

Soil Quality Enhancement Activity – SQL07 - Forest stand improvement for soil quality



Enhancement Description

This enhancement consists of the management of forest activities (planting, thinning and harvesting) to minimize the impact on forest soils and improve soil quality

Land Use Applicability

Cropland and forestland

Benefits

Managing forest activities to improve soil quality results in increased organic matter that improves nutrient cycling and increase rainfall water absorption. Avoiding soil compaction allows for greater root development and tree growth to prevent windthrow, minimize drought stress and reduce susceptibility to insects and disease. Limiting soil disturbance and controlling erosion increases organic matter, improves infiltration and limits offsite sedimentation.

Criteria

This enhancement requires that two activities from each of the specific areas be completed.

1. Soil Compaction
 - a. Use of skidding and forward logging during harvest
 - b. Use of walk-on-slash during harvest
 - c. Sequencing of harvest activities (back to front)
 - d. Use of smaller equipment, track equipment, low PSI tires and lighter loads
 - e. Sub-soil compacted areas after harvest
 - f. Use of mules, draft horses or other animals for skidding moving harvested trees

2. Roads & Landings
 - a. Preserve drainage pattern where possible
 - b. Make up 5% or less of total wooded acreage
 - c. Establish cover on roads and landings
 - d. Control use between harvest

3. Limit Soil Disturbance & Control Erosion
 - a. Avoid disturbing litter and soil surface
 - b. Protect roads through the use of water bars/rolling dips
 - c. Establish cover on disturbed areas after harvest or thinning activities are complete
 - d. Retain all downed tops and other unharvested materials for ground cover and nutrient recycling



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

Documentation Requirements

Following implementation of this activity, the landowner must document:

1. List of activities used to improve soil quality
2. Map with location of roads and landings
3. Photo's of roads and landings after activities are complete

Michigan Supplement

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This enhancement only applies to forest stands scheduled to be harvested during the CSP contract period.

Enhancement activities must meet the NRCS Michigan conservation practice standard Forest Stand Improvement (666) and all other applicable conservation practice standards, such as Forest Trails and Landings (655), Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (654), located in the eFOTG, Section IV.