

SIP 6: Riparian and Wetland Protection and Improvement

The purpose of this practice is to encourage landowners to revegetate, restore, stabilize and protect wetlands and riparian areas. Landowners can receive cost shares for practices which enhance wetland resources such as:

- **establishing permanent cover, including low intensity site preparation, mineral amendments, and fencing to aid growth and survival**
- **constructing agricultural run-off buffers, and restoring channelized streams and rivers**
- **re-establishing natural wetlands by mechanical practices such as grading, levelling, shaping, and berm removal and stabilization.**

SIP 7: Aquatic Habitat Enhancement

The goal of this incentive is to encourage native fish populations, desired aquatic vegetation, and fauna by controlling noxious species and enhancing habitat using the following practices:

- **establishing trees, shrubs and grasses for erosion control, thermal protection, cover, forage production and filter surface runoff buffer zones.**
- **building fences to protect newly-established plants**
- **facilitating water movement via minor earth movement or structure construction, and**
- **controlling weed species using either mechanical or chemical methods.**
- **Landowners should obtain the required state and federal permits before implementing practices that involve earth movement or drainage of wetlands.**

SIP 8: Wildlife Habitat Enhancement

Landowners who establish and maintain habitat in forested areas for either game or non-game wildlife species can receive cost shares. Authorized practices include:

- **enhancing wildlife food resources by establishing mast-producing trees, shrubs, legumes or grasses and permanent openings; prescribed burning; and fencing to protect newly- established plants**
- **establishing shelter resources for wildlife such as den trees, nest boxes, roost poles and corridors, and**

- **creating desirable waterfowl habitat by installing water control devices.**

SIP 9: Forest Recreation Enhancement

Landowners are invited to create low-impact outdoor recreation facilities, protect or rehabilitate cultural and historical sites and improve the natural appearance of forested areas. Cost sharing is available for practices such as:

- **clearing vegetation for trails, boardwalks, recreational activities, access to water and scenic vistas**
- **establishing permanent grass cover for erosion control or to improve the natural look of an area,**
- **constructing boardwalks and/or foot bridges to protect stream and wetlands.**

How to Apply for SIP

Landowners with completed Forest Stewardship Management plans (except for those practices listed under SIP 1 which help you develop your plan) can apply for SIP assistance for specified practices through the USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) as follows:

- **application review by ASCS in relation to the landowner's eligibility**
- **certification of the need for that practice by a resource professional from one of the participating agencies**
- **approval of funding by the regional committee**
- **implementation of the practice by the landowner**
- **inspection of the completed practice by the resource professional,**
- **re-imbusement of cost shares by ASCS.**

Reference

The following readings will provide you with more information. Starred publications can be ordered from the Publications page in this folder.

Stewardship Incentives Program Brochure. Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Tallahassee.

- * **The Stewardship Incentives Program for Forest Landowners (SIP).** SS-FOR-2. Hubbard, W., C. Marcus and A. Long. Florida Cooperative Extension Service, IFAS, University of Florida, Gainesville. 1994.