EQIP PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Forest Stand Improvement (666): Prevent Spread of Exotic Invasives on NRCS List
Practice Life: 10 years

Participant: _____
EQIP Contract Number: _____

Purposes of Cost Share Practice

- Restore Natural Plant Communities
- Improve forest health – reducing potential of damage from pests and moisture stress
- Increase the quantity and quality of forest products
- Improve wildlife habitat

Conditions for Practice Eligibility

- Applicants must meet all EQIP requirements including private nonindustrial forestland (PNIF) owner criteria to be eligible for EQIP forestry and woodland financial assistance.
- Practice scenario must be determined feasible by registered forester or wildlife biologist. A forest management, stewardship or practice plan approved by a registered forester or wildlife biologist is required.
- Target species must be identified on the NRCS Exotic Invasives list or approved by the state plant materials specialist.

Minimum Practice Requirements

- Contract duration shall be a minimum of four (4) years, with treatment scheduled and cost-shared for three (3) consecutive years.
- Contracts utilizing this practice scenario must also include another Forest Stand Improvement (666) or Prescribed Burning (338) practice as a contracted item.
- Utilize control methods identified in the NC Ag. Chemical Manual, mechanical removal, or browsing animals. If target plants are moved off site for disposal, methods that lesson the potential for the plants to spread to new areas shall be used (e.g. – burning, burying, or bagging)
- Measurement and payment will be rounded up to the nearest whole acre and will include the target species treatment area only – NOT the whole field.
- Control in year one is accomplished when the targeted plant population has been reduced by at least 90%. The subsequent two years will be utilized to eradicate the residual target plants.
- Practice must be part of a contract that obligates at least $1000.

Considerations

- Active management of woodland is required to maintain use-value property taxation in North Carolina. A forest management plan developed to maintain use-value property tax should include EQIP forest stand improvement practices.
- When possible, time forest stand improvement to minimize disturbance of seasonal wildlife activities.
- Written contracts with a service provider or vendor are recommended. Contract should cover things like: type, extent, timing or work, participant and vendor responsibilities, and payment provisions.
- Inspect stand regularly for future forest stand improvement needs.
- Consider prescribed burning as an additional source of control. Burning for understory and midstory manipulation is highly recommended in stands that are capable of being burned.

EQIP Practice Eligibility Checklist

☐ 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 The target species _____ is identified on the NRCS Exotic Invasives list or has been approved by the state plant materials specialist.

☐ yes ☐ no Location of listed exotic invasive plant is clearly identified on the contract plan map and acreage to the nearest acre has been determined for treatment area.

Comments:

EQIP Practice Certification Checklist

☐ yes ☐ no After application of this scenario the stand meets or is expected to meet the post-treatment condition of 90% reduction of targeted plant population following first treatment.

☐ yes ☐ no The completed forest stand improvement operation is in compliance with all state and local laws, regulations and ordinances.

☐ yes ☐ no Photographs showing baseline and post-treatment condition are in case file or Toolkit folder in order to provide basis for payment.

Comments:

Follow-up Recommendations: Visit site with the participant following treatment to review need for other forest stand improvement practices; and, discuss appropriate application of prescribed fire, if the site is capable of being burned.

Certification

This practice has been installed according to NRCS specifications and meets the EQIP requirements and the Forage Harvest Management (511) practice criteria

_____ acres (to nearest acre) of Exotic Invasive Plants have been controlled per these practice guidelines.

_____

Designated Conservationist Date

2nd and 3rd Operation and Maintenance Recordkeeping:

Date of Inspection	*Acres Treated*	*Participant initials*	*Designated Conservationist initials/comments*