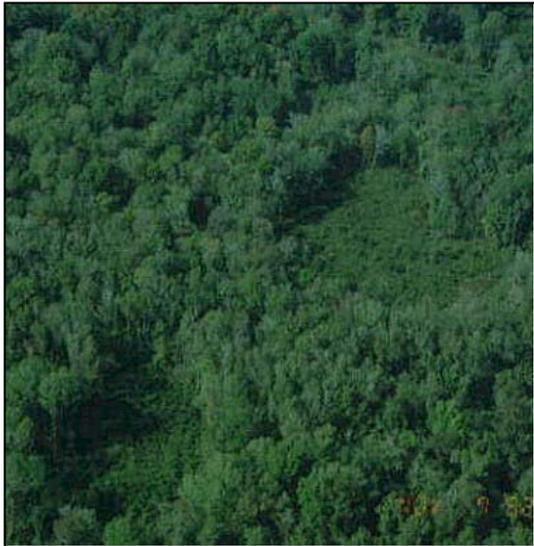


Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT12 – Patch harvesting to improve degraded hardwood stands



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 tree have 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 presents of desirable trees to regeneration through advance 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 2 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



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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 show where patches are located
4. Documentation that clear cut activities were completed, e.g. photo's, sale receipt

PLANT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

PLT 12 – OR 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.

Notes: See 643 Restoration & Management of Declining Habitats

Task: None

Oregon Supplement Information: Use this Enhancement for the removal of overstory conifer and the restoration of Oregon White Oak /Garry Oak (*Quercus garryana*) woodland or savanna.

Criteria 2. Offered acres must have an “acceptable growing stock” level below 50 sq. ft. per acres. This would be the equivalent of 64 12” DBH oak trees.

Criteria 8. Slash must be removed from site and management and control of invasive species must be part of the O&M plan.

References:

2007 Harrington, Devine, Gould, & Peter, “Move Over Douglas-Fir: Oregon White Oaks Need Room to Grow”, Science Findings: Issue 98, USDA Forest Service, PNW Research Station.

2006 Harrington & Devine, “A Practical Guide to Oak Release”, USDA Forest Service, PNW Research Station, PNW-GRT-666

2004 Vesely and Tucker, “A Landowner’s Guide for Restoring and Managing Oregon White Oak Habitats”, USDI Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Dept. of Forestry, Oregon State University, The American Bird Conservancy, The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.