



## Conservation Practice Overview

November 2022

### Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666)

Forest stand improvement is the manipulation of species composition, structure, or density of a stand of trees to achieve desired forest condition.

#### Practice Information

This practice applies to forestland where competing vegetation interferes with the growth of preferred tree and understory species. Preferred plants are identified and retained to achieve the desired composition and structure of the forest stand.



Specifications for this practice include defining the spacing, density, and number or area of preferred plants. Timing of treatment and retaining dead or dying trees will help minimize impacts on nesting birds and other wildlife. Food and cover for desired wildlife species may be enhanced by modifying tree and understory composition and spacing.

Conservation benefits may include but are not limited to:

- Improved plant health and productivity.
- Improved forest structure and composition.
- Reduced susceptibility to pests and moisture stress.
- Reduced wildfire hazard.
- Improved wildlife, fish, and pollinator habitat.
- Manage natural precipitation more efficiently.
- Increased carbon storage.

#### Common Associated Practices

Forest Stand Improvement (666) is commonly applied with practices such as Woody Residue Treatment (384), Pest Management Conservation System (595), Brush Management (314), Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315), Access Control (472), Critical Area Planting (342), Firebreak (394), Fuel Break (383), Forest Trails and Landings (655), Access Road (560), Prescribed Burning (338), Tree-Shrub Pruning (660), Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Early Successional Habitat Development-Management (647), Restoration of Rare and Declining Natural Communities (643), Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644), and various erosion control practices.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.