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DATE: November 13, 2006

WASHINGTON BULLETIN WA300-7-4

SUBJECT: LTP - EQIP Cost-Share Guidance for Forest Slash Treatment (384)

Purpose. To transmit policy on the use of Practice 384 under the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

Expiration Date. November 13, 2007

Forest slash generated from commercial harvest operations is not eligible for cost-share payment under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and NRCS Practice Code 384, Forest Slash Treatment.

The following slash treatment conditions are allowable for cost-sharing:

- Pre-commercial thinning where trees being removed are not merchantable. This can also include special forest stand conditions where scattered or patchy mature overstory trees may occur in the treatment unit, however, the main stand for treatment is in the sapling/pole stage which has been prescribed for pre-commercial thinning and subsequent slash needs treatment. Commercial harvest of the scattered or patchy overstory is secondary to the main resource concern of treatment of the overcrowded young stand. These dense younger stands may occur in a 'mosaic' pattern on the landscape. You should total the acreage composed of mosaic dense stands on forest management unit for cost-share acreage.
- Weeding or brush control activities where slash is created from cutting non-preferred tree/shrub species to release identified preferred tree species.

Forest Slash Treatment should only be scheduled as a cost-share practice when slash levels exceed acceptable levels or when slash treatment is needed to reduce fuel load, insect, or disease concerns.

Also, please note that slash treatment costs are already included in costs associated with installation of a Fuel Break (383).

If you have any questions on this issue, please contact your local Area Program Liaison.

R.L. "GUS" HUGHBANKS
State Conservationist

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