



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E666137Z1

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 ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat

PRACTICE 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 (CPS) Forest Stand Improvement 666 as listed below, **and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.**
- Identify desired wildlife species that utilize snags, den trees, and/or coarse woody debris 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 large downed woody material to meet requirements of desired species. Refer to criteria in CPS Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645) for manipulation of vegetation.
- The enhancement will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with States’ Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- 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 CPS Integrated Pest Management (595) to assist with site-specific strategies for pest prevention, pest avoidance, pest monitoring, and pest suppression.

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 documenting habitat needs of desired wildlife species for snags, cavity/den trees, and/or coarse woody debris.
- Specific stand-stocking guidelines will clearly document both the pre- and post-treatment stand condition.
- **Additional documentation as required by NRCS State Office.**