

## Forest Stand Improvement

### Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet

666



#### Definition

The manipulation of species composition, stand structure and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation.

#### Criteria

The harvest-regeneration strategy will be identified for all planned forest improvement harvesting:

- Uneven-aged management systems (e.g., single-tree selection, group selection, coppice selection)
- Even-aged management (e.g., clear-cut, seed-tree, shelterwood, coppice)

The extent or size and orientation of treatment area(s) shall be identified as part of practice design.

Preferred tree and understory species are identified and retained to achieve planned purposes.

Follow established guidelines for the intended purposes when establishing tree spacing, density, size class, number and

amounts of trees and understory species to be retained.

Record stocking in terms of basal area, spacing or trees per acre by species and size class distribution.

Protect site resources, e.g., residual trees, wetlands, cultural resources, improvements and utilities by selecting the appropriate method, felling direction and tree harvest timing. Time the tree cutting to avoid buildup of insect or disease populations. Felling direction

must be compatible with trail layout as specified by Virginia Conservation Practice Standard, *Forest Trails and Landings (Code 655)*. Forest stand improvement activities shall be performed to minimize soil erosion, compaction, rutting, and damage to remaining vegetation and maintain hydrologic conditions. Refer to "Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality" in the Virginia Field Office Technical Guide, Section I.

Slash and debris will be treated such that they do not present an unacceptable fire, safety, environmental, or pest hazard. Such remaining material will not interfere with the intended purpose or other management activities. Refer to the Virginia Conservation Practice Standard, *Prescribed Burning (Code 338)* if fire is used to manage debris and slash.

Comply with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice.

Refer to "Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality" in the Virginia

Field Office Technical Guide, Section I and the Virginia Seed Tree Law.

Specific pesticide recommendations will be obtained from personnel who are licensed by the Virginia Department of Agricultural and Consumer Services in one of the forest pest management categories in accordance with Virginia's Pesticide Laws and Regulations.

If chemical herbicides or pesticides are used, follow all instructions for the particular chemical as outlined in the Virginia Pest Management Guide (2011 edition and subsequent revisions) as maintained by the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service. The specific pesticide container label addressing instructions and safety precautions shall be strictly followed as it applies to handling, applying in proximity to water resources, and storage.

Manage for tree species and stocking rates that meet desired wildlife and pollinator species food and cover requirements. Create, recruit and maintain sufficient snags and down woody material to meet requirements of desired wildlife species in balance with conditions needed to achieve other intended purposes. Minimize improvement actions that disturb seasonal wildlife activities.

Reduce stocking rates of trees to minimize crown-to-crown spread of fire. Remove "ladder" fuels to minimize the occurrence of crown fires. Further treat or eliminate slash accumulations next to roads and trails. Reduce or eliminate species with high volatility but not to a level that would compromise other intended purposes. For additional wildfire risk and damage reduction, refer to the Virginia Conservation Practice Standard *Firebreak (Code 394)*.

Producer \_\_\_\_\_ Farm # \_\_\_\_\_ Tract # \_\_\_\_\_

Field Office \_\_\_\_\_ Contract # \_\_\_\_\_

**Producer’s Purpose**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest products  | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce wildfire hazard   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restore natural plant communities  | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase carbon storage  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Improve wildlife habitat   | <input type="checkbox"/> Enhancing aesthetics   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase the quantity and quality of forest products by manipulating stand density and structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Initiate forest stand regeneration   |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> Achieve or maintain a desired native understory plant community for special forest products, grazing, and browsing |

**Practice Specifications:**

*Practice specifications will be developed individually for each forest stand with the landowner. Specification will comply with the Conservation Practice Standard Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666). All decisions concerning extent, implementation methods, and other specific technical decisions will be documented on the job sheet or other acceptable method.*

**Implementation Methods**

		Field #	Acres	Field #	Acres
Pre-commercial Thinning					
Chemical crop tree release					
Mechanical crop tree release					
Group selection					
Harvest cut					
Commercial thinning					
Single tree selection					
Prescribed burning.					
Soils Type					
Soil Drainage					
Site Index					
Treatment Dates					

Before and after photos?  Yes  No (If no, please specify.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Operation and Maintenance**

Periodic inspections are necessary during and after treatment activities to ensure that purposes are achieved and resource damage is minimized, e.g., assessment of insects, disease and other pests, storm damage, and damage by trespass. Use inspection results to determine the need for additional treatment under this practice.

**Planner Certification**

This Forest Stand Improvement plan meets the requirements of NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 666.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Title Date

**Certification of Practice Completion**

This Forest Stand Improvement plan has been completed and maintained according to NRCS plans and specifications. (Indicate in Practice Specifications if there were any changes to the planned practice and acreage.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Title Date

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice 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:**


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