

EQIP 2008 FOREST HABITAT FUNDING POOL OVERVIEW

1) Producer Eligibility - Forest landowners have somewhat different eligibility requirements than for agricultural producers on other land uses. Producers with forest land must have one of the following:

- A forest management plan or forest stewardship plan
- A prior record of timber harvest or revenue from Timber sales
- Proof of capital investment on forest practices such as:
 - Tree plantings
 - Forest Stand Improvement
 - Site Preparation
 - Prescribed burning
- Other Agro forestry practices
- Other agricultural commodities
- Other crops used for subsistence
- Other crops as identified by the State Conservationist with the advice of the State Technical Committee

Note: Forest agricultural producers are exempt from the annual minimum of \$1,000 of agricultural products produced and/or sold from the operation.

2) Application - Application will be only for the Prescribed Forestry (409) practice during this initial signup. This practice will be used in EQIP to develop a plan that prescribes silvicultural and other treatments to protect or improve the forest habitat for non-game wildlife and plant species of greatest conservation need. These species and their habitat needs are identified in the Tennessee State Wildlife Action Plan.

3) Toolkit Plan - Applicants will need a Toolkit plan on their existing and planned forest or forested wildlife land, with only the Prescribed Forestry (409) practice scheduled.

4) EQIP Contract - Approved applicants will have an EQIP contract developed based upon this single practice Toolkit plan.

5) Incentive Payment - The EQIP contract will provide an incentive payment for clients to purchase a Forest Habitat Plan in accordance with the Prescribed Forestry practice standard.

6) Technical Assistance - The plan will be prepared by qualified Technical Service Providers (TSP's), and approved by the Tennessee Division of Forestry (TDF) and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). TSP's may include TDF, TWRA, or consultant foresters and biologists.

7) Contract Completion - The contract is satisfied when the client provides NRCS with a review copy of the approved Forest Habitat Plan and copies of the planning services invoice.

8) Subsequent Contracts - This approved plan will be a requirement for and the basis of subsequent signups for EQIP incentive payments for installation of the prescribed practices.