

I spoke with our State Wildlife Biologist about the project and he determined that the practice would be better suited as "Forest Stand Management" than "Brush Management". This is due to the stand that is currently out there and the objective to leave desirable hardwood species for wildlife habitat. The plan we discussed will still remain the same. The maximum area I calculated, based on our field meeting, is 22.1 acres. See the map below with polygons of 19.6 acres, 1.6 acres, and 1.0 acres. In the next few weeks we will discuss and finalize which acres will be thinned and cleared. Forest Stand Management pays much better than Brush Management. Forest stand improvement pays \$564.69/acre for general participants and \$847.03/acre for Historically Underserved Participants (which includes Beginning Farmer/Ranchers). The estimated total "maximum" payments for this program are \$12,480 (for general application) or \$18,720 (for Beginning Farmer or Rancher, if you qualify).

On your application you did not mark yourself as a beginning farmer/rancher but since you are new to these programs, I figured I would double check with you. It is optional, but you may self-certify as a Beginning Farmer/Ranch if you meet the criteria:

Beginning Farmer or Rancher – The term "Beginning Farmer or Rancher" means a participant who:

- Has not operated a farm or ranch, or who has operated a farm or ranch for not more than 10 consecutive years. This requirement applies to all members of a legal entity, and
- Who will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm or ranch.

As discussed, the project application has been entirely put under your name now.



Please let me know if you have any other questions.

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Resource Conservationist

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