

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

2013 EQIP Signup

Minnesota Supplement for:
Practice Standard 666 – Forest Stand Improvement

Supplemental Criteria

1. All improvements will be accomplished according to a forest management plan.
2. Payment for release or thinning is not authorized on stands less than 10 years old that were established with USDA program payments.
3. **NRCS will not provide technical assistance for marking. Assistance must be provided by a TSP certified by NRCS or DNR Forestry.**
4. **Woody invasive species control shall utilize practice 314-Brush Management.**

Scenarios

Pre-commercial Thinning – Hand Tools

Adjusting the stocking of a young, non-merchantable stand of trees. The operation is supervised by a forester and is carried out using hand tools such as chainsaws. Resource concerns include Undesirable plant productivity and health; Wildlife habitat degradation; Wildfire hazard; and Inadequate structure and composition.

Pre-commercial Thinning - Hand tools, >35% slopes

Adjusting the stocking of a young, non-merchantable stand of trees, where slopes exceed 35%. The operation is supervised by a forester and is carried out using hand tools such as chainsaws. Resource concerns include Undesirable plant productivity and health; Wildlife habitat degradation; Wildfire hazard; and Inadequate structure and composition. The steep slopes require approx. a 25% increase in labor and other time components.

Timber Stand Improvement - Chemical, Single Stem Treatment

Altering the composition and stocking of a stand of trees by means of individual stem treatment. The trees to be retained are marked by a forester. Resource concerns include Undesirable plant productivity and health; Wildlife habitat degradation; Wildfire hazard; and Inadequate structure and composition.

Timber Stand Improvement - Chemical, Ground

Using ground applied chemicals to release young desirable trees from competing and/or overtopping vegetation. Resource concerns include: Undesirable plant productivity and health, and Wildlife habitat degradation.

Competition Control - Mechanical, Light Equipment

Using light equipment such as a tractor with brush hog to control vegetation that is competing with desirable trees and species or to reduce the stocking level of a stand of desirable trees. Resource concerns include Undesirable plant productivity and health; Wildlife habitat degradation; Wildfire hazard; and Inadequate structure and composition.

Competition Control - Mechanical, Heavy Equipment

Using equipment such as a masticator or mulcher to control vegetation that is competing with desirable trees and species or to reduce the stocking level of a stand of desirable trees. The trees to be retained will be marked by a forester. Resource concerns include Undesirable plant productivity and health; Wildlife habitat degradation; Wildfire hazard; and Inadequate structure and composition.

Creating Patch Clearcuts, <35% slopes (for natural regeneration)

Creating 2 acre patches in over-mature and/or degraded stands using hand tools such as chainsaws. Resource concerns include: Undesirable plant productivity and health, Inadequate structure and composition, and habitat degradation.

Creating Patch Clearcuts, >35% slopes (for natural regeneration)

Creating 2 acre patches in over-mature and/or degraded stands using hand tools such as chainsaws, where slopes exceed 35%. Resource concerns include: Undesirable plant productivity and health, Inadequate structure and composition, and habitat degradation. The steep slopes require approx. a 25% increase in labor and other time components.

Thinning, mechanical + herbicide application

A combination of mechanical hand and chemical treatments used to open the canopy of a stand to improve the wildlife habitat and tree health. Resource concerns include: Inadequate structure and composition, Undesirable plant productivity and health, and Habitat degradation.

Marking Only, Uneven Aged Stand, Commercial Harvest

The marking of a stand of hardwoods by a professional forester to improve the health, productivity and vigor of the stand, and improve wildlife habitat. There is no cost of the wood removal since a commercial logger will be doing the work.

Marking Only, Even Aged Stand, Commercial Harvest

The marking of a conifer plantation (row thinning) by a professional forester to improve the health, productivity and vigor of the stand, and improve wildlife habitat. There is no cost of the wood removal since a commercial logger will be doing the work.