



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E6660**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris for wildlife habitat

**Conservation Practice 666: Forest Stand Improvement**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 10 Years**

**Enhancement Description**

Improve wildlife habitat through creation and retention of snags, den trees, wolf trees, forest stand structural diversity, and coarse woody debris on the forest floor, to provide cover, shelter, and other habitat features for native wildlife species.

**Criteria**

- States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666) as listed below, and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.
- Identify desired wildlife species that use snags, den trees, wolf trees, coarse woody debris, and/or brush piles for shelter, cover, perches, nest sites, rearing sites, etc.
- Manage for specific tree species, or a selected mix of species, size-classes, and stocking rates at the appropriate scale to meet desired wildlife habitat requirements.
- Create, recruit, and maintain sufficient snags, wolf trees, nest trees, cavity/den trees, and coarse woody debris to meet requirements of desired species. Arrange downed woody material into brush piles as appropriate for desired wildlife species. Refer to criteria in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) for manipulation of vegetation.

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- The enhancement will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with States' Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality.
- When determining which trees will be killed for snag creation, and/or used to create cavities/dens or perches, consider effects on the remaining stand.
  - Identify and retain preferred tree and understory species to achieve all planned purposes and landowner objectives.
  - Use available guidelines for species and species groups to determine spacing, density, size-class distribution, number of trees, and amount of understory species to be retained.
  - Refer to criteria in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Integrated Pest Management (Code 595) to assist with site-specific strategies for pest prevention, pest avoidance, pest monitoring, and pest suppression.
  - Consider using downed woody material to create brush piles for additional wildlife habitat.



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## Documentation and Implementation Requirements:

### Participant will:

- Y Prior to implementation, participant will work with NRCS to identify the desired wildlife species that use snags, den trees, coarse woody debris, perches, and/or brush piles for shelter, cover, nest sites, and/or rearing sites, and are likely to benefit from the enhancement.
- Y Prior to Implementation, participant will work with professional forester or NRCS to delineate on a map the acres that the enhancement would be applied.
- Y Prior to implementation, participant will work with professional forester or NRCS to estimate how many snags, wolf trees, den trees, coarse woody debris, and/or brush piles are present per acre on the acres identified.
- Y Prior to implementation, work with NRCS to determine how many snags per acre per size class would be needed in addition to those present that will benefit the wildlife species.

### Desired Wildlife Species

| Snags and Woody Residue size classes       | Estimated Snags/Den Trees per Acre | Desired Snags/Den Trees per Acre | # of Snags/Den Trees per Acre to be Created |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Snags 6-10 inch diameter at breast height. |                                    | 2 or more                        |   |
| Snags 10-20 inch diameter at breast height |                                    | 2 or more                        |   |
| Snags >20 inch diameter at breast height   |                                    | 2 or more                        |   |
| Large Woody Debris >20 inch diameter       |                                    | 1 or more                        |   |
| Brush piles                                |                                    | 1                                |   |

- Y During implementation, notify NRCS if any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- Y During implementation, keep a written log and take digital photos of snag/den trees created and approximate locations on a map.



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- Y After implementation, notify NRCS that the work has been completed; submit digital photos.
- Y After implementation, retain digital photos for NRCS to verify practice has been completed.

**NRCS Will:**

- Y Prior to implementation, provide and explain the following NRCS Conservation Practice Standards as they relate to implementing this enhancement.
  - o Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666)
  - o Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)
- Y Prior to implementation, assist participant in determining which wildlife species will benefit from snags, den trees, coarse woody debris, and/or brush piles for shelter, cover, nest sites, and/or rearing sites.
- Y Prior to implementation, assist the landowners to delineate on a map the acres that the enhancement would be applied.
- Y Prior to implementation, assist the participant to determine the number of snags (by size class), den trees, coarse woody debris, and/or brush piles exist on the acres delineated by the enhancement. Determine the desired number, with the difference being the # of snags, den trees, coarse woody debris, and/or brush piles need to be created to meet criteria of the enhancement.
- Y During implementation, as needed, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- Y After implementation, verify that the number of snags, den trees, coarse woody debris, and/or brush piles have been created.



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### NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date

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## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### SOUTH DAKOTA (SD) SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

#### E6660

Snags, Den Trees, and Coarse Woody Debris for Wildlife Habitat

#### Additional Criteria for SD:

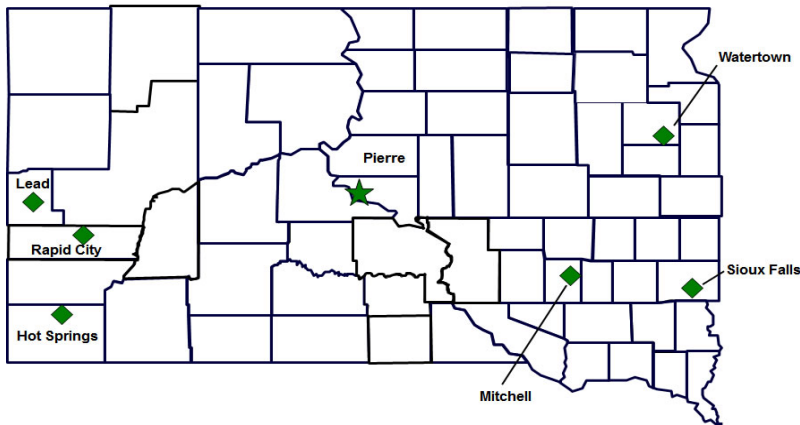
In addition to the criteria specified in the national job sheet E6660 the following additional criteria apply in SD:

- Forest Stewardship plan will need to be developed. The SD Department of Agriculture will develop a plan with producers, and they can be contacted at:



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

## Office Locations



Hot Springs - Field Office  
2202 University Ave.  
Hot Springs, SD 57747-1802  
605-745-5820

Mitchell - Field Office  
1315 N. Main St., Suite #104  
Mitchell, SD 57301-1302  
605-995-8189

Rapid City - Field Office  
3305 W. South St.  
Rapid City, SD 57702-8160  
605-394-2395

Watertown - Field Office  
2001 9th Ave. SW, Suite 500  
Watertown, SD 57201-3503  
605-882-5367

Lead - Field Office  
622 Hearst Avenue, Suite B  
Lead, SD 57754-1058  
605-584-2300

Pierre - State Office  
523 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501-3182  
605-773-3623

Sioux Falls - Field Office  
4305 South Louise Ave, Suite #107  
Sioux Falls, SD 57106-3115  
605-362-2830