



## Forest Management Incentive Programs



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Commission



## GFC Involvement

- GFC
  - 30 field foresters
  - Administer and serve as TSP
    - Develop plans - Resource Management Plan
    - Part of overall conservation plan
    - Intermediate Advice
    - Verify performance
  - [www.gatrees.org](http://www.gatrees.org) – overview of programs



## Incentive Programs

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) Sign up through FSA
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Sign up through NRCS
- Southern Pine Beetle PRS Program
- Invasive Plant Control Program Sign up through GFC
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program Sign up through USF&W

Get to know your local agency representatives!



## Incentive Programs

### Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- Sign-up for General and Continuous Practices in Progress
- General sign-up ends March 11
- Currently 307k acres enrolled in GA – mostly trees
- 10-15 year contracts
- Cropped 4 out of 6 years between 2012-2017
- 2 kinds of signups – Continuous & General
- CRP General Sign-up – (CP3 & CP3A) (Timber Objective)
  - competitive ranking (50% cost share rate + annual rental payments)
- Continuous Sign-up (CP36 & CP38C) (Longleaf/Wildlife Objective)
  - no ranking (50% cost share rate + PIP + SIP + annual rental payments)

Available acres: within longleaf planting zone



## Incentive Programs

### Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP)

- Restores forest after natural disaster
- Natural or artificial regeneration
- Hurricane Michael / Tornadoes / Swamp fires / Ice Storm
- Appropriated by Congress
- Softwood or hardwood restoration
- Targets 75% cost share, not to exceed 75%
- \$2000 minimum - \$500K max.
- Contact FSA when there is damage in your area!



## Incentive Programs

### Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

- Most popular and inclusive
- Continuous signup / Competitive ranking process
  - Local resource concerns
- Eligible practices include: prescribed burning, pre-commercial & commercial thinning, site preparation and tree planting, brush management, herbaceous weed control, road/trail stabilization, invasive plant control, wildlife opening management and NWSG planting and management
- Typically 3 year contract
- Target +/- 75% cost share
- Pays a flat per acre rate
- General Sign-up & Initiatives (Longleaf, WLFW)



## Incentive Programs

### Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- Reward for good management
- Two types of payments:
  - Annual payment for installing and adopting additional activities and improving, maintaining, and managing existing activities
  - Supplemental payment for the adoption of resource-conserving practices
- 5 year contract
- Go to CSP website to view enhancements - must install at least 1 new enhancement



## Southern Pine Beetle Prevention

### How can you minimize the chance of a southern pine beetle attack?

- Best Prevention is Good Forest Management!!
- Conduct periodic thinnings to make sure the pine stand does not become too dense (Thin when Pine BA > 110 - 120). Pre-commercial pine stands, if necessary.
- Control competition in stand with herbicides or prescribed burning. (Increase Tree Vigor)
- Plant pine species that are more resistant or at lower density spacing.





## Incentive Programs

### SPB Cost Share Program



- **Sign up period usually spring/early summer**

Prevention practices: pre-commercial thinning (\$70), pine release (\$32) & prescribed burning (\$5)

- Loblolly/shortleaf only, except burning young longleaf

Restoration practices: pine and hardwood planting (\$80 - \$115)

Suppression practices: cut or push buffer

- Any active spb infestation

- 10 acre practice minimum

- Maximum limit per landowner

- **Sign-up process**

- Complete online application

- Applications are ranked based on spb hazard ranking for county, practice type, etc.

- Active pots of money after the sign-up



## Incentive Programs



### Invasive Plant Control Program (IPSC)

- Sign-up period usually spring/early summer
- Target species: privet spp., Japanese climbing fern, Chinese tallow tree, chinaberry and callery pear
- Available to NIPF lands and those of local governments
- \$60/acre flat rate
- \$4500 maximum – 75 acres
- Minimum 3 acre practice size
- Funding from USFS



## Incentive Programs

### Community Protection Grant

- In partnership with the USFS - pre-suppression fire breaks and burning assistance
- Must be forested land within 10 miles of a National Forest in Georgia

#### Priorities:

- Distance from National Forest – Landowners nearest NF take priority, preferably those that border National Forest. Burns adjacent to FS burns or in conjunction with FS burns will take highest priority
- Fuel load – stands with heaviest fuel loads
- Inaccessible areas where wildfires could occur i.e. railroad & remote areas
- Sign-up through your GFC county ranger or forester





## Incentive Programs

### Other Localized Programs

- **South Georgia Landscape Restoration Cost Share Project**
  - Focus on mid-management activities (burning, herbicide, thinning, mowing, mulching)
- **Shortleaf Pine & Oak Restoration in the Georgia Cumberlands Cost Share Project**
  - Focus in NW Georgia to promote shortleaf pine and oak ecosystem
  - Target practices include cost share for reforestation, burning, thinning, herbicide work
- **Georgia Sentinel Landscape Prescribed Fire Initiative**
  - Administered by Longleaf Alliance
  - Focus on prescribed burning in SE Georgia



## Questions?



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