

EQIP 643-Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats PRACTICE GUIDELINES

EQIP FY 2009 Scenario:	Convert cutover	to Longleaf Pine	Community
 		to Longious i into	00111111011111

Practice Life: 15 years

Participant:	
EQIP Contract Number:	

Purposes of Cost Share Practice

- Restore specific forested land community/habitat degraded by human activity
- Increase native plant community diversity
- Management of unique or declining native habitats
- Provide habitat for rare and declining wildlife species by restoring and conserving native plant communities

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 scenario must be determined needed and feasible by a government agency wildlife biologist.
 Approval of restoration/management activities by a wildlife biologist is required. Tree establishment specifications will be prepared by a registered forester.

 CERTIFICATION by Applicant/Participant(S)
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I understand that this scenario involves ecological restoration; and that,

- ---during the life of this practice pine straw harvest is not allowed
- ---during the life of this practice forest product harvest and management activities MUST be recommended by a biologist to enhance restoration or further achieve the declining habitat community.
- ---all management activities MUST be approved by NRCS
- ---restored areas MUST be protected from destructive wildfire and domestic livestock grazing
- ---tree community restoration requires extensive management and a longer rotation cycle to approach native conditions

tree community restoration requires extensive management and a longer rotation cycle to approach native conditions	
Participant – Landowner Date	

- Site must be existing cutover forestland SUITED to longleaf pine (use FSA CRP longleaf soils list as a guide), and, capable of being prescribed burned. Planting other southern yellow pine is not allowed.
- There is expectation that the 'restored' community could have been native or capable of being supported on the site (related to above).
- This scenario cannot be used to replant a treatment area that is currently under EQIP contract for a
 643-Restoration scenario. In event of a planting/establishment failure, the 643 area under contract
 is eligible for reestablishment at existing EQIP payment rates for the most appropriate 490 Tree
 Shrub Site Preparation and 612 Tree/Shrub Establishment scenarios. A 643 payment rate is not
 authorized for replanting trees that failed to establish.

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

- Site preparation and tree planting plan to initiate restoration must be prepared by a registered forester. Tree planting/establishment rate must be <450 trees per acre unless >50% mortality is expected for the site.
- Operation and management for this scenario must include prescribed burning to manage competing vegetation and restore fire dependant early successional understory associated with longleaf pines; and, manage competing vegetation. 338-Prescribed Burning CAN be planned and scheduled once (1) during the contract life after longleaf seedlings are planted.
- The payment rate for this practice covers any and all site materials and labor for site preparation and establishing the specified trees for the treatment area. No payments under 490 and 612 are authorized, except in the case of a planting failure that is being replanted.
- Site preparation and tree planting operations must comply with NC Forest Practice Guidelines and NC Forestry Best Management Practices Manual recommendations.
- Practice must be part of a contract that obligates at least \$1000 Additional conservation planning criteria:

Practice 490-Tree/Shrub Site Preparation, 612-Tree/Shrub Establishment, 338-Prescribed Burning and 647-Early Successional Habitat Development and Management must be included in the conservation plan to document specifications for preparing and planting loblolly pines; and, using fire to manage understory vegetation. Other conservation practices deemed required for management or protection of the restored areas MUST be included in the conservation plan and appropriate practice scenarios MAY be included in the EQIP contract. Expected recurring management practices required for restoration MUST be included in the conservation plan. Operation and maintenance should specify inspection intervals and that management must be approved by a wildlife biologist.

Considerations

- Application of this practice scenario should 'begin' the community type restoration. The applicant
 must be prepared to apply management/improvement activities in addition to initial establishment
 over an extended period of time (usually longer than the practice life). Land 'restored' under this
 EQIP practice is eligible (not guaranteed) for future program cost share to continue manage for the
 selected declining community/habitat.
- Select pesticides that will preserve existing grass/forbs that are important to the declining habitat
- Active management of woodland for commercial forest products is required to maintain use-value property taxation in North Carolina. Though forest production is not the primary purpose of this scenario; valuable, high quality, commercial forest products should result over a long rotation cycle.
- When possible, time forest stand improvement to minimize disturbance of seasonal wildlife activities.
- Written contracts with a service provider or vendor are recommended. Contracts should cover things like: type, extent, timing or work, participant and vendor responsibilities, and payment provisions.

• Inspect stand regularly with a wildlife biologist/forester for future restoration management needs. Forest Stand Improvement should include prescribed burning in the restoration area.

EQIP Prac	tice Eligibility Checklist
The particip	ant CANNOT participate in EQIP for this practice if any of the eligibility certifications are marked 'no'. No EQIP
applic	cation should be pre-approved in PROTRACTS; no EQIP contract prepared; no EQIP payment authorized!
yes n	 Participant is a private non industrial forest land owner (PNIF); or, landowner meets
	PNIF and is a party to the EQIP contract.
yes 🔲 n	 Stand meets scenario conditions for restoration. A biologist has visited the site and
	approved the planned restoration activities (see Minimum Practice Requirements above).
	Documentation should include site condition, recommended method and specifications
	for site preparation and tree planting, suitability for applying fire. A registered forester
	has prepared a forestation plan to start the restoration process and
yes 🔲 n	 The treatment area IS capable of being prescribed burned.
yes 🔲 n	 This is not a replant for a failed 643 planting currently under EQIP contract.

yes no	Participant understands that this is an ecol certification above (see Minimum Practice Require	ogical restoration scenario and has signed the
yes no	•	rate for this scenario covers all costs related to
Comments:		
EQIP Praction	e Certification Checklist	
Outcome/Result		
eQIP paym		any of the eligibility certifications are marked 'no' tion are met (see Minimum Practice Requirements above). een completed according to plan prepared by
yes no	Any completed forestry operations (site prefederal, state and local laws, regulations	
Comments:		
	ndations: Visit site or with participant the second year restoration management (if required).	ar after treatment to review need for prescribed burning
has been comp	n planted and initial conversation of cutove leted on acres (area nearest 0.1 oration and Management of Declining Habit	• • • •
Designated Cor	nservationist	Date