

EQIP 666-Forest Stand Improvement PRACTICE GUIDELINES

EQIP FY 2009 Scenario: Release seedlings/saplings (planted/natural)

Practice Life: 10 years

Participant:	
EQIP Contract Number:	

Purposes of Cost Share Practice

- Improve forest health reducing potential of damage from pests and moisture stress
- Achieve a desired level of crop tree stocking, quality and quantity
- Increase the quantity and quality of forest products
- Improve wildlife habitat

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 feasible by registered forester. Practice specifications
 (method, timing, etc.) MUST outlined in a forest management, stewardship or practice plan written
 or approved by a registered forester (herbicide recommendations require NCDA Category G Forest
 Pest Control license).
- Forest stand meets a pre-treatment condition below.

Pre-treatment Condition

Treatment area contains <u>young pine trees</u> generally < 4 inch diameter at breast height (DBH) with undesirable, competing vegetation that over-tops the desired pine saplings. Specific information by pine tree type is listed below.

Southern Yellow Pine (SYP) - maximum age 15 years, 200+ well distributed seedlings/saplings per acre White Pine – maximum age 20 years, 200+ well distributed seedlings/saplings per acre

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

• Undesirable competing vegetation reduced by removal, felling or killing to meet the post treatment condition below.

Post-treatment Condition

200+ pine sapling/seedlings per acre that are on average released on at least 3 sides.

- Release operations must comply with the NC Forest Practice Guidelines and utilize appropriate NC Forestry Best Management Practices Manual recommendations related to this practice scenario.
- Practice must be part of a contract that obligates at least \$1000.

Considerations

- 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.
- This practice is best suited to younger stands...the younger the better. For older stands, cull tree removal may be practice to use.
- 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.

	ed stands from destructive wildfire where competing vegetation is felled or killed and egetation can be highly flammable for a few years.
	d regularly for future forest stand improvement needsespecially the possibility of using urning at the appropriate age/size in stands that are capable of being burned.
	* * * * * * * * * * * * NRCS use only * * * * * * * * * *
The participant (E Eligibility Checklist CANNOT participate in EQIP for this practice if any of the eligibility certifications are marked 'no'. No EQIP is 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	Stand meets pre-treatment conditions. Tree release is determined feasible by a registered forester; and documented appropriately (see Minimum Practice Requirements above). Documentation should include tree type, size, current stocking, description of type and amount of competing trees/vegetation, recommended method and specifications for treatment.
yes no	Participant understands that treatment should to start within the first year after the EQIP contract is signed.
Comments:	
EQIP Practice Certification Checklist	
Outcome/Result	
	nt for this practice scenario IS NOT AUTHORIZED if any of the eligibility certifications are marked 'no' After application of this scenario the stand meets or is expected to meet the appropriate post-treatment condition (see Minimum Practice Requirements above).
yes no	The completed forest stand improvement operation is in compliance with all state and local laws, regulations and ordinances.
Comments:	

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

Certification

Tree Seedling/sapling Release has been completed on _____ acres (area nearest 0.1 acre) per these practice guidelines and NC NRCS 666-Forest Stand Improvement standard.

Designated Conservationist Date