EQIP/WHIP PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645): Prevent Spread of Exotic Invasives on NRCS List
Practice Life: 3 years

Participant: _____
EQIP Contract Number: _____

Purposes of Cost Share Practice

- Restore Natural Plant Communities
- Provide necessary variety of cover types
- Improve wildlife habitat
- Improve aesthetic and recreation values

Conditions for Practice Eligibility

- Applicants must meet all EQIP/WHIP requirements to be eligible for financial assistance.
- Target species must be identified on the NRCS Exotic Invasives list or approved by the state plant materials specialist.

Minimum Practice Requirements Contract duration shall be a minimum of four (4) years, with treatment scheduled and cost-shared for three (3) consecutive years.

- Contracts utilizing this practice scenario on wildlife land, natural areas, or idle land must also include another Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Forest Stand Improvement (666), Prescribed Burning (338), or Early Succession Habitat Development (647) practice as a contracted item.
- Utilize control methods identified in the NC Ag. Chemical Manual, mechanical removal, or browsing animals. If target plants are moved off site for disposal, methods that lesson the potential for the plants to spread to new areas shall be used (e.g. – burning, burying, or bagging)
- Measurement and payment will be rounded up to the nearest half acre and will include the target species treatment area only – NOT the whole field.
- Control is accomplished when the targeted plant has been reduced at least 90% during the growing season of the first year of treatment. The subsequent two years will be utilized to eradicate the residual target plants.
- Practice must be part of a contract that obligates at least $1000.

Considerations

- Active management of woodland is required to maintain use-value property taxation in North Carolina. A forest management plan developed to maintain use-value property tax should include EQIP forest stand improvement practices.
- When possible, time management practices to minimize disturbance of seasonal wildlife activities.
- Written contracts with a service provider or vendor are recommended. Contract should cover things like: type, extent, timing or work, participant and vendor responsibilities, and payment provisions.
- Inspect stand regularly for future habitat needs.
- Consider prescribed burning as an additional source of control. Burning is highly recommended in areas that are capable of being burned.

EQIP/WHIP Practice Eligibility Checklist

The participant CANNOT participate in EQIP for this practice if any of the eligibility certifications are marked 'no'.

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** Participant meets all EQIP requirements and is eligible to receive financial assistance.

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** The target species _____ is identified on the NRCS Exotic Invasives list or has been approved by the state plant materials specialist.

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** Practice _____ has been planned as a contracted item in addition to this scenario.

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** Location of listed exotic invasive plant is clearly identified on the contract plan map and acreage to the nearest half acre has been determined for treatment area.

Comments:

EQIP/WHIP Practice Certification Checklist

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** After application of this scenario the stand meets or is expected to meet the post-treatment condition of 90% reduction of targeted plant population following first treatment.

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** The completed upland wildlife management operation is in compliance with all state and local laws, regulations and ordinances.

☐ **yes** ☐ **no** Photographs showing baseline and post-treatment condition are in case file or Toolkit folder in order to provide basis for payment.

Comments:

Follow-up Recommendations: Visit site with the participant following treatment to review need for other wildlife management practices; and, discuss appropriate application of prescribed fire, if the site is capable of being burned.

Certification

This practice has been installed according to NRCS specifications and meets the EQIP requirements and the Upland Wildlife Management Habitat (645) practice criteria

_____ acres (to nearest half acre) of Exotic Invasive Plants have been controlled per these practice guidelines.

_____

Designated Conservationist Date

2nd and 3rd Operation and Maintenance Recordkeeping:

Date of Inspection	*Acres Treated*	*Participant initials*	*Designated Conservationist initials/comments*