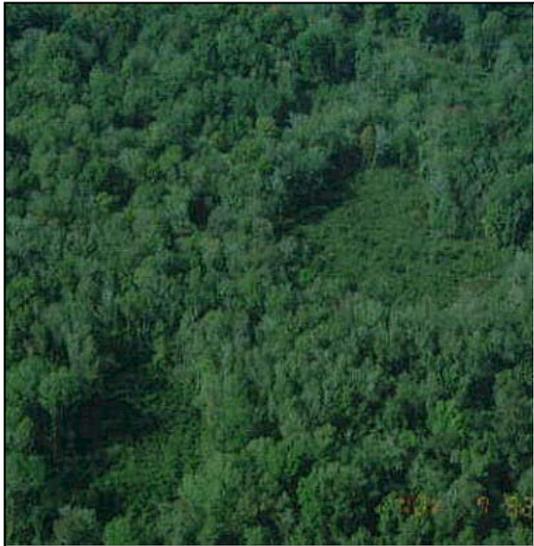


**Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT12 – Patch harvesting to improve degraded hardwood stands**



**Enhancement Description**

Patch harvesting is a silvicultural practice used to naturally regenerate over-mature and/or degraded hardwood stands while providing added cover and browse for several game and non-game species of wildlife.

**Land Use Applicability**

Forestland

**Benefits**

Years of harvesting high quality hardwood trees has left many forested acres with degraded, low quality trees. Patch harvesting promotes the regeneration of a new younger stand of desirable tree species by clearcutting selected areas (patches) within the forest.

Patch areas are chosen based on their lack of acceptable growing stock (AGS) and presence of desirable trees of advanced regeneration. Wildlife habitat is increased by the amount of edge, cover and diversity of the tract created during the harvest.

**Criteria**

1. Offered forested acres must be harvested during contract period
2. Offered acres must have an “acceptable growing stock” level below 50 sq. ft. per acre.
3. Site condition must be of medium or higher quality
4. Forested acres targeted for patch harvesting must contain species for regeneration from the NRCS state list. Species on this list were selected based on their abilities to regenerate from seed, sprouts or other natural regeneration sources
5. For the oaks, advance regeneration must be present or developed prior to the harvest cut in order to be competitive with other faster growing species.
6. Size of patches to be treated can vary from 1 to 10 acres, be distributed throughout the forest and cannot total more than 50% of offered acres.
7. Trees removed during patch clear cut can be sold if of marketable quality.
8. Slash and cull trees must be managed to allow for natural regeneration to occur. This can be accomplished by:
  - a. Windrowing
  - b. Wildlife piles
  - c. Chipping
  - d. Cutting for firewood
9. Burning of slash is prohibited
10. Patch harvesting shall not be done in or directly adjoin areas with established populations of invasive species unless specific control strategies will be implemented.



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2011 Ranking Period 1

This enhancement is not for normal thinning or other timber stand improvement activities conducted on non-degraded sites.

### **Documentation Requirements**

1. Site suitability and acceptable growing stock evaluation for each patch
2. Identify the desired species to be regenerated and evidence they are present.
3. Map showing where patches are located
4. Documentation that clear cut activities were completed, e.g. photo's, sale receipt

### **Wisconsin Supplement 1/11/2011**

Written documentation shall show a history of "high-grading" within the stand and shall identify acceptable growing stock is less than 50 sq.ft. of basal area/ac.

Management plan shall target Aspen, Oak, Bottomland Hardwood, Central Hardwood or White Birch types.

Sites with high potential for invasive species encroachment are not eligible.