



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, forest stand structural diversity, and coarse woody debris on the forest floor, to provide cover/shelter 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, coarse woody debris, and/or brush piles for shelter, cover, nest sites, and/or rearing sites.
- 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, nest, 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, 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:

- Prior to implementation, participant will work with NRCS to identify the desired wildlife species that use snags, den trees, coarse woody debris, and/or brush piles for shelter, cover, nest sites, and/or rearing sites, and are likely to benefit from the enhancement.

Desired Wildlife Species

- Prior to Implementation, participant will work with professional forester or NRCS to delineate on a map the acres that the enhancement would be applied.
- Prior to implementation, participant will work with professional forester or NRCS to estimate how many snags, den trees, coarse woody debris, and/or brush piles are present per acre on the acres identified.
- 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.

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	

- During implementation, notify NRCS if any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- During implementation, keep a written log and take digital photos of snag/den trees created and approximate locations on a map.
- After implementation, notify NRCS that the work has been completed; submit digital photos.
- After implementation, retain digital photos for NRCS to verify practice has been completed.



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NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, provide and explain the following NRCS Conservation Practice Standards as they relate to implementing this enhancement.
 - Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666)
 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645)
- 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.
- Prior to implementation, assist the landowners to delineate on a map the acres that the enhancement would be applied.
 - 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.
- During implementation, as needed, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
 - After implementation, verify that the number of snags, den trees, coarse woody debris, and/or brush piles have been created.

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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**OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

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Enhancement Description: Snags, den trees, and coarse woody debris for wildlife habitat

Where forest ESD's are available use them to determine site characteristics and needs. When ESD's are not available, consider the following:

Stand has not been high graded, removing the largest and best while leaving the smallest and poorly formed.

Refer to local ODF, regional, or state forester for stocking assistance for specific geographic considerations.

Forest Practice Permits are filed, and stand is compliant. This ensures that best management practices for water quality are met.

It shall be the responsibility of the client to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with Oregon Forest Practices Act and local ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice

If fire danger is a concern or if prescribed fire is planned, understory should be reduced to approximately 24" in height and standing trees should be pruned to 50% live crown.

Snags, downed woody material and potential roost trees are protected and maintained as per state regulations. This is typically 2 snags, 2 downed logs and 2 roost or recruitment trees per acre of forest land.

When implementing this enhancement avoid cutting pine stands during the growing season, green slash often will encourage beetle movement, potentially damaging healthy trees.

Where Terrestrial Habitat resource concern is selected follow state wildlife guidance.

- Use an Oregon Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide to determine general habitat condition.

[eFOTG: Section 3: Oregon Conservation Planning Documents: Wildlife Habitat Inventory Documents:](#)

- Use the CSP State Wildlife Species List for the WHEG for the species of interest. Direct any additional questions regarding this WHEG guidance to



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E6660 your basin or state wildlife biologist.
[Slicer – Priority Oregon Wildlife Species](#)

General Information:

Field Guide for the Identification and Use of Common Riparian Woody Plants of the Intermountain West and Pacific Northwest Regions

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs144p2_045486.pdf

Westside:

A guide to Riparian Tree and Shrub Planting in the Willamette Valley: Steps to Success:

<https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/sites/catalog/files/project/pdf/em9040.pdf>

A guide to riparian tree planting in southwest Oregon:

http://knowyourforest.org/sites/default/files/documents/Riparian_planting_OSU.pdf

Eastside:

Washington Technical Note 10: Riparian Revegetation Plants:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/wapmctn6334.pdf

Plant Vendors:

Plant and Seed Vendors for Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northwest California.

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_041918.pdf

Native Plant Resources for Southwest Oregon:

http://www.ashland.or.us/Files/native%20plant%20resources_1014-2.pdf

More guidance on managing diversity in Dry Western Forest

https://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/pnw_qtr628.pdf