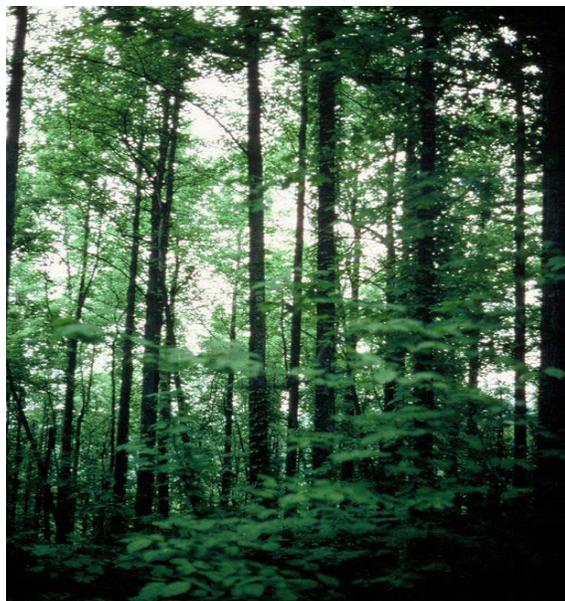


# Forest Stand Improvement

## Maine Conservation Practice Job Sheet

666



### Definition

Forest Stand Improvement is the manipulation of species composition, stand structure, and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation. Generally it may include weeding, releasing, and thinning of a young (between 5 and 25 years old) forest stand over time. Thinning can be either pre-commercial or commercial.

### Purpose

The purpose of this practice is to increase the quantity and quality of forest products and reduce the potential of damage from wildfire, pests, and moisture stress. At the same time, forest stand improvement may also be used to initiate stand regeneration and restore natural plant communities, including a desired understory plant community. Other purposes include improving recreation, aesthetic and open space values, wildlife habitat, water conservation and yield and harvest forest products at the same time. Crop tree and carbon storage management are also purposes of this practice.

### Where used

This practice is used on forest land where improvement of forest resources is needed. For example a forest stand that has a severe pest problem or is overstocked may need forest stand improvement.

### Operation and maintenance

Periodic inspections during treatment activities are necessary to ensure that objectives are achieved and resource damage is minimized. Follow-up and ongoing management activities will be needed to obtain desired results.

### Considerations

Silvicultural objectives and harvest-regeneration strategies may change over time and may be limited by prior management. Successful regeneration of desirable species is usually dependent upon timely application of forest stand improvement.

Adjust the extent, timing, size of treatment area, or the intensity of the practice to minimize the cumulative effects (on-site and off-site), e.g., habitat fragmentation, nutrient cycling, biodiversity, and visual resources. This adjustment is especially true for endangered and threatened species. Time the practice so it minimally affects seasonal wildlife activities and retains essential wildlife habitat requirements such as large dead standing and downed trees. Also consider releasing apple trees for wildlife.

Comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice, including the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) especially in Canada Lynx and Atlantic salmon habitat areas, ME Forest Practices Act, ME Pesticide application regulations, ME Best Management Practice Guidelines, and ME Forest Operations Notification requirement (commercial harvests only).

**Please Note:** A Forest Stewardship Plan, completed by a ME Licensed Professional Forester (LPF), is required for this practice. When implementing this practice use a Registered NRCS Forestry/Agroforestry Technical Service Provider (TSP) for technical assistance.

### Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Inventory information is listed on the Inventory Worksheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the ME NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard and supplemental specifications for Forest Stand Improvement, Code 666 for specific requirements.



## Forest Stand Improvement – Job Sheet – Specifications Sheet

<i>For:</i>	<i>Farm #:</i>
<i>Field(s):</i>	<i>Tract #:</i>
<i>Designed By</i>	<i>Lic #::</i>
	<i>Approved By:</i>
	<i>Signature:</i>
	<i>Lic. #:</i>
<i>Date:</i>	<i>Date:</i>

<b>Purpose (check all that apply)</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> To increase the quantity and quality of forest products	<input type="checkbox"/> Harvest forest products
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/> Achieve a desired level of crop tree stocking and density
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve water conservation and yield	<input type="checkbox"/> Increase carbon storage in selected crop trees
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve aesthetic, recreation, and open space values	<input type="checkbox"/> Restore natural plant communities
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiate forest stand regeneration	<input type="checkbox"/> Achieve a desired understory plant community
<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the potential of damage from wildfire, pests, and moisture stress.	

Project site general soil moisture regime is \_\_\_Dry \_\_\_Moist \_\_\_Wet or poorly-drained (see Pg 666-4)

<b>Harvest Regeneration Strategy</b> (check one Mgt System on first line and circle specific system on second line)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Uneven-aged Management System	<input type="checkbox"/> Even-aged Management System	
<input type="checkbox"/> Single-tree selection, group selection, coppice	<input type="checkbox"/> Clear-cut, seed-tree, shelterwood, coppice	
<b>Type of Forest Stand Improvement</b> (check one and write in type, i.e. hand, chemical, mechanical, other-specify)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Weeding (pg 666-3) Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Releasing (pg 666-5) Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-commercial thinning (pg 666-5) Type:
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial thinning (pg 666-5)		

Forest Stand Improvement will be done during the following time period (specify dates): \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.  
**NOTE:** Maine Forest Operations Notification of intent to harvest forest products, construct land management roads, and/or establish water crossings *is required for a commercial harvest*. Notification No. \_\_\_\_\_ Completed by: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Desired Forest Condition</b> - Refer to ME Supplemental Specifications, page 666-3 of the ME Standard 666 for weeding specs and page 666-6 & 7 for the stocking guide for even-aged stands. Identify preferred species by using an asterisk (*) by the name.						
Field/Stand	Ac	Plant Species (common name)	Size Class	D+X Spacing	Avg. Spacing Ft X Ft	Trees per Acre

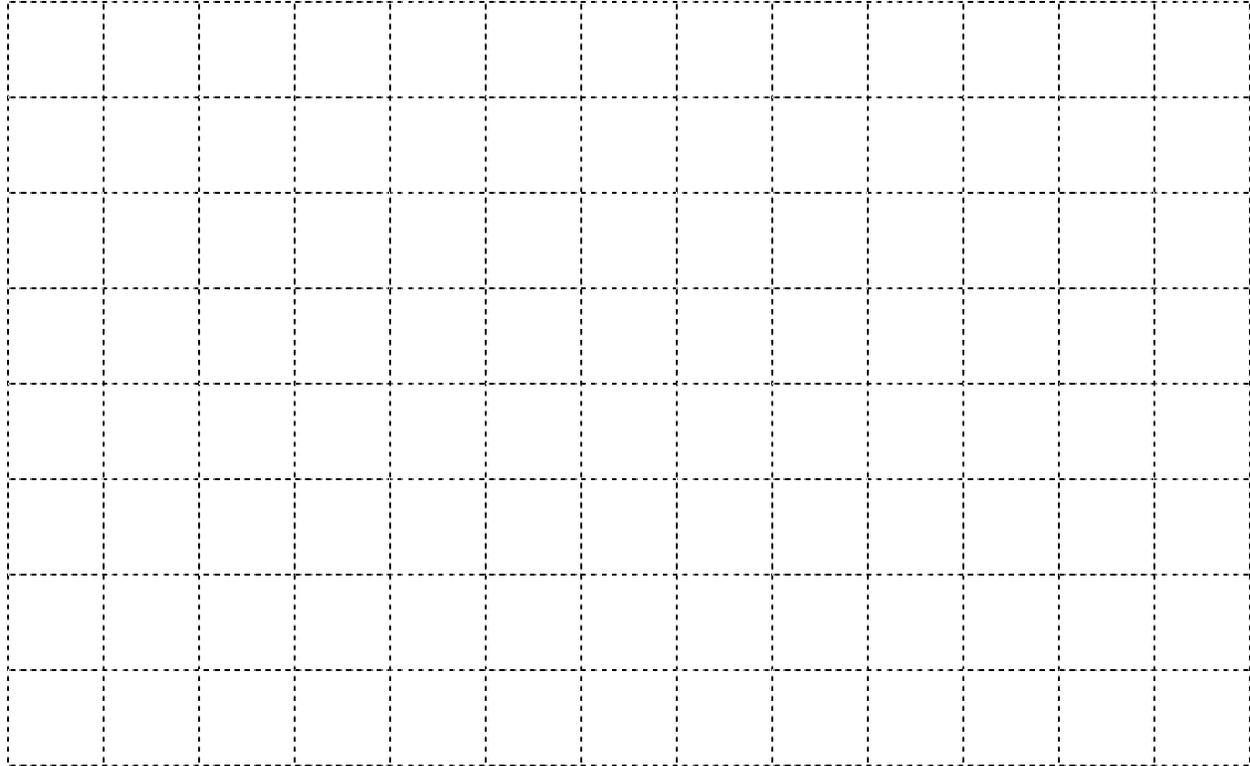
Additional Remarks (Include information on salable or usable products, other values and considerations):

Questions regarding the forest stand improvement should be directed to [name of technical specialist], at [phone number].

## Forest Stand Improvement – Job Sheet

If needed, an aerial view of the practice location can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= \_\_\_\_\_ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")



Additional Specifications and Notes:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in its programs on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs and marital or familial status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA Office of Communications (202) 720-2791.

To file a complaint of discrimination write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice or TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.