

# Environmental Quality Incentives Program

## 2013 EQIP Signup

Minnesota Supplement for:  
Practice Standard 647 – Early Successional Habitat Development and Management

### Supplemental Criteria

1. Prescribed Burning as a facilitating practice is an eligible component if necessary for practice application.

### Scenarios

#### **Mowing – Biobaler – (Shearing)**

This scenario address inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife where setting back succession by mowing incoming woody species will improve habitat for the target species. Mowing can be used to increase structural diversity by creating areas of shorter vegetation preferred by some species or certain life stages of species. This scenario can be used nationwide. The typical setting for this scenario is at the edge of crop fields, in pastures, at the edge of woodlands or brushy areas. Where chemical control of weeds, including invasive, is required to reduce competition for the desired plant community conservation practice 315 herbaceous weed control should be used. Where the seedbank is inadequate for natural regeneration and seeding is required use conservation practice 327 Conservation Cover. Where the need is to create early successional habitat within or at the edge of woodland or forest use conservation practice 666 forest stand improvement to remove trees.

#### **Disking**

This practice addresses inadequate wildlife habitat for species requiring early successional habitat. This scenario provides early successional habitat by setting back succession and manipulating species composition by disking vegetation and creating bare ground. The typical setting for this scenario is at the edge of crop fields, in pastures, and in odd areas. This scenario is applicable nationwide. Where chemical control of weeds, including invasive, is required to reduce competition for the desired plant community conservation practice 315 herbaceous weed control should be used. Where the seedbank is inadequate for natural regeneration and seeding is required, use conservation 327 Conservation Cover. Where the need is to create early successional habitat within or at the edge of woodland or forest use conservation practice 666 forest stand improvement to remove trees.

**Regeneration of mature alder stands through the mowing of aged alder and/or other successional tree/shrub species in strips to create and maintain early successional plant communities within a forested matrix.**

Mow strips 50-100 feet wide with bobcat fitted fecon head (or similar equipment) within a larger management unit, perpendicular to water courses and wetland boundaries in order to create dense stands of young alders and other successional plant species with greater wildlife value.

Management units should be approximately 1-5 acres in size and be comprised of five strips.

One strip is mowed every five years resulting in a 20 year rotations within the management unit.

The size of these strip cuts typically ranges from .25 acres to 2 acres. Create significantly improved habitat for target species, particularly American woodcock and ruffed grouse. Also benefit many neotropical migrants (e.g. golden winged warbler) and many other species of wildlife that require successional habitats. This practice can be used throughout the UP and probably also in the northern third of the lower peninsula in Michigan and it the northern areas of Wisconsin and Minnesota. Woody vegetation is dropped into the site and not removed except for possibly some firewood usage by the landowner. The alders should be the dormant season from November through mid March. Tops should be left in the clear-cut to protect resprouts from deer browsing.

**Regeneration of mature aspen stands through the mowing of aged aspen and/or other successional tree/shrub species in strips to create and maintain early successional plant communities within a forested matrix.**

Mow strips 50-100 feet wide with bobcat fitted fecon head (or similar equipment) within a larger management unit, perpendicular to water courses and wetland boundaries in order to create dense stands of young alders and other successional plant species with greater wildlife value.

Management units should be approximately 1-5 acres in size and be comprised of five strips.

One strip is mowed every five years resulting in a 20 year rotations within the management unit.

The size of these strip cuts typically ranges from .25 acres to 2 acres. Create significantly improved habitat for target species, particularly American woodcock and ruffed grouse. Also benefit many neotropical migrants (e.g. golden winged warbler) and many other species of wildlife that require successional habitats. This practice can be used throughout the UP and probably also in the northern third of the lower peninsula in Michigan and northern areas in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Woody vegetation is dropped into the site and not removed except for possibly some firewood usage by the landowner. The aspen should be the dormant season from November through mid March. Tops should be left in the clear-cut to protect resprouts from deer browsing.

**Hydroaxe (and similar equipment)**

This scenario address inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife where setting back succession by removing woody species including invading trees will improve habitat for the target species.

This component can be used to increase structural diversity by creating areas of shorter vegetation preferred by some species or certain life stages of species. This scenario can be used nationwide. The typical setting for this scenario is at the edge of crop fields, in pastures, on native or established grassland, at the edge of woodlands or brushy areas, and in odd areas such as pivot corners. Where chemical control of weeds, including invasive, is required to reduce competition for the desired plant community conservation practice 315 herbaceous weed control

should be used. Where the seedbank is inadequate for natural regeneration and seeding is required use conservation practice 327 Conservation Cover. Where the need is to create early successional habitat within or at the edge of woodland or forest use conservation practice 666 forest stand improvement to remove trees.