

Refer to Alabama Job Sheet No. AL 666C: Pre-commercial Thinning and Heavy Thinning of Pine Stands, and Guide Sheet No. AL 666A: Forest Stand Improvement.

Firebreaks and Fuel Breaks

Firebreaks help protect soil, water, air, plant, animal, and human resources by preventing the spread of wildfires or containing prescribed fires by using strips of bare land or vegetation that slow fire's progress.

Firebreaks may be temporary or permanent and should be located to minimize risk to the resources being protected.

Constructed firebreaks should also tie into existing natural barriers where possible.

For more information on firebreaks, refer to Alabama Guide Sheet No. AL 394.

Longleaf Pine Establishment

In addition to prescribed burning, firebreaks, and forest stand improvement, longleaf pine establishment has been added as an approved conservation practice.

More Information

All Guide Sheets and Job Sheets are available on the e-Field Office Tech Guide website at:

<http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/toc.aspx?CatID=321>

Eligibility

- Most forest land is eligible as long as it is privately owned. There may be specific minimum acreage requirements for tree establishment and local County Planning Committees may set maximum acreages for specific practices such as prescribed burning.

- Lands currently enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), EQIP, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP), or other Farm Bill programs, are not eligible.

Additional EQIP Practices

Forestry and Wildlife

- Prescribed Burning
- Silvopasture Establishment
- Fuel Breaks
- Riparian Forest Buffers
- Firebreaks
- Hedgerows
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
 - loblolly
 - longleaf
 - hardwood
- Tree/Shrub Establishment
- Restoration and Management of Rare and Declining Species
- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management
- Early Successional Habitat Management
- Forest Trails and Landings
- Tree/Shrub Pruning
- Tree/Shrub Site Preparation
- Forest Stand Improvement
- Silvopasture Establishment Improvement

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Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for Forestry and Wildlife in Alabama



Helping People Help the Land

EQIP - Improving Forest Health

The Alabama Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Forest Health and Wildlife Concern is designed to assist, promote, and inform private forest landowners about forest stand improvement practices that can improve growth, reduce risk of wildfire and insect damage, enhance wildlife habitat, and improve forest health.

Lands eligible for the Forest Health and Wildlife Concern include pine forest lands that are overstocked and subject to fire hazard, disease or insect infestation, hardwood stands, and all other forest lands that are not enrolled in any other EQIP or Farm Bill programs.

Forestland covers about two-thirds of the state. Many of these acres are overstocked and are at risk for damage by wildfire. Worse yet, insects and diseases harm the forest more than wildfires. In fact, they destroy 43 times more trees than wildfires.



EQIP provides assistance to establish and manage silvopasture to produce timber, high quality forage, and efficient livestock production.

Forest stand improvement is an intermediate treatment made to improve the composition, structure, condition, health, and growth of even- or uneven-aged stands.

The Alabama Forest Health and Wildlife Concern includes natural resource options for private, non-industrial forest landowners. These options are provided by NRCS to assist eligible forest landowners with installation of practices to enhance and protect the forests of Alabama. Primarily, these practices are aimed at forest health, forest protection, and forest water quality issues.

Unhealthy forests can lead to degraded water quality and wildlife habitat, and limited opportunities for recreation. Family forests are threatened by invasive species, insects, disease, and wildfire. Forest landowners often lack financial and technical resources needed to treat their land and minimize these problems.



Prescribed burning accomplishes many important ecological functions and landowner objectives.

Approved Conservation Practices

Prescribed Burning

The deliberate use of fire can help manage a forest, but it is a complex management tool that should only be used by those who are trained and experienced in its use.

Prescribed burning helps eliminate pine needles, hardwood leaves, fallen branches, herbaceous vegetation, and other fuels that can accumulate on the ground and increase the chance of damage to young stands should a wildfire erupt.

Refer to Alabama Guide Sheet No. AL 338 for more information on prescribed burning.

Forest Stand Improvement

Forest stand improvement practices are used to improve the overall quality and health of a timber stand. Improving timber stands can lead to improved quality and quantity of products harvested from the timber stand, as well as reduce potential damage from pests and wildfire, improve wildlife habitat, restore natural plant life, and increase aesthetic and recreational value of the forestland.