will favor shorter contracts. To achieve the desired results, prescribed burning is eligible to recur on the same land unit and may be applied for in future EQIP program years.
- Except for cases where the landowner is conducting a burn, prescribed burning is usually done by the trained/authorized burner that prepares the burn plan. The person conducting the burn must be able to certify that the burn was completed according to the prescribed burn plan.
- Having and actively following a forest management plan is required to maintain forestland use-value for property taxation in North Carolina. EQIP forest stand improvement practices should qualify as active management of forest land. Contact the local county tax office for details on present use value rules.
- Smaller burn blocks interspersed on the landscape can accommodate wildlife when burning is done during wildlife nesting seasons.
- Notify adjoining landowners, local fire departments and public safety officials as appropriate within the air shed prior to burning.
- Consider the location of utilities such as electric power lines and natural gas pipelines to prevent damage to the utility and avoid personal injury.

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EQIP Practice Eligibility Checklist

The participant CANNOT participate in EQIP for this practice if any of the eligibility certifications are marked 'no'. No EQIP application should be pre-approved in PROTRACTS; no EQIP contract prepared; no EQIP payment authorized!

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** Participant is a private non industrial forest land owner (PNIF) or landowner meets PNIF and is a party to the EQIP contract.

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** Prescribed burning is determined recommended, needed and feasible by an appropriate professional; and documented in an appropriately (see Minimum Practice Requirements above).

EQIP Practice Certification Checklist

Outcome/Result (applicable for each incidence of prescribed burning when burning recurs during a contract)

EQIP payment for this practice IS NOT AUTHORIZED if any of the certifications are marked 'no'.

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** A prescribed burn plan was prepared by an authorized individual in accordance with NC Prescribed Burn law, to meet intended conservation plan purposes prior to application of fire. A copy of the prescribed burn plan has been provided to NRCS and filed in the case file.

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** Prescribed burn was conducted according to the approved prescribed burn plan by an authorized individual in accordance with NC Prescribed Burn law.

Comments:

Certification

Prescribed Burning has been completed on _____ acres (nearest 0.1 acre) per these practice guidelines and NC NRCS 338-Prescribed Burning standard.

_____

Designated Conservationist Date