Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)

Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP)

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

Tree Planting

- A minimum of 20 acres and maximum of 200 acres per contract.
- Cost share assistance for tree planting is available in NRCS Administration Area I & II. (Volusia – Marion – Citrus Counties North)

Practices Available For Cost Share

- Plant longleaf pine seedlings on 8x12 foot spacing or wider AND agree to prescribed burn same acres on 2 to 3 year rotation to benefit wildlife.
- Converting cropland/pastureland class III or greater into trees.
- Plant pine seedlings (longleaf, slash, loblolly, etc) in low density (8’x12’ or wider) AND establish permanent firebreaks around the stand AND establish 10% of stand in openings to benefit wildlife.

Applications

Applications are taken on a continuous signup at either the NRCS Office or the FSA Office.
EQIP cost-share agreements shall be in effect for a period of 2 years, but not more than 10 years.

- At least one essential practice must be completed within 12 months of contract approval.
- All essential practices shall be completed at least 1 year prior to contract expiration.
- Contact the local USDA-NRCS field office.

PERSON ELIGIBILITY

- An applicant must furnish evidence of ownership of control of the land for the duration of the cost-share agreement.
- Participant must be in compliance with HEL / WC provisions.

WILDLIFE HABITAT INCENTIVES PROGRAM (WHIP)

To provide technical and financial assistance through long-term agreements to create, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat.

Implement parts of the conservation plan that create, restore, and enhance wildlife habitat. These components will make up the Wildlife Habitat Development Plan (WHDP).

Eligibility Requirements

- Participant are required to be in compliance with the provisions of the Food Security Act of 1985, as amended. Required to complete an AD-1026 and comply with the HEL/WC provisions.
- Participant must complete and file form CCC-526 (Payment Eligibility Average Adjusted Gross Income Certification and meet the requirements therein.

Eligibility Requirements con’t

- Participant must have control of the land for the contract period.
Land Eligibility

Lands that are eligible for WHIP are:
- Privately owned lands, including lands owned by non-governmental organizations.
- State, County, or local government owned lands, on a case by case basis.
- Federal lands in those limited circumstances where the benefits is primarily on private lands.

Ineligible Land

Lands that are ineligible for WHIP are:
- Federal lands, except as identified above.
- Land currently enrolled in the following:
  - Water Bank Program (WBP)
  - Emergency Watershed Program (EWP), subject to floodplain easement.
  - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
  - Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

Ineligible Land con’t

Lands that are ineligible for WHIP are:
- Lands where the expected impacts from offsite conditions make the success of habitat improvement unlikely.
- Application involving less than the minimum acreage. 20 ac minimum or 1 ac South Florida Rockland.
- Application that are not cost-effective, or do not sufficiently meet program requirements.

Emergency Forestry Conservation Reserve Program (EFCRP)

The program helps landowners restore & enhance the approximately 5.6 million acres of forestland damaged by hurricanes of 2005.

Eligibility

- 35% or greater loss of merchantable timber on non-industrial forestland.
- Loss must relate directly to one of the calendar year 2005 hurricanes, Dennis, Katrina, Ophelia, Rita, or Wilma
- List of eligible counties, located in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, & Texas.
  Available at: [http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hurrcounties06.pdf](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/Internet/FSA_File/hurrcounties06.pdf)

Sign Up Dates

Farm Service Agency will accept offers for enrollment in EFCRP starting August 6, 2007 ending December 31, 2007.
After offer evaluation and acceptance, a forester will work with landowner to develop a conservation plan. Enrolled land will remain under contract with USDA’s Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) for 10 years. Participants will receive 50% cost-share assistance and may select either a lump sum rental payment or 10 annual rental payments. However, they may not harvest standing timber from enrolled land during the terms of the contract period.

**QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

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