

**FORESTRY GUIDE**  
**Special EQIP**  
**Forest Health/Wildlife Resource Concern**

Under this concern cost-share and/or incentive payments are available on forestland. Cost-share is available for non commercial thinning and for prescribed burning, including any needed firebreak construction.

- Incentive payments are available for commercial stands that meet maximum basal area per acre (BA) as specified below.
- Only stands larger than 10 contiguous acres are eligible for the program.
- The contract acreage amount is limited to 125 acres.

**Non-commercial Stands**

Non-commercial forests are described as those where there is no buyer willing to offer payment for removal of the desired standing trees.

- To be eligible, the stems per acre must exceed 800 at the time of application.
- Two cost-share rates are available
  - (1) for thinning below 550 stems per acre.
  - (2) for thinning below 400 stems per acre  
(see cost list for all rates).
- Prescribed burning will be scheduled (with cost-share) two years following the thinning, and again 3 years hence, for a total of two burns.
- An initial prescribed burn can be scheduled prior to thinning, if needed and approved by the Georgia Forestry Commission, but need not be required as a part of the contract, although it can be cost-shared if recommended.

**Commercial Stands**

For commercial stands, incentive payments are offered for prescribed burning if the stand meets certain basal area requirements (see chart of basal area values relative to stems per acre). Commercial stands are defined as those where a buyer is willing to offer payment for desired stem removal.

- Stands that exceed a basal area of 90, as well as those that already meet the required maximum basal area of 70 or 50, are eligible.
- Those to be thinned and those already thinned to the required BA will be receive different point scores in the ranking..

To be eligible for the incentive payment, the stand must exceed a basal area of 90 *at the time of application*, and the owner must be willing to thin, and select the maximum he/she wants to attain, either 70 or 50 square feet of basal area per acre. Following the thinning, *the participant must conduct a prescribed burn* two years following the timber harvest, and will receive an incentive payment at that time, and again for a prescribed

---

burn 3 years hence (years 2008 & 2011), based on the basal area attained at the time of thinning.

- An initial prescribed burn, at regular cost share rates, can be scheduled prior to thinning, if needed and approved by the Georgia Forestry Commission, but will not be considered in the ranking.
- For those stands already thinned below the 50 or 70 BA threshold, cost-share will be paid for a minimum of 2 or a maximum of 3 burns over the life of the contract, on a 3 year interval [years 2006, 2009, & (optional) 2012].

<b>Basal Area/Stem Count Relationship</b>		
<b>Average Tree Diameter</b>	<b>Basal Area = 70</b>	<b>Basal Area = 50</b>
	<b>Trees per Acre</b>	<b>Trees per Acre</b>
5	513	367
6	357	255
7	262	187
8	201	143
9	158	113
10	128	92
11	106	76
12	89	64
13	76	54
14	65	47
15	57	41
16	50	36
17	44	32
18	40	28

**Water Quality**

Erosion control measures (water bars, broad-based dips, critical area treatment) are also eligible for cost share on existing forest trails and landings, on access roads within the forest, for construction of stream crossings (culvert or fords) on existing roads, (meeting NRCS’s stream crossing standard).

- Watershed size for culvert crossings will be limited to those requiring a 36 inch or less diameter culvert, as indicated in the chart for permanent culverts in “[Georgia’s Best Management Practices for Forestry](#)” publication.
- Stream crossings will be limited to one per contract.
- Critical area treatment will be limited to 2 acres per contract.
- No cost-share will be available for road construction.
- Seeding perennial vegetation on critical areas will be carried out using wildlife friendly species, as listed in the publication “[Erosion Control & Wildlife Plantings for Forestry Operations](#)”.

**Bonus Points:**

- Forest Stewardship Plan (FSP) – the Georgia Forestry Commission (GFC) will supply a list of all tracts in a county that have a current FSP in place
- Certified Forest Steward – of the tracts with a FSP, GFC will provide listing of Certified Stewards.
- Establish or maintain forest roads to a minimum of 40 feet width – existing roads widened by tree/shrub removal during thinning operations. No additional cost-share will be provided for this activity.
- Landowner will to allow access for tours/demonstrations – NRCS, DNR, or GFC sponsored organized tours or demonstrations may be held on the tract, in coordination with the landowner (schedule, time, etc.).
- Adjacent cropland – row crop land with a current cropping history (three of the last five years) is adjacent to the acreage, with either no, less than half, or more than half the perimeter in field borders as described in the ranking.
- Adjacent to mature hardwood stands – existing mature hardwood stands are located along a portion of the perimeter of the contract acreage.
- Pasture – contract acreage is adjacent to pasture field(s).

Practices	Points
<b>Non Commercial Stands</b>	
Forest Stand Improvement - Non- <b>commercial</b> Thinning - to less than 550 stems/ac. Prescribed burning	45
Forest Stand Improvement - Non- <b>commercial</b> Thinning - to less than 400 stems/ac. Prescribed burning	60
<b>Commercial Stands</b>	
Prescribed Burning with Firebreaks following <b>commercial</b> thinning to less than 70 BA	45
Prescribed Burning with Firebreaks following <b>commercial</b> thinning to less than 50 BA	60
Prescribed Burning with Firebreaks on stand <u>presently</u> less than 70 BA	15
Prescribed Burning with Firebreaks on stand <u>presently</u> less than 50 BA	30
<b>Water Quality (100 Points Maximum)</b>	
Access Roads (water bars, dips)	10
Critical Area Treatment (Roads, Trails, Logging Decks)	25
Forest Trails (closure - water bars, dips)	50
Stream Crossings (culverts, fords - w/vegetation)	25

Bonus Items	Points
<b>(Select all that apply)</b>	
Has Forest Stewardship Plan covering acreage	30
Has been certified as a Forest Steward through the Forest Stewardship Program	10
Acreage adjacent to mature hardwood forest stands	15
Landowner will to allow access for tours/demonstrations.	10
Establish or maintain forest roads to a minimum of 40 feet width	20
Acreage adjacent to pasture	15
<b>(Select only one below)</b>	
Acreage adjacent to cropland field without field borders.	10
Acreage adjacent to cropland field with field borders along 1/4 to 1/2 of perimeter	15
Acreage adjacent to cropland field with field borders along more than 1/2 of perimeter	20

<b>Item</b>	<b>Units</b>	<b>*Cost-Share/Incentive Payment</b>
Prescribed Burning (includes firebreaks)	Ac.	\$15.00
Pre-Commercial Thinning (to maximum 550 stems/ac.)	Ac.	\$43.00
Pre-Commercial Thinning (to maximum 400 stems/ac.)	Ac.	\$54.00
Prescribed Burning (less than 50 BA/Acre prerequisite)	Ac.	\$45.00
Prescribed Burning (less than 70 BA/Acre prerequisite)	Ac.	\$45.00
Water Bars	Each	\$40.00
Broad Based Dips	Each	\$80.00
Critical Area Treatment (seed, grading, seedbed prep., seeding)	Ac.	\$300.00
Stream crossing - ford (geoweb, gravel, earthmoving) or culvert	Each	<i>(Use EQIP cost list components)</i>

\*These costs represent actual contract amount, based on 50% cost shar