



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E666130Z

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Increase on-site carbon storage

Conservation Practice 666: Forest Stand Improvement

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest; Associated Ag Land; Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Air Quality Impacts

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 10 Years

Enhancement Description

Utilize forest management techniques to maintain and increase on-site carbon storage. These include, but are not limited to, applying uneven-aged management, using longer rotations, retaining cavity/den trees, snags, and down woody debris, and protecting or increasing soil organic material.

Criteria

- States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) 666 as listed below, **and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.**
- Apply all of the following activities:
 - Retain all snags and downed woody debris of 6" diameter or larger at the base.
 - Identify leave-trees or clumps of trees that will be retained on site throughout their life span. These would ideally be trees that also provide wildlife habitat (e.g., future cavity/den trees, species that develop loose bark at older ages, mast producers, etc.).
 - Close unneeded roads and limit off-road vehicular traffic to avoid displacing the forest litter layer.



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- Apply at least one activity from among the following as appropriate for the site:
 - Transition from even-aged to uneven-aged management.
 - Use regeneration methods (e.g., shelterwood, seed-tree) that encourage retention of mature trees during the period when advanced regeneration develops.
 - Adopt techniques for maintaining and/or improving soil quality, specifically retention of organic carbon.
 - Maintain canopy cover to shade the forest floor and avoid hastening decomposition.

- During forest management activities, apply the following criteria:
 - 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. Schedule treatments to maintain the stand in a fully stocked condition based on appropriate stocking guide.
 - Describe the current and desired future condition of each stand that will be treated. Include the species, cover type, and size-class distribution. Stocking will be described in terms of crop trees per acre, basal area per acre, trees per acre, between-tree spacing, or by any other appropriate and professionally accepted density or stocking protocol.
 - Implement forest stand improvement activities in ways that avoid or minimize soil erosion, compaction, rutting, and damage to remaining vegetation, and that maintain hydrologic conditions.
 - The enhancement will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with States' Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality.



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Documentation Requirements

- Plans and specifications for applying this practice shall be prepared for each site and recorded using approved specification sheets, implementation requirements, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation. Clearly state the goals and objectives of the treatment, including carbon storage as well as wildlife or other objectives.
- Specific stand-stocking guidelines will clearly document both the pre- and post-treatment stand condition.
- **Additional documentation as required by NRCS State Office.**