

**VERMONT
FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAM HANDBOOK
OF
FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT
PROGRAM PRACTICES**



FLEP



FORESTRY DIVISION
VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS,
PARKS & RECREATION
AGENCY OF NATURAL RESOURCES



FLEP

**FOREST LAND
ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM
PRACTICES**

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for
Forest Land Enhancement Program Practices

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FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

OBJECTIVE OF FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

The objective of the Forest Land Enhancement Program is to encourage long-term stewardship and management enhancement of non-industrial private forest lands for economic, environmental, and social benefits by sharing the cost of developing and carrying out an approved Vermont Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan.

RESPONSIBILITY OF COUNTY FORESTER

The County Forester is responsible for the administration of the program within the county and for monitoring the program to ensure that it is achieving desired results and to ensure compliance with practice installation and maintenance specifications.

The County Forester is responsible for determining which eligible applications will be approved and the cost-share approval amount. When determining which practices have priority for cost-sharing, the County Forester will use the following practice ranking priorities as recommended by the State Forest Stewardship Committee and approved by the State Forester.

PRACTICE	PRIORITY	C/S	TARGET
FLEP-1 Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan Development	High	New plan: 75% Revision: 65%	25 new plans/5000 ac. 50 revised plans/10,000 ac.
FLEP-2 Reforestation and Regeneration	Low	65%	10 ac.
FLEP-3 Forest Stand Improvement	High	65%	750 ac.
FLEP-5 Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection	High	65%	50 ac.
FLEP-6 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement	Medium-Low	65%	50 ac.
FLEP-7 Forest Health and Protection	High	65%	100 ac.
FLEP-8 Invasive Species Control	High	65%	50 ac.
FLEP-10 Fire and Catastrophic Event Rehabilitation	Low	65%	50 ac.
FLEP-11 Special Practices	Medium	65%	100 ac.

Practice Project Outline – when FLEP practices are approved for cost-sharing, the County Forester should develop a project outline reflecting the standards and technical specifications required to qualify for cost-share. The project outline may be brief and refer to and include the technical specifications for the practices that are pertinent to the cost-sharing measures for which the landowner is enrolled. This project outline is the contract that spells out the requirements and technical specifications that a landowner must comply with, in establishing a practice in order to be approved for the cost-sharing payment.

Resource Management Professional (Professional Resource Manager) – any person having the knowledge and skills to develop landowner stewardship plans for managing the biological, economic, and environmental inter-relationship of forest resources and to identify appropriate activities to manage, protect, or enhance forest resources. This includes, but is not limited to, foresters and wildlife biologists employed by the State, conservationists employed by the Soil Conservation Service, consulting foresters or consulting wildlife biologists.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PRACTICES

1. **Qualifying lands** – are non-industrial private forestlands with existing tree cover and other non-industrial private lands within the same contiguous tract which is identified by the landowner and approved by the County Forester as suitable for growing trees and scheduled for conversion to Forest Land Enhancement Program practices.
2. **Non-industrial private forestland** – rural qualifying land as described above and owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Native American tribe or other native group, or other private legal entity, excluding corporations whose stocks are publicly traded or legal entities principally engaged in the production of wood products.

3. **Eligible landowners.**

The following landowners are eligible for cost-sharing practices if they own non-industrial private forestland:

- Individuals, including foreign owners.
- Joint owners.
- Native American tribes or other Native American groups who have allotted lands within tribal ownership.
- Groups and associations.
- Corporations without publicly-traded stock.
- Youth organizations (necessary forms signed by adult who officially represents organizations).
- Minors (legally responsible for land).
- Other private legal entities.

4. **Ineligible landowners.**

- Federal, state, or local government agencies
- Corporations with publicly-traded stock.
- Entities that are principally engaged (derive greater than 50 percent of gross income) in manufacturing forest products (such as sawmills, pulp mills, paper mills, and plywood plants).
- Entities providing public utility services.

5. **Minimum eligible ownership acreage.**

A landowner must own a minimum of 10 acres of contiguous non-industrial forestland.

6. **Maximum eligible ownership acreage.**

A landowner may own up to 1,000 acres of non-industrial private forestland. The State Forester, with the concurrence of the Area Director, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry, USFS may approve cost-sharing assistance to landowners that own more than 1,000 acres but not over 5,000 acres of non-industrial private forestland if they determine that significant public benefits will accrue from such approval.

7. **Repeating practices previously cost-shared.**

Cost-sharing is not allowed for repeating practices on the same acreage by the same landowner which have been implemented under the Forestry Incentive Program, Forest Land Enhancement Program, or any other federal, state, or local program or private sector program except where practices need to be repeated due to a failure of a prior practice without fault of the landowner or otherwise provided for in these FLEP practices.

GENERAL POLICIES FOR ALL FLEP PRACTICES

1. Landowners must agree to maintain cost-shared practices for 10 years after practice completion.
2. Landowners are required to have an approved Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (including the Forest Stewardship Assessment) prior to receiving approval for the other FLEP practices. Landowners must include and agree to manage all of their non-industrial private forestland that is within a contiguous tract under a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plans.
3. To qualify for FLEP cost-sharing practices (with the exception of FLEP-1), landowners are required to provide the County Foresters with a description and the location of the planned treatment sufficient to determine the potential to fulfill the technical specifications for the practice(s). The description should include information such as the items listed below that are pertinent to the technical specifications:

Soils
Site index
Species and stocking level of vegetation to be favored
Number of crop trees to be released
Anticipated undesirable vegetation
Erosion control measures
Amount of area to be treated (acres, length, etc.)

4. Cost-sharing is not allowed for any practice or measure which can be accomplished through commercial silvicultural or logging operations. A commercial operation is defined as removal of more than 1,000 board feet of USFS #2 quality sawlogs or better per acre.
5. Maximum allowable cost-share that a landowner can receive for planning, designing, layout, and marking costs of a professional resource manager for all practices during any one federal fiscal year is \$500 exclusive of the cost-share allowed for FLEP-1 Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan development.
6. Maximum payment limitation for all FLEP payments is \$10,000 per landowner per federal fiscal year.
7. Fencing – landowners will be eligible for cost-sharing for fencing only where it is determined by the County Forester, that the primary purpose of the practice will not be achieved if not fenced.
8. Protection of trees – landowners will only be eligible for the protection by the use of tree guards or tree shelters of trees planted or otherwise regenerated under these practices only where it is determined by the County Forester that the primary purpose of a practice will not be achieved if the planted trees are not protected by tree guards or shelters.
9. Cost-sharing is authorized for measures of the various FLEP practices to be done on the same acreage in conjunction with other FLEP practices or measures within a practice where the measures are determined by the County Forester to be needed and compatible. However, cost-sharing is allowed only once to release or thin around any individual crop tree or shrub during the 10-year period the landowner is required to maintain FLEP practices.



LIST OF FOREST LAND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM PRACTICES

FLEP-1	Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan Development
FLEP-2	Reforestation and Regeneration
FLEP-3	Forest Improvement
FLEP-5	Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection
FLEP-6	Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Practices
FLEP-6A	Establishment and Improvement of Permanent Wildlife Openings
FLEP-6B	Establishment and Improvement of Wildlife Travel Corridors and Escape Cover
FLEP-6C	Improvement of Winter Habitat for White-tailed Deer
FLEP-6D	Forest Improvement and Planting for Production of Hard and Soft Mast (Food) for Wildlife
FLEP-6E	Establishment and Enhancement of Conifer Trees to Provide Wildlife Habitat Diversity
FLEP-6F	Improvement of Habitat for Ruffed Grouse
FLEP-6G	Improvement of Habitat for Woodcock
FLEP-6H	Improvement of Habitat for Wild Turkey
FLEP-7	Forest Health and Protection
FLEP-8	Invasive Species Control
FLEP-10	Fire and Catastrophic Event Rehabilitation
FLEP-11	Special Practices

FLEP-1 LANDOWNER FOREST STEWARDSHIP PLAN DEVELOPMENT

PURPOSE

1. Encourage the long-term stewardship and management of Non-Industrial Private Forest (NIPF) lands by advising landowners to more actively manage their forests.
 2. Assess and document non-industrial forest landowners forest resources and ownership objectives for the parcel.
 3. Provide NIPF landowners with an action-oriented land management plan that:
 - a. Identifies and describes resource management decisions and practices.
 - b. Embodies multi-resource stewardship principles.
 - c. Is compatible with their land ownership objectives.
 - d. Helps to meet future public demands for all forest resources.
 - e. Helps to provide the environmental and economic benefits that result from good forest stewardship.
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GENERAL POLICIES

1. Apply this practice to NIPF forestlands with existing tree cover or other rural lands suitable for conversion to Forest Land Enhancement program practices.
2. A Landowner Stewardship Plan must be prepared.
3. The plan shall consider long-term management of forest health, fire hazard, timber and wood products, soil and water quality, riparian and wetlands, wildlife and fish habitat, outdoor recreation, aesthetics, and threatened and endangered species.
4. The plan shall emphasize biological, environmental, and economic management principles.
5. A Vermont Forest Stewardship Assessment must be included as part of the stewardship plan.
6. The plan must cover a period of at least 10 years.
7. The plan shall be reviewed every five years and may be revised as needed.
8. The plan must cover all forestland within a contiguous tract owned by a landowner.

9. The plan must contain a summary of all Forest Land Enhancement Program cost-sharing practices and measures that the landowner plans to apply for during the 10-year period covered by the plan.
 10. The landowner(s) shall affirm by signature that they have read the plan and that it reflects their goals and objectives and that all activities on the enrolled land are consistent with the Stewardship plan.
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COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized** for development, by a professional resource manager, of a two-part Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan consisting of:
 - a. Vermont Forest Stewardship Assessment, and
 - b. Vermont Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan.
2. Cost-sharing for developing the two-part Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan includes the professional resource manager's work in:
 - a. Conducting a reconnaissance of the parcel.
 - b. Helping the landowner to understand and evaluate their forest resources and alternative forestland management actions for the parcel.
 - c. Assisting the landowner in an assessment of their goals and objectives for the parcel.
 - d. Inventorying the forest resources on the parcel.
 - e. Preparing maps of the parcel.
 - f. Development of an action-oriented forest stewardship plan that embodies multi-resources stewardship principles and identifies actions to be taken by the landowner to protect and manage their forest and related resources in a manner that is compatible with landowner objectives.
 - g. The cost of other specialists who assist the professional resource manager in evaluating the parcel and inventorying and developing portions of the plan for special resources.
3. **Cost-sharing is not authorized for:**
 - a. Boundary surveys.

- b. Revision of forest stewardship plans previously cost-shared under this practice.

THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

The practice must, at the minimum, conform to the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-1 Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan Development*” which is on file in the County Forester’s office.

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Development of a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan for forestlands that do not have an existing forest management plan.

75% of the cost not to exceed an amount determined by using the formula of:

$\$250 + (\$2.00 \times \text{number of acres})$ with a maximum cost-share of \$1,650 for any one parcel of contiguous and adjacent lands.

Development of a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan for forestlands that have an existing Forest Management Plan (such as Use Value) and need to be expanded and enhanced to meet all of the requirements and technical specifications of this practice.

65% of the cost allowed for the development of a Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan for forestlands that do not have an existing forest management plan.



FLEP-2 REFORESTATION AND REGENERATION

PURPOSE

1. Establish a stand of forest trees for conservation and environmental purposes and timber production.
 2. Promote natural or artificial regeneration where acceptable growing stock is inadequate.
 3. Supplement natural regeneration to control future stand composition (increase diversity, stocking levels, species value, etc.).
 4. Control undesirable competition on better sites.
 5. Improve wildlife habitat.
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GENERAL POLICIES

1. Reforestation and regeneration is the establishment of a stand of young trees. A new stand is considered established when the young trees are safe from normal adverse influences (frost, drought, competition of weeds, or browsing) and are no longer in need of special protection.
2. Apply this practice to forest or open land suitable for growing trees where the existing vegetation will not meet the owner's goals and anticipated societal needs for long-term forest management and where the composition of the new stand must be controlled to meet these goals.
3. For the primary purpose of producing wood products, this practice may be used only on sites with a potential productivity class of Site II or better for the species to be regenerated. The species have to be approved by the County Forester. This practice may be used on sites with a lower potential productivity class than listed above only in conjunction with and as part of ***FLEP-6 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Practices***.
4. **This practice may be applied in conjunction with and as specified in *FLEP-6 Wildlife Habitat Improvement Practices* to:**
 - a. Plant a stand of trees to establish or expand a travel corridor or escape cover for wildlife under:
 - (1) **FLEP-6B** Establishment and Improvement of Wildlife Travel Corridors and Escape Cover.
 - (2) **FLEP-6H** Improvement of Habitat for Wild Turkey.

- b. Plant a stand of trees or prepare site for regeneration or the improvement of a deer wintering area under FLEP-6C Improvement of Winter Habitat for White-tailed deer.
 - c. Carry out measures to assist in regenerating stands or groups of mast-producing trees for enhancement of wild turkey under FLEP-6H Improvement of Habitat for Wild Turkey.
 - d. Plant a stand of trees or prepare site for regeneration under FLEP-6D to assist in establishing a stand of mast-producing trees for the future production of food for a wide variety of wildlife.
5. **This practice may be applied in conjunction with and as specified in *FLEP-8 Invasive Species Control*.**
6. **Minimum size of area to be treated:**
- a. Planting of trees – must be on an area of at least three acres in size unless otherwise authorized as a part of other FLEP practices.
 - b. Site preparation measures and direct seeding – must be on areas totaling three acres in size unless otherwise authorized as a part of other FLEP practices.
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COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized for:**
- a. Preparing sites occupied largely by unmerchantable trees or brush and other competing and undesirable vegetation only where essential to permit natural regeneration, planting, or direct seeding of desirable species. These site preparation measures include scarification, eliminating undesirable competition (ferns, grasses, shrubs, seedlings, etc.) and preparatory regeneration cutting (or deadening) of overstory trees.
 - b. Erosion control measures incidental to and performed as part of the site preparation process. Water quality must be protected and maintained both during and after site preparation.
 - c. Purchase, planting, and establishment of a plantation of trees.
 - d. Purchase of seed, direct seeding, and establishment of a stand of trees.
 - e. Weed control measures necessary for successful establishment.
 - f. Planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager.

- g. Purchase and installation of tree guards or shelters when determined by the County Forester as necessary for the protection and establishment of planted trees or regeneration.
2. **Cost-sharing is not authorized** for:
- a. Planting of trees for orchards, Christmas tree production, nursery or ornamental production, or strictly ornamental purposes.
 - b. Forest stands that are adequately stocked with acceptable growing stock of any size as recommended in the approved silvicultural or stocking guides.
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THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

This practice must be completed in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-2 Reforestation and Regeneration*” which is on file at the County Forester’s office.

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.



MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Site preparation measures.

Scarification	65% of the cost not to exceed \$35 per acre.
Elimination of undesirable understory vegetation (ferns, grasses, shrubs, weeds, seedlings, etc.) by mechanical or approved chemical measures.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$65 per acre.
Preparatory regeneration cutting (or deadening) of overstory trees.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$90 per acre.
Purchasing and planting of trees.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$380 per thousand trees for seedlings or \$635 per thousand trees for transplants.
Purchase and installation of tree guards or shelters to protect planted trees or natural regeneration.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.00 per tree.
Purchase of seeds, protective treatment of seeds, and direct seeding.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$75 per acre.

Maximum allowable cost-share per acre for any combination of site preparation measures, direct seeding measures, tree guard protection, and tree planting is as follows by species and site class:

Northern hardwoods	Site I - \$125 per acre	Site II - \$65 per acre
Red oak	Site I - \$450 per acre	Site II - \$250 per acre
White pine	Site I - \$500 per acre	Site II - \$380 per acre
All other conifers	Site I - \$380 per acre	Site II - \$250 per acre

Planning, designing, layout, and marking time by a professional resource manager.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre with a maximum of \$250 per parcel.
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FLEP-3 FOREST IMPROVEMENT

PURPOSE

1. Increase tree growth and quality.
 2. Improve stand vigor and forest health.
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GENERAL POLICIES

1. Apply this practice to a stand of forest trees needing improvement for the primary purpose of producing high quality sawtimber, pulpwood, poles, posts, etc. where the potential productivity class of the stand or site is a high Site III or better with a minimum site index as listed below. This practice may be used for the dual purpose of timber production and wildlife habitat improvement when the minimum technical specifications for both practices can be fulfilled.

<u>Forest Type</u>	<u>Site Index</u>
Spruce-Fir	35
White Pine	55
Northern Hardwoods	50
Oak Hardwoods	50

2. This practice may be applied in conjunction with as specified in the *FLEP-6C "Improvement of Winter Habitat for White-tailed Deer"* to carry out silvicultural practices such as release cutting or crop tree releasing to promote crown development of conifer trees and improve winter cover for deer.
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COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized** for the following measures:
 - a. Release cuttings in forest stands not past the sapling stage: cutting or deadening competing vegetation to regulate the composition of species, provide room for crop trees to grow, and improve the quality of trees.

Release cuttings include the silvicultural practices of: (1) cleaning – where crop trees and overtopping trees are of the same age/size class, (2) weeding – where the competing trees may be from a variety of crown classes, and (3) liberation – where the competition is from trees of a larger size class.

- b. Crop tree release in immature stands of pole and log size (with crop trees of 5” to 18.9” in DBH) – pre-commercial cutting or the deadening of competing trees to improve the composition of species, provide room for desirable crop trees to grow, improve the quality and increase the yield of high value timber products. Crop trees must be of high value species of 5” to 18.9” in DBH which are dominant or co-dominant in position and well formed and free of major diseases and insects.
 - c. Pre-commercial thinning in pole size stands with main crown canopy (overstory) trees in the range of 4½” to 9” in DBH) – pre-commercial cutting or deadening of competing trees by girdling to improve the composition of species, provide room for desirable crop trees to grow, improve the quality and increase the yield of valuable timber products.
 - d. Pruning of crop trees – where crop trees have been released and are free to grow and where the crop trees can be improved to produce high quality wood products that justifies the cost of pruning.
 - e. Planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager.
2. **Cost-sharing is not authorized** for:
- a. Improvement or pruning of Christmas trees or ornamental plantations.
 - b. Improvement of a sugarbush.
3. Cost-sharing for an eligible measure is limited to once on the same acreage except that landowners may be eligible to sign up for pruning trees twice during the life of this program, once to a height of 9 feet and the second time to a height of 17 feet provided that:
- a. The trees can only be pruned to a height of 9 feet (as determined by the County Forester) when pruned the first time.
 - b. Cost-share funding is available.

MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

The enrolled landowner must, at the minimum, complete this practice in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-3 Forest Improvement.*”

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Release cuttings (cleaning, weeding, and liberation) in hardwood or conifer stands not past the sapling stage.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$125 per acre.
Crop tree release in immature stands of pole and small log size.	
Hardwood stands	65% of the cost not to exceed \$80 per acre.
Softwood stands	65% of the cost not to exceed \$90 per acre.
Mixed wood stands	65% of the cost not to exceed \$85 per acre
Pre-commercial thinning in pole size stands.	
Hardwood stands	65% of the cost not to exceed \$65 per acre.
Softwood stands	65% of the cost not to exceed \$75 per acre.
Mixed wood stands	65% of the cost not to exceed \$70 per acre.
Pruning of crop trees.	
Pruning to a height of 9 feet <u>or</u> from a height of 9 feet to a height of 17 feet when previously pruned to a height of 9 feet.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$45 per acre.
Pruning to a height of 17 feet.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$80 per acre.
Planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre with a maximum of \$250 for all measures of this practice.



FLEP 5 WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AND WATERSHED PROTECTION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to allow for the establishment, maintenance, renovation, and/or restoration of practices, including any necessary design and engineering, to improve and protect water quality, riparian areas and/or forest wetlands and watersheds.

GENERAL POLICY

1. Apply this practice to forestland with existing tree cover and abandoned roads, trails, fire breaks, log landings, and other forest areas needing critical area treatment or are located in: (a) protective strips adjacent to permanent streams, ponds, and lakes; and (b) buffer zones adjacent to significant wetlands. A permanent stream is defined as a current or flow of water having a bed and well-defined bank.
 2. Pesticides shall not be used within the streamside protective strips or wetland buffer zones.
-

COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized** for the following measures:
 - a. Purchasing, site preparation, planting, and establishment of permanent vegetative cover (shrubs, grasses and/or legumes) on areas needing critical area treatment to reduce soil erosion and sedimentation including riparian areas and wetland buffer zones.
 - b. Landowners are eligible to sign up for cost-sharing under ***FLEP-2 Reforestation and Regeneration*** as part of and at the cost-sharing priority level of this FLEP-5 practice for the purchasing, site preparation, planting, and establishment of a stand of trees to stabilize and protect riparian areas and wetland buffer zones.
 - c. Permanent fencing needed to protect riparian areas or wetlands from grazing by livestock. Fencing will only be eligible for cost-sharing where it is determined, by the County Forester, that the primary purpose of this practice will not be achieved if not protected by fence.
 - d. Construction of water diversions and other drainage measures including grading, shaping, ditching (if necessary), waterbarring, and outsloping for the closure or rehabilitation of abandoned roads, trails, fire breaks, log landings, and other areas

needing critical area treatment including streamside protective strips and wetland buffer zones.

- e. Planning, designing, and layout; by a professional resource manager of all measures of this practice (including forest roads, stream crossings, drainage systems, and the establishment of permanent vegetative cover) for the closure or rehabilitation of abandoned roads, trails, fire breaks, log landings, and other areas needing critical area treatment.

2. **Cost-sharing is not authorized** for:

- a. New road or trail construction or maintenance.
- b. Bridge or culvert construction or maintenance.
- c. Pesticide applications.
- d. Gates.
- e. In-stream alterations such as stone rip-rapping, contouring, channeling, gravel removal, etc.

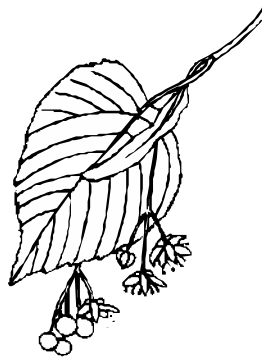
THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

This practice must be completed in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-5 Water Quality Improvement and Watershed Protection*” which is on file at the County Forester’s office.

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Establishment of permanent vegetative (grasses, legumes) cover on critical areas.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$380 per acre.
Purchase, site preparation, planting, and establishment of shrubs.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$380 per thousand shrubs or seedlings or \$615 per thousand for transplants.
Purchase, site preparation, planting, and establishment of a stand of trees.	Cost-shared under FLEP-2 Reforestation and Regeneration except maximum allowable cost-share related to site class and minimum acres as require in FLEP-2 does not apply.
Design and layout by a professional resource manager of all measures of this practice (forest roads, stream crossings, drainage systems, and the establishment of permanent vegetative cover on critical areas.)	65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre and \$.20 per lineal foot for roads with a maximum of \$250 per parcel for all measures of this practice.
Construction of water diversions and other drainage measures including grading, shaping, ditching (if necessary), waterbarring, and outsloping for the closure or rehabilitation of abandoned roads, trails, fire breaks, log landings, and other areas needing critical area treatment including streamside protective strips and wetland buffer zones.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$.65 per lineal foot with a maximum of \$2,500 per parcel.
Permanent fencing.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$.25 per lineal foot.



FLEP-6 FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PRACTICES

PURPOSE

The purpose of these wildlife habitat improvement practices are to restore, improve, or establish permanent upland habitat for native, desirable non-native game, and non-game wildlife species and to improve forestland for other compatible forest uses and benefits.

GENERAL POLICY

Apply these practices to non-industrial private forestlands (NIPF) with existing tree cover and closely associated lands necessary for wildlife species habitat improvement.

COST-SHARING POLICIES FOR THE WILDLIFE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PRACTICES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized** for the following major wildlife habitat improvement practices:

FLEP-6A	Establishment and Improvement of Permanent Wildlife Openings
FLEP-6B	Establishment and Improvement of Wildlife Travel Corridors and Escape Cover
FLEP-6C	Improvement of Winter Habitat for White-tailed Deer
FLEP-6D	Forest Improvement and Plantings for Production of Hard and Soft Mast (Food) for Wildlife
FLEP-6E	Establishment and Improvement of Conifer Trees for Wildlife Habitat Diversity
FLEP-6F	Improvement of Habitat for Ruffed Grouse
FLEP-6G	Improvement of Habitat for Woodcock
FLEP-6H	Improvement of Habitat for Wild Turkey
2. **Cost-sharing is not authorized** for planting trees for orchards, Christmas tree production, strictly ornamental purposes, or other non-forestry and non-wildlife habitat improvement practices.
3. **Cost-sharing is authorized** for the planning, designing, layout, and marking by a professional resource manager.

4. **Cost-sharing is allowable** for more than one of the measures of the various wildlife improvement practices (eligibility and compatibility to be determined by the County Forester).
5. FLEP practices (such as forest improvement for timber management) that are secondary to and compatible with the main purpose of a wildlife habitat improvement practice(s) are eligible for cost-sharing on the same acreage if the specifications of both practices are fulfilled.

THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

The enrolled landowner must, at the minimum, complete these practices in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications for each of these practices that they receive cost-sharing approval. Technical specifications for the wildlife habitat improvement practices are on file in the County Forester's office.

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE – listed under the components of this practice.



FLEP-6A ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF PERMANENT WILDLIFE OPENINGS

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to establish, enhance, and maintain forest openings to provide high quality food for upland game and non-game wildlife species.

GENERAL POLICY

Apply this practice only to forestland, forest openings, old fields, pastures, log landings, and forest roadsides that are suitably located and adapted to the establishment and maintenance of a permanent forest opening.

COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. For the establishment, enhancement, expansion, and maintenance of a permanent wildlife opening with a stand of: (a) domestic grasses or legumes, or (b) wild herbaceous upland plants or (c) shrubs and small trees in old fields, pastures, forest stands, log landing and other forest opening, and along forest roads.

Cost-sharing is authorized for:

- a. Site preparation measures – cutting of trees, removal of stumps, rocks, trees, and debris, smoothing, cultivation, and seedbed preparation.
 - b. Mowing, rotary brush cutting, and brush hogging.
 - c. Liming and fertilizing.
 - d. Seeding and covering at least part of the seeds by back tracking with a dozer or other appropriate method.
 - e. Mulching.
2. Cost-sharing is authorized for fencing only where it is determined by the County Forester, that the primary purpose of this practice will not be achieved if not protected.
 3. Cost-sharing is authorized for the planning, designing, layout, and marking time by a professional resource manager.
 4. Cost-sharing is authorized for eligible maintenance and enhancement measures (mowing, brush hogging, rotary brush cutting, liming, and fertilizing) for wildlife

openings established under this practice for once in the five-year period after practice completion.

5. Cost-sharing is not authorized for the following measures:
 - a. Openings that are less than one-half acre or greater than 10 acres.
 - b. Establishing, enhancing, or maintaining openings of grasses and legumes mainly for commercial agricultural or other commercial uses.

THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

The enrolled landowner must, at the minimum, complete this practice in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-6A Establishment and Improvement of Permanent Wildlife Openings*” which is on file in the County Forester’s office.



TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Establishment, enhancement, or expansion of a permanent wildlife opening.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$380 per acre for all measures (a flat rate of \$40 per acre is the maximum when only mowing, brush hogging, or brush cutting).
Fencing	65% of the cost not to exceed \$.25 per lineal foot.
Maintenance or enhancement of a wildlife opening established under this practice:	
Mowing, brush hogging, or rotary brush cutting.	Flat rate of \$40 per acre.
Liming and fertilizing.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$65 per acre.
Planning, designing, layout, and marking time by a professional resource manager.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre with a maximum of \$250 per parcel for all measures.

FLEP-6B ESTABLISHMENT AND IMPROVEMENT OF WILDLIFE TRAVEL CORRIDORS AND ESCAPE COVER

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to establish or enhance: (a) forested wildlife travel corridors, and (b) areas of escape cover in large open areas or developed areas in order to assist in providing relatively safe wildlife travel and escape cover between forest areas, maximum habitat utilization, and wildlife species abundance and diversity.

GENERAL POLICIES

Apply this practice in the following situations:

1. Wherever wildlife travel corridors or areas of escape cover are needed in open areas of 10 or more acres (such as hay land, pasture, or crop land) to provide relatively safe travel or cover for wildlife between forest areas or between forest areas and other important wildlife habitat.
 2. Wherever wildlife travel corridors or areas of escape cover are needed in suburbanized or developed areas of 10 or more acres to provide relatively safe travel or cover for wildlife between undeveloped forest areas or between undeveloped forest areas and other important wildlife habitat.
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COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized** for the following measures:
 - a. Planning, designing, layout, and marking time by a competent professional resource manager.
 - b. Fencing to prevent destructive grazing and agricultural practices and to allow for successful establishment of natural regeneration or planted trees and shrubs only where it is determined by the County Forester the primary purpose of this practice will not be achieved if not fenced.
 - c. Purchasing and installing of tree guards when determined by the County Forester as necessary for the protection and establishment of planted trees or natural regeneration.
2. Landowners are authorized to sign up for FLEP practices and measures listed in the chart below to assist the establishment and improvement of wildlife travel corridors

and escape cover. Landowners must sign up for FLEP-2 as a part of this FLEP-6B practice in order to be eligible for the same cost-sharing priority level as this practice.

PURPOSES AND MEASURES	FLEP PRACTICES AUTHORIZED FOR USE AS PART OF FLEP-6B		
	FLEP-2	FLEP-6D	FLEP-6E
To establish a travel corridor or area of escape cover by planting a stand of trees (a minimum of one acre).	X		
To expand a hedgerow travel corridor or area of escape cover by planting (minimum of one acre) a stand of trees.	X		
To expand a hedgerow travel corridor or area of escape cover for wildlife by planting a component of mast-producing trees and shrubs.		X	
To establish a travel corridor or escape cover by planting mast-producing shrubs and trees.		X	
To release (in stands not past sapling size) or crop tree release (pole and log size) mast-producing trees and shrubs in an existing travel corridor or escape cover area in order to enhance the health and food production potential of trees and shrubs while maintaining a relatively dense travel corridor or escape cover area.		X	
To expand a hedgerow travel corridor or area of escape cover in conjunction with planting mast-producing trees and shrubs or to increase the conifer component in an existing travel corridor or escape cover by planting conifer trees.			X
To release (in stands not past sapling size) thin around or crop tree release (pole and log size) conifer trees to enhance or maintain a relatively dense but healthy travel corridor or escape cover.			X

FLEP-2 - Reforestation and Regeneration

FLEP-6D - Forest Improvement and Planting for Production of Hard and Soft Mast (Food) for Wildlife

FLEP-6E - Establishment and Improvement of Conifer Trees for Wildlife Habitat Diversity

3. Hedgerows or narrow strips of trees and shrubs located in open habitat types of 10 acres or larger such as fields, pastures, and crop lands or along streams may be expanded to wider wildlife travel corridors by planting trees and shrubs if they connect disjunct forest areas of 10 acres or larger.
4. Islands or patches of trees and shrubs located in open habitat types of 10 acres or larger may be established or expanded in size by planting to provide escape cover and allow for safer crossing by wildlife.
5. **Cost-sharing is not authorized** for pesticide applications near or along filter strips of streams or buffers of significant wetlands.

THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

This practice must be completed in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-6B Establishment and Improvement of Wildlife Travel Corridors and Escape Cover*” which is on file in the County Forester’s office.

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE



Planning, designing, layout, and marking time by a professional resource manager.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre with a maximum of \$250 per parcel for all measures of this practice.
Fencing.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$.25per lineal foot.
Purchase and installation of tree guards to protect planted trees or natural regeneration.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.00 per tree and a maximum of \$380 per acre.
Purchase, site preparation, and planting <u>of a stand of trees</u> for establishment or widening of a travel corridor or escape cover area.	Cost-shared under FLEP-2 except the maximum allowable cost-share related to site class does not apply.
Purchase, site preparation, and planting of trees and shrubs <u>to assist in</u> establishing, enhancing, or widening of a travel corridor or escape cover:	
<u>For component</u> of mast-producing trees and shrubs.	Cost-shared under FLEP-6D.
For conifer <u>component</u> .	Cost-shared under FLEP-6E.
Release cutting or crop tree release in an existing travel corridor or escape cover:	
To improve conifer component.	Cost-shared under FLEP-6E.
To improve component of hard and soft mast trees and shrubs.	Cost-shared under FLEP-6D.

FLEP-6C IMPROVEMENT OF WINTER HABITAT FOR WHITE-TAILED DEER

PURPOSE

1. Establish, enhance, and maintain areas of browse production within or adjoining deer wintering areas to provide a source of winter food for white-tailed deer.
 2. Expand or enhance deer wintering areas to provide cover for white-tailed deer.
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GENERAL POLICIES

1. For the establishment, enhancement, and maintenance of areas of browse production.

Apply this practice to sapling, pole, and sawlog size hardwood stands that are inclusions in a deer wintering area or hardwood buffer strips of up to 150 feet in width that adjoin a deer wintering area.
 2. For the planting, regeneration, or improvement of a stand of conifer trees to enhance or expand a deer wintering area.

Apply this practice to open areas, clearcut areas, hardwood stands, and mixed conifer-hardwood stands that are within or adjoining a deer wintering area.
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COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. For the establishment, enhancement, and maintenance of areas of browse production.

Cost-sharing is authorized for clearcutting of all trees (with the exception of occasional soft or hard mast or conifer trees as approved by the County Forester) in hardwood strips or patches of one-eighth to two acres located in a deer wintering area or in hardwood buffer strips of up to 150 feet in width that adjoin a deer wintering area. There may be more than one patch or strip cut. The total cumulative area cut should be a minimum of one acre.
2. For the enhancement, expansion, or regeneration of a deer wintering area.

Landowners may sign up for the FLEP practices and measures listed in this chart to assist in the planting, regeneration, or improvement of a stand of conifer trees to enhance or expand a deer wintering area. Landowners must sign up for ***FLEP-2 Reforestation and Regeneration*** as part of this practice in order to be eligible for the same cost-sharing priority level as this practice.

PURPOSES AND MEASURES	FLEP PRACTICES AUTHORIZED FOR USE AS PART OF FLEP-6C		
	FLEP-2	FLEP-3	FLEP-6E
To establish a plantation of conifer trees (minimum size of 3 acres) in open areas or clearcut areas.	X		
To assist in regeneration of conifer trees within or adjoining a deer wintering area.	X		
To carry out non-commercial silvicultural practices such as release cutting or crop tree releasing to promote crown development and cover for deer.		X	
To plant conifer trees to increase the conifer component in a mixed hardwood-conifer or a predominately hardwood stand.			X
To thin around or crop tree release conifers to increase the conifer overstory in a mixed hardwood-conifer or predominately conifer stand.			X

FLEP-2 - Reforestation and Regeneration

FLEP-3 - Forest Improvement

FLEP-6E - Establishment and Improvement of Conifer Trees for Wildlife Habitat Diversity

3. Cost-sharing is authorized for the purchasing and installing of protective tree guards or shelters on planted trees or natural regeneration where needed as determined by the County Forester.
4. Cost-sharing is authorized for the planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager.

THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

This practice must be completed in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-6C Improvement of Winter Habitat for White-tailed Deer*” which is on file in the County Forester’s office.

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Clearcutting of a stand of trees greater than two inches in diameter for the establishment of a browse production area.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$315 per acre.
Rotary brush cutting or brush hogging for the establishment of a browse production area.	Flat rate of \$40 per acre.
Purchasing and installing tree guards to protect planted trees or natural regeneration.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.00 per tree with a maximum of \$380 per acre.
Planning, designing, layout, and marking time by a professional resource manager.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre with a maximum of \$250 per parcel for all measures of this practice including the practices listed below.
Establishment of a plantation of conifer trees to enhance or expand a deer wintering area.	Cost-shared under FLEP-2 except the maximum allowable cost-share related to site class does not apply.
Planting conifer trees to increase the component of conifer trees in a mixed hardwood-conifer or predominately hardwood stand.	Cost-shared under FLEP-6E.
To assist in regeneration of conifer trees within or adjoining a deer wintering area.	Cost-shared under FLEP-2.
Silvicultural practices to promote crown development and cover and to assist in regeneration.	Cost-shared under FLEP-3 or FLEP-6E.



FLEP-6D FOREST IMPROVEMENT AND PLANTING FOR PRODUCTION OF HARD AND SOFT MAST (FOOD) FOR WILDLIFE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this component is to establish and enhance wildlife habitat by the planting, releasing, and maintenance of hard mast (nuts, acorns) and soft mast (fruits, seeds) producing trees and shrubs for the production of food for a wide variety of wildlife.

GENERAL POLICIES

Apply this practice to:

1. Forestland where wildlife habitat can be improved through the release or thinning around crop trees and shrubs having the potential to produce hard mast (nuts, acorns) and/or soft mast (fruits, seeds) food for wildlife.
 2. Forestland with less than 20 mast-producing trees of the desired species or insufficient number of mast-producing shrubs per acre and open areas adjacent to forestlands that are suitably adapted to the planting and establishment of trees and shrubs with the potential to provide a future source of food for wildlife.
 3. Large open areas that have resulted in disjunct forest patches to assist with the establishment or enhancement of travel corridors or escape cover for wildlife.
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COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized** for:
 - a. Crop tree release of (1) any combination of soft and/or hard mast-producing trees totaling a minimum of 10, or (2) any combination of mast-producing shrubs totaling a minimum of 20, or (3) a combination of (1) and (2).
 - b. Purchasing, site preparation, control of undesirable competing vegetation, planting and establishment of any combination of soft and/or hard mast-producing tree totaling a minimum of 10 and up to 50 per acre as a component of a forest stand or a travel corridor or escape cover.
 - c. Purchasing, site preparation, control of undesirable competing vegetation, planting and establishment of a minimum of any combination of mast-producing shrubs (or clumps of shrubs) totaling a minimum of 50 and up to 100 per acre as understory in a forest stand or up to 200 per acre in open areas adjacent to forest stands.

- d. Purchasing and installing of tree shelters or guards when determined by the County Forester to be necessary for the successful establishment of planted trees or natural regeneration.
 - e. Pruning of wild apple trees that are adequately free from competing vegetation.
 - f. Maintenance of areas of wild apple trees by mowing, rotary brush cutting, or brush hogging.
 - g. Planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager.
2. Landowners are eligible to sign up for **FLEP-2 Reforestation and Regeneration** as part of this wildlife habitat improvement practice at the FLEP-8D cost-share priority level for the planting of stands of mast-producing trees and for silviculture measures to assist with the regeneration of stands of mast-producing trees.
3. Cost-sharing for measures of this practices may be done in conjunction with **FLEP-3 Forest Improvement** where the practice measures are determined, by the County Forester, to be compatible. However, cost-sharing is allowed only once for the release or thinning around a crop tree even though it serves more than one purpose.
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THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

This practice must be completed in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-8D Forest Improvement and Planting for Production of Hard and Soft Mast (Food) for Wildlife*” which is on file at the County Forester’s office.

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Crop tree release of mast-producing trees.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.50 per tree with a maximum of \$80 per acre.
Release of shrubs or groups of shrubs.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.50 per shrub or group of shrubs with a maximum of \$80 per acre.
Crop tree release for wild apple trees.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$6.25 per tree with a maximum of \$250 per acre.
Pruning of wild apple trees.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$13 per tree and a maximum of \$500 per acre.
Maintenance of areas of wild apple trees by mowing, rotary brush cutting, or brush hogging.	Flat rate of \$40 per acre.
Purchasing and planting of hard and soft mast trees (including site preparation and cutting of competing vegetation) <u>as a component</u> of a forest stand, travel corridor, or escape cover.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.50 per tree with a maximum of \$125 per acre.
Purchasing and planting of mast-producing shrubs (including site preparation and cutting of competing vegetation) as a component of a forest stand or a wildlife travel corridor.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.50 per shrub or clumps of shrubs with a maximum of \$250 per acre for planting as understory in a forest stand and up to \$500 per acre for planting in open areas.
Purchasing and installing of tree guards to protect planted trees or natural regeneration.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.00 per tree or shrubs with a maximum of \$100 per acre.
Planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre with a maximum of \$250 per parcel for all measures.
Purchasing and planting a <u>stand</u> of mast-producing trees and site preparation for regeneration.	Cost-shared under FLEP-2 except that the maximum allowable cost-share related to site class does not apply.



FLEP-6E ESTABLISHMENT AND ENHANCEMENT OF CONIFER TREES TO PROVIDE WILDLIFE HABITAT DIVERSITY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to establish or enhance a conifer component in hardwood stands, travel corridors, escape cover, and provide cover and habitat diversity for a variety of wildlife.

GENERAL POLICY

Apply this practice to (a) hardwood stands of a minimum size of 25 acres that are located in areas of predominately hardwood forests, (b) hardwood and mixed hardwood-conifer stands adjoining deer wintering areas, or (c) large open fields and narrow strips or small patches of hardwood tree and shrubs in large open areas.

COST-SHARING POLICES

Cost-sharing is authorized for the following measures:

1. The purchasing, planting, and establishment of 24 to 60 shade tolerant or moderately shade tolerant conifer trees per acre: (a) in the understory of hardwood or predominately hardwood stands with a minimum size of 25 acres, (b) to supplement the component of conifers in a deer wintering area or in predominately hardwood stands adjacent to a deer wintering area in conjunction with FLEP-6C, or (c) to assist with the enhancement or establishment of wildlife travel corridors or areas of escape cover in conjunction with FLEP-6B.
 2. Purchasing and installing of tree guards or shelters where determined by the County Forester to be necessary for the establishment of the planted trees or natural regeneration.
 3. Removal of overhead vegetative competition, site preparation, and the control of undesirable, competing vegetation necessary for the successful planting, establishment, and growth of the approved species.
 4. Crop tree release of 24 to 60 established conifer trees per acre.
 5. Planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager.
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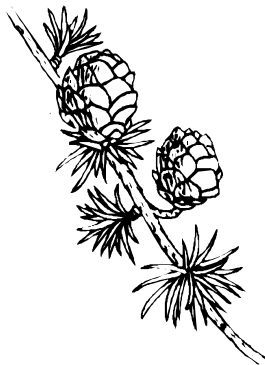
THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATION AND STANDARDS

This practice component must be completed in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-6E Establishment and Enhancement of Conifer Trees to Provide Wildlife Habitat Diversity*” which is on file at the County Forester’s office.

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Purchasing and planting of trees and site preparation control of competing and undesirable vegetation.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.50 per tree and a maximum of \$25 per acre.
Purchase and installation of tree guards to protect planted trees or natural regeneration.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.00 per tree with a maximum of \$120 per acre.
For crop tree release of established conifer trees.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$2.50 per tree with a maximum of \$100 per acre.
Planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre with a maximum of \$250 per parcel for all measures.



FLEP-6F IMPROVEMENT OF HABITAT FOR RUFFED GROUSE

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice component is to establish, enhance, and maintain aspen and aspen-white birch stands to provide food and cover for ruffed grouse and other wildlife species associated with early successional hardwood forest types.

GENERAL POLICY

Apply this practice to low quality hardwoods and early successional hardwood stands of a minimum of eight acres in size and that contain at least four widely-dispersed aspen trees per acre.

COST-SHARING POLICIES

Cost-sharing is authorized for:

1. Clearcutting of all trees (except occasional soft mast species such as apple, serviceberry, crabapple, dogwoods, viburnums, and hophornbeam) on one-quarter of an 8- to 20-acre grouse management area. In stands of 50 years of age and older, up to one-half of the grouse management area may be cut.
 2. Planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager.
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THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

This practice must be completed in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-6F Improvement of Habitat for Ruffed Grouse*” which is on file at the County Forester’s office.

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Clearcutting for grouse habitat.

65% of the cost not to exceed \$300 per acre.

Planning, designing, layout, and marking time by a professional resource manager.

65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre with a maximum of \$250 per parcel for all measures.



FLEP-6G IMPROVEMENT OF HABITAT FOR WOODCOCK

PURPOSE

The purpose is to establish, enhance, and maintain areas suitable for providing high quality habitat for woodcock.

GENERAL POLICIES

1. Stands of speckled alder, grey dogwood, or other early successional hardwood stands on imperfectly drained loamy and sandy loamy soils that are rich in invertebrate life (particularly earthworms) for the purpose of improving feeding, nesting, and brood rearing coverts.
 2. To old fields that are reverting to early successional plant species and with interspersed low growing pioneer vegetation (such as blueberries and meadowsweet) for the purpose of providing roosting areas.
 3. Areas that can be managed as grassy field of one-quarter to one acre that are clear of overhead and vertical cover (shrubs, trees, etc.) and maintained in that condition by annual mowing or light grazing of livestock to provide singing grounds.
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COST-SHARING POLICIES

Cost-sharing is authorized for:

1. Clearcutting or rotary brush cutting of all trees and shrubs in one-quarter of a stand of speckled alder, grey dogwood, or other early successional hardwood coverts for woodcock.
2. Mowing or rotary brush cutting of one-third of an old field with low growing pioneer vegetation that is adjacent to early successional hardwood coverts for wildlife.
3. Mowing a field of one-quarter to one acre to maintain a grassy area adjacent to stands of early successional hardwood coverts for woodcocks.
4. Thinning of a speckled alder, grey dogwood, or other early successional hardwood covert for woodcock to reduce the crown cover to 75%.
5. Cost-sharing for eligible mowing of grassy fields and rotary brush cutting of old fields is limited to two times on the same acreage in a 5-year period.

6. Cost-sharing for eligible clearcutting or rotary brush cutting in a speckled alder, grey dogwood, or other early successional hardwood covert for woodcock is limited to once for the same acreage and twice for the covert during a 10-year period.
7. Cost-sharing for thinning of a woodcock covert is limited to once in a 10-year period.

THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

This practice component must be in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation requirements entitled “*Specifications and Standards for FLEP-6G Improvement of Habitat for Woodcock*” which is on file in the County Forester’s office.

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Mowing, brush hogging, or rotary brush cutting.	Flat rate of \$40 per acre.
Clearcutting of alder, grey dogwood, or other early successional hardwood woodcock coverts.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$300 per acre.
Thinning of alder, grey dogwood, or other early successional hardwood woodcock coverts.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$80 per acre.
Planning, designing, layout, and marking time by a professional resource manager.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre with a maximum of \$250 per parcel for all measures.



FLEP-6H IMPROVEMENT OF HABITAT FOR WILD TURKEY

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to enhance, expand, and maintain high quality wild turkey habitat.

GENERAL POLICY

Apply this component to forestland and closely associated lands that are suitably located and adapted to the enhancement and maintenance of high quality habitat for wild turkeys.

COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized for:**
 - a. Cutting and removal of all conifers in and immediately adjoining a spring seep (area where water percolates out of the ground and never freezes) to allow better penetration of sunlight and to stimulate production of herbaceous forage.
 - b. Thinning of hardwood stands and removal of cut trees in and immediately adjoining a spring seep area to favor mast-producing trees and to allow better penetration of sunlight and to stimulate production of herbaceous forage.
 - c. Planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager.
2. Landowners may sign up for the FLEP practices and measures in the following chart to assist in the improvement of habitat for wild turkey. Landowners must sign up for the ***FLEP-2 Reforestation and Regeneration*** as part of this FLEP-8H practice in order to be eligible for the same cost-sharing priority level as the practice.



PURPOSES AND MEASURES	FLEP PRACTICES AUTHORIZED FOR USE AS PART OF FLEP-6H			
	FLEP-2	FLEP-6B	FLEP-6D	FLEP-6E
<p><u>For the enhancement or expansion of:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key mast-producing areas to obtain 30% to 50% of basal area in mast-producing trees, or 2. The component of mast-producing trees in other hardwood and hardwood-conifer stands to obtain a minimum of 10% of basal area in mast-producing trees. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To release mast-producing trees in stands not past sapling stage. X b. To crop tree release mast-producing trees in sapling, pole, and log size stands. X c. To regenerate stands or groups of mast-producing trees. X d. To plant and protect hard and soft mast-producing trees and shrubs. X 				
<p><u>For the establishment, expansion, or improvement of travel corridors or escape cover:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To plant a stand of conifer trees (minimum of one acre). X 2. To plant a component of conifer trees. X 3. To plant and protect a combination of hard and soft mast-producing shrubs and/or trees. X 4. To thin around or release mast-producing trees to help maintain health and food producing dense cover. X 5. Fencing, where needed, as determined by County Forester. X 				

FLEP-2 - Reforestation and Regeneration

FLEP-6B - Establishment and Improvement of Wildlife Travel Corridors and Escape Cover

FLEP-6D - Forest Improvement and Planting for Production of Hard and Soft Mast (Food) for Wildlife

FLEP-6E - Establishment and Improvement of Conifer Trees for Wildlife Habitat Diversity.

PURPOSES AND MEASURES	FLEP PRACTICES AUTHORIZED FOR USE AS PART OF FLEP-6B		
	FLEP-2	FLEP-6A	FLEP-6E
<p><u>For the establishment, improvement, or expansion of conifer (preferably hemlock or white pine):</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To establish a plantation of conifer trees (minimum of three acres) in open areas to increase the conifer component of a turkey habitat management unit to a minimum of 20 acres. To crop tree release established conifer trees in a mixed conifer-hardwood stand to increase the conifer component of a turkey habitat management unit to a minimum of 20 acres. To thin around or crop tree release an occasional large conifer tree for roosting sites. 	X		X
<p><u>For the establishment and maintenance of permanent openings to create or maintain a minimum of five percent of turkey habitat management unit in well distributed openings:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establish and maintain old field in openings of legumes and grasses to provide cover and seed for summer food. To establish and maintain log roads and landings in grasses and legumes for food and cover. Cut back 50 feet wide borders along the edges of fields, forest openings, and forest roads to stimulate and maintain herbaceous and shrub growth and provide nesting and feeding cover. Fencing where needed, as determined by the County Forester, to protect purpose of the practice. 		X	X

FLEP-2 - Reforestation and Regeneration

FLEP-6A - Establishment and Improvement of Permanent Wildlife Openings

FLEP-6E - Establishment and Improvement of Conifer Trees for Wildlife Habitat Diversity

THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

This practice component must be completed in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-6H Improvement of Habitat for Wild Turkey.*”

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Improvement of spring seeps by the cutting and removal of all conifer trees and the cutting and removal of hardwood trees to thin hardwood stands to favor mast-producing trees in spring seep areas.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$125 per acre.
Planning, designing, layout, and marking time by a professional resource manager.	65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre with a maximum of \$250 per parcel for all measures including the following listed measures.
Establishment, increasing size, and maintenance of openings along borders of fields, forest openings, and roads.	Use FLEP-6A.
Establishment and maintenance of openings of grasses and legumes in old fields, by landings, and log roads.	Use FLEP-6A.
Release conifer trees to increase conifer component of turkey habitat management unit <u>or</u> to provide larger conifer trees for roosting sites.	Use FLEP-6E.
Release mast-producing trees in forest stands <u>or</u> in travel corridors <u>or</u> in escape cover.	Use FLEP-6D.
Assist in regenerating stands or groups of mast-producing trees <u>or</u> Plant a stand of conifers to increase conifer component in a turkey habitat management unit <u>or</u> to expand or improve a travel corridor or escape cover.	Use FLEP-2. Use FLEP-2 except that the maximum allowable cost-share related to site class does not apply.
Plant a component of conifer trees to establish, expand, or improve travel corridor or escape cover.	Use FLEP-6E.
Plant a component of hard and soft mast-producing trees and shrubs in forest stands <u>or</u> for the establishment or improvement or expansion of a travel corridor or escape cover.	Use FLEP-6D.
Fencing.	Use FLEP-6B.

FLEP-7 FOREST HEALTH PRACTICES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to safeguard the long-term health and vitality of Vermont's forests.

GENERAL POLICY

Apply this practice to access, monitor, protect, improve, or restore forest health: including detection and control of insects, diseases, and animal damage to established stands.

COST-SHARING POLICIES

To be developed.

THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE –

FLEP-8 INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to eliminate invasive species from forested landscapes and to assist with the rehabilitation of properties impacted by invasive plant species.

GENERAL POLICY

Apply this practice to detect, monitor, eradicate, or control the spread of invasive plant species.

COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized for:**
 - a. Initial and repeated mechanical, chemical and biological control of exotic invasive species listed to “quarantine” or “watch” by the Vermont Exotic Invasive Plant Committee.
 - b. Sites where the success of invasive plant control is highly likely.
 2. Landowners may sign up for other complementary FLEP practices and measures on the same acreage as approved by the county forester.
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THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

The practice must, at the minimum, conform to the department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “**Technical Specifications for FLEP-8 Invasive Species Control.**”

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

Control of invasive plants (mechanical, chemical or biological)	65% of the cost not to exceed \$250 per acre and a maximum cost-share of \$1,250 per parcel. Includes combination of control methods and repeated applications.
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FLEP-10 WILDFIRE AND CATASTROPHIC EVENT REHABILITATION

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to assist landowners whose properties have been impacted by wildfire or other catastrophic natural events.

GENERAL POLICY

Apply this practice to restore and rehabilitate forests following wildfire and other catastrophic natural events.

COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized** for the following practices:
 - a. Revision of Landowner Forest Stewardship Plan (FLEP-1).
 - b. Clearing forest access roads (FLEP-5).
 - c. Designation of trees for removal in damaged stands.
 - d. Fire hazard reduction.
 - e. Construction of Forest Access Corridors.
 - f. Clearing debris from ditches and culverts.
 - g. Clearing debris from streams.
 - h. Clearing of forest recreational trails.
 - i. Other practices appropriate to damage sustained.
 2. **Cost-sharing is not authorized** for
 - a. To be developed.
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THE MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

FLEP-11 SPECIAL PRACTICES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this practice is to allow for additional practices not specifically addressed in FLEP practices 1-10.

GENERAL POLICY

Apply this practice to address other conservation concerns, including recreation, on non-industrial private forest lands.

COST-SHARING POLICIES

1. **Cost-sharing is authorized** for, but not limited to, the following practices:
 - a. Recreation trails and walkways – construction or enhancement of multi-purpose recreational trails and walkways. The width of the trail tread may vary from three feet to twelve feet depending on the intended uses.
 - b. Aesthetic quality enhancement or restoration – improvement of the scenic values, landscape diversity, safety, and usefulness in forest areas that are heavily used and/or readily seen by recreation users, local inhabitants, or tourists through:
 - (1) Establishing trees, shrubs, and vines (for windbreaks, screening, aesthetics, etc.).
 - (2) Thinning and releasing of trees and shrubs to reduce stand density, remove hazardous and unhealthy trees, favor trees and shrubs that enhance natural beauty, increase potential for sunlight to reach forest floor and improve grass cover, make shrubs and understory more visible, and provide landscape diversity.
 - (3) Pruning of trees to remove branches to enhance scenic beauty and health, remove hazardous branches, and provide clearance for safe use by recreational users.
 - (4) Clearing of scenic vistas; (a) along trails, roads, other scenic corridors for forest recreational users, and (b) in areas that will provide views of scenic mountains or other key landscape features from town and state roads.
 - c. Planning, designing, layout, and marking time of a professional resource manager for all measures in a. and b. on the preceding page.

- d. Cultural resource site inventory, protection, and maintenance:
- Inventorying, mapping, developing of a protection and management plan for:
- Pre-historic resources.
 - Historic sites and cultural resources (stonewalls, old cellar holes, and other structures of historic interest) that are of landowner, local, state, or national importance.
- e. Cost-sharing funds for other practices will be determined as needed.

2. **Cost-sharing is not authorized** for:

- a. Road construction or maintenance.
- b. Signs, gates, and bridges.
- c. Construction or repair of outbuildings.
- d. Commercial recreational development (such as campgrounds) or uses.
Commercial recreation is defined as forestland-based recreation where the landowner(s) derive(s) 50% or more of gross income from recreational uses of enrolled parcel.
- e. Any of the Forest Recreation Enhancement practices to be implemented within 250 feet of a permanent residence.
- f. Practices that would directly or indirectly result in adverse effects to cultural resources or rare and threatened species.
- g. Surfacing materials.

MINIMUM SPECIFICATIONS AND STANDARDS

The enrolled landowner must, at the minimum, complete this practice in compliance with the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation technical specifications entitled “*Technical Specifications for FLEP-11 Special Practices.*”

TECHNICAL RESPONSIBILITY – assigned to the County Forester.

MAXIMUM FEDERAL COST-SHARE

1. Construction or enhancement of multi-purpose recreational trails and walkways.
 - Trail right-of-way clearing (removal of vegetation and debris) and pruning for safety. 65% of the cost not to exceed \$.35 per lineal feet.
 - Construction of trail drainage and erosion control measures (ditches, waterbars, broad-base dips, culverts cross-drains, cribbing, turnpiking, outsloping, puncheons, etc.) 65% of the cost not to exceed a range of \$.35 to \$.65 per lineal foot as approved by the County Forester depending on the amount of work accomplished (see technical specification for guide in estimating cost of various structures). Maximum allowable cost-share for both measures is \$2,500 per parcel.
2. Aesthetic quality enhancement or restoration.
 - a. Establishing trees, shrubs, and vines for windbreaks, screening, and aesthetics. 65% of the cost not to exceed \$500 per acre.
 - b. Thinning of trees and shrubs. 65% of the cost not to exceed \$90 per acre.
 - c. Clearing of scenic vistas. 65% of the cost not to exceed \$315 per acre.
 - d. Pruning of trees and shrubs. 65% of the cost not to exceed \$80 per acre.
3. Cultural resource site protection – inventorying, mapping, determining historical significance, developing a protection and management plan for cultural resources and the approved removal of trees, shrubs, vines, and debris that has encroached upon the cultural resources within the last 50 years. 65% of the cost not to exceed \$650 per parcel.
4. Planning, designing, layout, and marking time by a professional resource manager for all measures in #1 – Recreation trails and walkways, #2 – Aesthetic quality enhancement and restoration. 65% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre (or \$.20 per lineal foot for trails) with a maximum of \$250 per parcel.