

## **Fact Sheet**

### **Forest Stand Improvement (666)**

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

#### **Practice Information**

This practice applies to forestland where competing vegetation hinders development and stocking of preferred tree and understory species. The preferred species are identified and retained to achieve the intended purpose of improving the stand.

Specifications for this practice include defined spacing, density, and amounts of preferred plants. Timing of treatment and retaining dead or dying trees will help minimize impacts on nesting birds and other wildlife. Food and cover for wildlife are further retained by modifications of composition and spacing necessary to improve the vegetative cover.

Conservation benefits may include but are not limited to:

- improved timber crop production
- improved plant health and vigor
- reduced wildfire hazard
- improved quantity and quality of forage and
- improved wildlife habitat

#### **Common Associated Practices**

Forest Stand Improvement (666) is commonly applied with practices such as Firebreak (394), Prescribed Burning (338),



Tree/Shrub Pruning (660), Upland Wildlife Habitat Development (645), Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647), Rare and Declining Habitats (643), Woody Residue Treatment (384), and other erosion control practices.

For further information, contact your local NRCS field office.

