

(647) Early Successional Habitat Development and Management— Patch Cutting

FY 2017 Environmental Quality Incentives Program Requirement Sheet

A site- and species-specific wildlife habitat management plan is preferred for all EQIP applications. If no such plan has been approved by the NRCS area biologist or NRCS partner biologist, the conservation planners must follow this requirement sheet to address limiting habitat factors identified in the TN NRCS Wildlife Habitat Appraisal Guide (WHAG).

Eligible lands: Private nonindustrial forestlands.

The practice purpose is to restore a low-quality mature stand to more desirable tree species composition and/or desired canopy openness while concurrently providing quality wildlife habitat, especially for such species as ruffed grouse, golden-winged warbler, and other early forest succession species.

EQIP Early Successional Habitat Development & Mgmt (Patch Cutting) Practice Requirements:

1. A qualified forester or conservation planner with the knowledge to complete the site investigation and plan the patch cutting (small group selection) treatment must plan the practice.
2. This practice is only eligible on sites with a site index higher than 50 for the regeneration understory tree species for release. If oak regeneration is the target, existing oak seedlings for release must be at least three feet in height. Desirable regeneration trees must be present to qualify for this practice.
3. Patch cutting is limited to small individual clearcuts from 0.1 to 1 acre in size scattered throughout the forest tract. Each clearcut shall consist of cutting trees greater than 2 inches in diameter at breast height.
4. Follow Tennessee Division of Forestry Best Management Practices (<http://www.tn.gov/agriculture/publications/forestry/BMPs.pdf>) during implementation of this practice, especially to control erosion and protect or improve water quality.