

**FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT****CODE 666****Conservation Practice Fact Sheet****FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT**

Forest stand improvement is the manipulation of species composition, stand structure, and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation.

**PURPOSES**

Purposes of this practice include the following:

1. Improve or sustain timber production
2. Improve understory forage production, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, recreation, and hydrologic condition.
3. To harvest forest products
4. To initiate forest stand regeneration
5. To restore natural plant communities
6. To increase carbon storage
7. To reduce wildfire hazard
8. To achieve a combination of purposes

**PRACTICE INFORMATION**

This practice applies to forest land where competing vegetation hinders growth and stocking of preferred tree and understory species. The preferred species are identified and retained to achieve the intended purpose of improving the stand. Spacing, density and amounts of preferred plants are carefully planned with consideration for the total ecosystem.

Timing of the treatments and retaining dead or dying trees will help minimize impacts on nesting birds and other wildlife. Food and cover for wildlife are further retained and/or enhanced by minimal modifications of composition and spacing necessary to improve the vegetative cover.

Additional information including standards and specifications for establishment and

management of this practice are on file in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.

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