CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E666137Z1

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

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, 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 NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 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.

• When determining which trees will be killed for snag creation, and/or used to create cavities/dens, consider effects on the remaining stand.
  o Identify and retain preferred tree and understory species to achieve all planned purposes and landowner objectives.
  o 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.
  o Refer to criteria in NRCS CPS Integrated Pest Management (Code 595) to assist with site-specific strategies for pest prevention, pest avoidance, pest monitoring, and pest suppression.
Documentation and Implementation Requirements:

Participant will:

☐ Prior to implementation, participant will work with NRCS to identify the desired wildlife species that uses snags, den trees, and/or course woody debris for shelter, cover, nest sites, and/or rearing sites wanting to benefit from the enhancement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Desired Wildlife Species</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ 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, and/or course woody debris 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Snags and Woody Residue size classes</th>
<th>Estimated Snags/Den Trees per Acre</th>
<th>Desired Snags/Den Trees per Acre</th>
<th># of Snags/Den Trees per Acre to be Created</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Snags 6-10 inch diameter at breast height</td>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snags 10-20 inch diameter at breast height</td>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snags &gt;20 inch diameter at breast height</td>
<td>2 or more</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large Woody Debris &gt;20 inch diameter</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

☐ 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.

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 what wildlife species will benefit from snags, den trees, and/or coarse woody debris 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 how many in what size class snags/dens and large woody debris exist on the acres delineated by the enhancement, determine the desired number, with the difference being the # of snags/dens by size class and large woody debris 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/dens and large woody debris 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
**INDIANA SUPPLEMENT TO**

**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E666136Z1**

**Additional Criteria for Indiana**

In addition to the criteria specified in the National job sheet E666136Z1 the following additional criteria apply in Indiana:

- Develop or update a forest management plan in consultation with NRCS personnel and a professional forester to direct the management of the property.

- Livestock must be excluded from all forested acres enrolled for this enhancement.

- Tree removal will not exceed 100 feet into the forest stand from the edge of the road.

- When felling trees >5” DBH, follow all USFWS/NRCS Requirements for the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat. This document is attached to end of the Indiana CSP Wildlife Species Guidance (2018).

- No activities will be performed from April 1 through August 1 to protect the primary nesting period for ground nesting birds. In areas with endangered or threatened snakes (Northern Copperbelly water snake, Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake, Kirtland’s Snake) management activities that disturb cover or ground surfaces (such as prescribed burning) will not be performed from April 1 through October 31.

**Additional Documentation Requirements for Indiana**

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E666136Z1 the following additional documentation requirements apply in Indiana:

- When a professional forester is utilized to implement the work, marking trees and groups of trees is not required.

- Woody Residue Treatment Standard (Code 384) is not adopted by Indiana NRCS and is not a requirement for treating slash and debris for this enhancement. However, assure that slash and debris does not pose an unacceptable fire, safety, environmental, or pest hazard.

**Notes and comments on the National Enhancement:**
• Merchantable trees are allowed to be sold, however any trees removed in order to meet this Enhancement must follow the USFWS/NRCS Requirements for the Indiana Bat and Northern Long-Eared Bat. Trees removed or harvested not associated with this enhancement are not considered a Federal Action by NRCS. NRCS has no requirements for removing those individual trees. Participants and loggers are encouraged to see out possible requirements for non-Federal Actions for T&E Species directly from the USFWS, and are liable for any requirements. NRCS does not oversee or provide technical assistance in harvesting timber.

• Not compatible with: E666135Z2