

# FY15 EQIP Longleaf Pine Initiative (LLPI) Policy

GEORGIA

The Longleaf Pine Initiative provides private landowners in Georgia with assistance to improve forest health and enhance wildlife habitat in the longleaf pine forest landscape. The goals of the Longleaf Pine Initiative will be achieved by maintaining existing longleaf pine ecosystems in good condition, improving degraded acres classified as "longleaf forest types" and restoring longleaf pine forests on land currently in other forest types or land classifications. Eighty percent of Georgia's allocated funds will be utilized in GA NRCS significant geographic areas first. Georgia has identified Fort Benning, Fort Stewart, and Greater Okefenokee as our significant geographical areas. As part of the initiative, NRCS is helping private landowners improve the sustainability and profitability of Longleaf pine forest ecosystems. The following important conservation practices improve the forests' health: forest stand improvement, prescribed burning, restoration and management of rare or declining habitats, and tree/shrub establishment.

Planned conservation practices must be maintained for the lifespan of the practice, as indicated on the NRCS-CPA-1155 or -1156. All practices must also meet the minimum criteria in the Conservation Practice Standard (see the Georgia FOTG) and the criteria listed below. Conservation practice installation above the minimum necessary to meet practice criteria are not eligible for payment. Note: Payment for some practices is only authorized when used in conjunction with another practice, as detailed in the Conservation Plan of Operation (CPO), with or without payment. The applicant is responsible for the installation, use, and maintenance of all components required in the conservation management system.

**Management Practices** - Management practice payments are only available on acres where the practice option has not been previously applied &/or utilized, and where there will be a higher level of management required for the requested practice option. A management practice payment is only authorized once per year within the length of the contract period for that conservation practice. Some management practices, where noted in the practice footnotes, are limited to no more than three separate management practices combined per acre.

**Structural Practices** - Structural practices may include vegetative components, and have a multi-year lifespan. Structural practices involve the establishment, construction, or installation of site-specific measures. Payments are established as a one-time payment. The landowner must give consent in writing or sign NRCS Consent form or be a signatory to a contract which has EQIP funds used for any structural practice.

**Conservation Activity Plans (CAP)** - Conservation Activity Plans are conservation plans developed for producers to assist in identifying conservation practices needed to address a specific natural resource need. CAPs are completed by NRCS certified Technical Service Providers (TSP). The list of NRCS certified TSPs is available on the NRCS TSP webpage: [www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/tsp)

Practice Code	Conservation Practice	Payment Unit	Payment Rate	Maximum Amount	HU Payment Rate	HU Maximum Amount	Lifespan
314	Brush Management (S)						10 Years
	Chemical - Ground Applied 1/	Acre	\$42.29		\$50.75		
	Mechanical & Chemical, Small Shrubs, Medium Infestation 2/	Acre	\$139.00		\$166.80		
	Mechanical Bush Hog 3/	Acre	\$27.95		\$33.53		
	Mechanical Roller Chopper 4/	Acre	\$51.40		\$61.68		

1/ Brush management on grazed forest, or pasture thru the use of broadcast application of material using chemical(s) to reduce or remove undesirable deciduous species (brush) in uplands and other areas not in or directly adjacent to streams, ponds, or wetlands.

2/ Removal of small woody vegetation infestations by the use of mechanical cutter, chopper or other light equipment followed by an application of low cost chemicals in low volumes.

3/ Removal of brush by the use of mechanical cutter.

4/ The removal of brush by the use of chopper.

327	Conservation Cover						3 Years
	Native Grass 1/	Acre	\$183.83		\$220.60		
	Pollinator Habitat 2/	Acre	\$383.24		\$459.89		

1/ This practice applies on land to be retired from agricultural production and on other lands needing permanent protective cover.

2/ Permanent vegetation, including mix of native grasses, legume, forbs (mix may also include non-native species), established on any land needing permanent vegetative cover that provides habitat for pollinators. See Job sheet specification on planting mix.

647	Early Successional Habitat Development/ Management (Adoption Period Required) (M)						1 Year
	Disking 1/	Acre	\$26.52		\$31.82		

1/ Provides early successional habitat by disking vegetation and creating bare ground.

382	Fence						20 Years
	Barbed/Smooth Wire 1/	Ft	\$1.63	\$ 15,000.00	\$1.96	\$ 15,000.00	
	Permanent Electric 2/	Ft	\$1.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$1.20	\$ 15,000.00	
	Woven Wire 3/	Ft	\$2.07	\$ 15,000.00	\$2.48	\$ 15,000.00	

1/ Multi-strand, Barbed or Smooth Wire.

2/ Permanent Electric.

3/ Woven.

4/ Part 515.81 E1(i.) Boundary fence (property line fence) or perimeter fence is eligible—  
 -- On expired or expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land to establish a grazing operation; however, the practice may not be installed until the CRP contract has expired.  
 -- On land to protect, restore, develop, or enhance habitat for wildlife or to exclude livestock from an environmentally sensitive area, such as a riparian area or wetland.  
 -- On land to facilitate a change in production systems per the requirements of section 515.81D(4).

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394	Firebreak						5 Years
	Constructed - Dozer 1/	Ft	\$0.23		\$0.28		
1/ Install firebreak as per required burn plan.							
666	Forest Stand Improvement						10 Years
	Pre-commercial Thinning - Hand tools 1/	Acre	\$91.10		\$109.32		
	Thinning for Wildlife and Forest Health at 50BA 2/	Acre	\$27.46		\$32.95		
	Thinning for Wildlife and Forest Health at 60BA 2/	Acre	\$20.85		\$25.02		
	Thinning for Wildlife and Forest Health at 80BA 2/	Acre	\$13.74		\$16.48		
<b>Core Practice - a conservation practice or activity listed in the FOTG that is essential to address the natural resource concerns identified by this initiative.</b>							
1/ Adjusting the stocking of a young, non-merchantable stand of trees. The operation is supervised by a registered forester. Mechanical equipment or hand tools can be utilized to treat pre-commercial forest stand.							
2/ Used to open the canopy of a stand to improve the wildlife habitat and tree health.							
655	Forest Trails and Landings						5 Years
	Water Bars 1/	Each	\$250.29		\$300.35		
1/ Reference Practice 560 Access Road for design criteria. See 655 Job sheet for specification.							
315	Herbaceous Weed Control						5 Years
	Chemical, Ground 1/	Acre	\$32.48		\$38.98		
	Chemical-Broad Band 2/	Acre	\$27.74		\$33.29		
	Mechanical 3/	Acre	\$32.29		\$38.75		
1/ Eradication of vegetation by use of weed treatment using ground equipment to apply chemicals, in order to eliminate noxious weeds, promote forage productivity, and improve ecological condition.							
2/ Eradication of vegetation by use of weed treatment using ground equipment to apply chemicals in a broad strip avoiding the planting row, in order to eliminate noxious weeds, and improve ecological condition. Forest application only.							
3/ Removal of herbaceous weeds by the use of mower, brush hog, disc or other light equipment in order to reduce fuel loading and improve ecological site condition. Weed has exceeded desired levels based on ecological site potential.							
338	Prescribed Burn 1/	Acre	\$21.98	\$ 2,747.50	\$26.38	\$ 2,747.50	1 Year
<b>Core Practice - a conservation practice or activity listed in the FOTG that is essential to address the natural resource concerns identified by this initiative.</b>							
1/ Burn according to designed burn plan and NRCS Prescribed Burning (338) standard and specifications. A prescribed burn plan written by a certified prescribed burn manager is required prior to payment. Site prep burns are included. Constructed firebreak cost is not included in cost of burn. Prescribe burning can be utilized in consecutive years to address resource concerns.							
643	Restoration and Mgt. of Rare and Declining Habitats						1 Year
	Dev. of Deep Micro-Topo Features with Heavy Equipment.	Acre	\$77.52		\$93.02		
	Dev. of Shallow Micro-Topo Features with Normal Farm Equip	Acre	\$27.94		\$33.53		
	Habitat Monitoring and Mgt, High Intensity and Complexity	Acre	\$16.91		\$20.29		
	Habitat Monitoring and Mgt, Low Intensity and Complexity	Acre	\$2.39		\$2.87		
	Rare or Dec. Habitat Monitoring and Mgt, Medium Intensity	Acre	\$8.99		\$10.79		
<b>Core Practice - a conservation practice or activity listed in the FOTG that is essential to address the natural resource concerns identified by this initiative.</b>							
381	Silvopasture						20 Years
	Tree Establishment 1/	Acre	\$79.04		\$93.61		
	Commercial thinning and establishment of introduced grasses. 2/	Acre	\$244.52		\$293.43		
1/ The establishment of longleaf pines trees into an existing pasture where adequate native grasses or introduced forage is present.							
2/ The establishment of native grasses or introduced forage into an existing stand of trees is present.							
612	Tree and Shrub Establishment						15 Years
	High Density-hand plant Conifer 1/	Acre	\$205.90	\$ 20,000.00	\$247.08	\$ 20,000.00	
	High Density mech conifer planting 2/	Acre	\$150.87	\$ 20,000.00	\$181.04	\$ 20,000.00	
<b>Core Practice - a conservation practice or activity listed in the FOTG that is essential to address the natural resource concerns identified by this initiative.</b>							
1/ Longleaf Pines will be hand planted at 6X12 spacing at 605 trees per acre. ALL forestry acres are eligible for planting. A Forest management plan is required prior to payment. Plant containerized longleaf pines at 605 trees to acre.							
2/ Longleaf Pines will be mechanically planted at 6X12 spacing at 605 trees per acre. ALL forestry acres are eligible for planting. A Forest management plan is required prior to payment. Plant containerized longleaf pines at 605 trees to acre.							

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490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation						1 Year
	Chemical - Ground Application 1/	Acre	\$53.93	\$ 17,000.00	\$64.72	\$ 17,000.00	
	Mechanical - Medium 2/	Acre	\$172.13	\$ 17,000.00	\$206.55	\$ 17,000.00	

1/ The use of various herbicides applied in order to remove undesirable vegetation and improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs. Typical sites include abandoned fields, pastures, rangelands, agricultural fields or forestland that was recently harvested.

2/ The use of machinery to treat an area in order to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.

645	Upland Wildlife Habitat Management						1 Year
	Habitat Monitoring and Mgt, High Intensity and Complexity	Acre	\$21.98		\$26.37		
	Habitat Monitoring and Mgt, Low Intensity and Complexity	Acre	\$2.39		\$2.87		
	Habitat Monitoring and Mgt, Medium Intensity and Complexity	Acre	\$8.99		\$10.79		
	Habitat Monitoring and Mgt, Very-Low Intensity and Complexity	Acre	\$0.73		\$0.88		

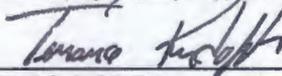
644	Wetland Wildlife Management						1 Year
	Development of Deep Micro-Topo Features with Heavy Equipment.	Acre	\$77.52		\$93.02		
	Dev of Shallow Micro-Topoc Features with Normal Equipment.	Acre	\$27.94		\$33.53		
	Habitat Monitoring and Management, High Intensity and Complexity	Acre	\$21.98		\$26.37		
	Habitat Monitoring and Management, Medium Intensity and Complexity	Acre	\$8.99		\$10.79		
	Habitat Monitoring and Management, Very-Low Intensity and Complexity	Acre	\$0.73		\$0.88		
	Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mngtand Mgt, Low Intensity and Complexity	Acre	\$2.39		\$2.87		

Maximum Amounts for the life of the contract are established on certain conservation practices or options, as noted in this Policy. EQIP funds provide financial assistance to eligible farmers and ranchers to help these producers enhance agricultural and forested lands in a cost-effective and environmentally beneficial manner. Establishing Maximum Amounts for the contract allows Georgia NRCS to make EQIP funding assistance available to a larger number of eligible farmers, ranchers and forest producers here in Georgia, and also as a method to make funding available to eligible producers regardless of size of operation (i.e., by not obligating large amounts of funds on operations with more acres, Georgia EQIP funds will be available to a larger number of separate operations). The specified "Maximum Amounts" for identified practices within this policy does not allow applicants to exceed the maximums through multiple offers/contracts on different acres when those acres are controlled by the same applicant(s), where 'control' means possession of the land by ownership, written lease, or other legal agreement (as generally indicated on FSA's EZ156 &/or Producer Farm Data Report forms). Historically Underserved Maximum Amounts refers to the maximum contract payment for Historically Underserved Farmers (Limited Resource Farmers, Beginning Farmers, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers as defined in the 2009 EQIP Interim Final Rule). NOTE: While there is no restriction on the number of applications (or contracts, if funded) that may be submitted by an applicant for EQIP, all FY15 EQIP applications (and contracted amounts) will count towards the Maximum Amount as listed in FY15 EQIP Policy for any and all FY15 EQIP applications (and FY15 EQIP contracts, if funded) where acres are controlled by the same applicant(s).

FMP = Forest Management Plan. Approved FMP's are:

- (a) Forest Management Plan 106 Plan developed by a TSP OR
- (b) Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) prepared by GFC OR
- (c) GFC Resource Management Plan OR
- (d) Conservation Plan on Forest Land OR
- (e) a site-specific plan prepared by a professional forester if this site-specific plan has been approved by either an NRCS forester or the Georgia State Forester at the time the EQIP applicant signs the CPA1200.

This REVISED program policy is approved for use in Georgia.



TERRANCE O. RUDOLPH  
STATE CONSERVATIONIST - GEORGIA

5/13/2015

Date