

## **Animal Enhancement Activity – KS-ANM15 Forest Stand Improvement for Habitat and Soil Quality**

### **Kansas Criteria for National Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM15**

1. Definition: Snags are standing dead trees, while den trees are live standing trees with a cavity in the trunk or limbs large enough to shelter wildlife.
2. An inventory of the area will be completed to document snags, den trees, and downed wood. This inventory may also be documented within a Forest Stewardship Plan developed with assistance from the Kansas Forest Service. This enhancement can be undertaken during thinning or harvesting operations.
3. Leave or establish per acre the following:
  - a. One snag larger than 20 inches diameter breast height (DBH)
  - b. Two snags 10 to 20 inches DBH
  - c. One snag 6 to 10 inches DBH

If not enough snags are present, refer to Construction Specifications 666, Forest Stand Improvement, for methods to deaden live trees.

4. Leave or establish per acre the following:
  - a. One den tree larger than 20 inches DBH
  - b. Two den 10 to 20 inches DBH
  - c. One den tree 6 to 10 inches DBH

Where insufficient den trees exist, create them by wounding selected trees so decay organisms can enter the tree. Examples include but not limited to improper pruning, chopping out six by six-inch sections of bark, drilling a hole or holes at least two inches in diameter and three inches deep, and setting up bird houses.

5. Establish or maintain at least three downed wood areas per acre. A downed wood area is defined as:
  - a. One tree larger than 20 inches DBH, or
  - b. Two trees 10 to 20 inches DBH, or
  - c. Three trees 6 to 20 inches DBH.

Trees in option b or c should be grouped together to form a downed wood area.