

AISWCD Resolution 2018-02

Forestry Management Implementation

WHEREAS, Prior to European settlement, 40% of the land in Illinois was forest; and

WHEREAS, Forestland in Illinois today has decreased to only 12% of Illinois' total land area of 35.6 million acres; and

WHEREAS, Of this 12% current forestland, 82% is privately owned; and

WHEREAS, Forest flora and oak regeneration are being negatively impacted by invasive trees and shrubs; and

WHEREAS, Landowners of forestland and Conservation Easements under Illinois CREP are interested in managing their timber and controlling invasives, such as, bush honeysuckle, autumn olive and black locust; and

WHEREAS, The Illinois DNR Wildlife Action Plan: Forest and Woodland Campaign seeks to maintain and enhance the composition of Illinois' existing forested habitats; and

WHEREAS, Available NRCS EQIP funding will support landowners to be able to afford to manage their timber; and

WHEREAS, Illinois SWCDs and NRCS promote EQIP for Forestry Management Plans (FMP) and Forestry Management Implementation (FMI); and

WHEREAS, Only a limited number of FMP and FMI applications are approved in Illinois each year; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS to work with the Illinois NRCS State Office to re-evaluate the listed "Priority Conservation Practices" in the "Forestry Management Implementation Screening and Ranking Criteria Worksheet". Since the Practice "Riparian Forest Buffer" is often addressed by CRP, consider replacing it with, or adding, "Brush Management". Listed practices on the Priority list should better reflect the needs of Illinois landowners.

Approved By: Knox County SWCD, May 16, 2018

Sources: https://web.extension.illinois.edu/forestry/il_forest_facts.html

<https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/IWAP/Pages/ForestandWoodlands.aspx>