



Early Successional Habitat Development/Management (647)

Conservation Practice Job Sheet

Lifespan – 1 Year

Landowner: _____

Project or Contract: _____

Location: _____

NRCS Planner: _____

Tract Number: _____

Plan Date: _____

Project Description: _____

DEFINITION

Manage plant succession to develop and maintain early successional habitat to benefit desired wildlife and/or natural communities.

PURPOSE

To provide habitat for species requiring early successional habitat for all or part of their life cycle.

GENERAL PRACTICE REQUIREMENTS

- This Job Sheet will be filled out prior to the start of the practice.
- When practices are considered to be “commercially viable” (result in net income to the landowner), instead of contracting payment for the practice, NRCS may use 666 Forest Stand Improvement for marking the trees by a forester to assure that the silvicultural objectives are met.
- All work shall be in compliance with NRCS program policy and rules, and local and state laws, including but not limited to the Connecticut Forest Practices Act and state and local wetlands regulations.
- Removal of firewood and other residues is allowed at the landowner’s expense as long as wildlife habitat requirements are met and the remaining trees are not damaged.
- Trees to be cut or to remain, patch cut boundaries, etc. shall be designated (typically painted) by a person with appropriate Job Approval Authority (certified Forester¹, or wildlife biologist or NRCS technical staff) and reviewed prior to the start of cutting with the person who will do the work.
- When the estimated volume to be removed is in excess of 50 cords, 150 tons or 25,000 board feet cutting shall be performed by a certified forest practitioner. ¹
- Practices shall be recommended in a Forest Management Plan (FMP) that is less than ten years old, and was prepared by a CT certified Forester¹ or documented as a recommendation by someone with the appropriate Job Approval Authority (or wildlife biologist or NRCS technical staff) if previously approved.
- Prior to any cutting, the landowner will look at the marked area to verify that they are in agreement with the proposed cutting size, location, etc.
- NRCS staff shall inspect the site prior to the start of a practice to verify it is marked and that the landowner is in agreement with the practice. Record site visits on page 7 of this job sheet.
- Inspections during treatment activities will ensure that objectives are being achieved and resource damage is avoided. If work is not meeting expectations it will cease until the matter is resolved. A final inspection shall be done when the practice is complete (see page 7).
- The desired habitat conditions may be achieved by cutting, girdling, or chemically treating trees, as prescribed by the Forest Management Plan or NRCS planner.
- Practices are to be completed as scheduled in the NRCS contract regardless of markets.

¹Certified by the State of Connecticut pursuant to CGS Section 23-65h.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

- If some trees are to remain, favor mast and cavity producing species such as white oak, black cherry, ash, maple, hickory, yellow birch and white pine when selecting species to retain.
- When possible promote species diversity by encouraging less common species that are suitable to the site. Retain existing and potential den, snag and nest trees, if appropriate.
- Minimize soil disturbance in natural communities where soil integrity is essential.
- Disturbance to habitat shall be avoided during crucial periods (e.g. wildlife nesting, brood rearing, fawning or calving seasons).
- When grazing is used as a management tool, a prescribed grazing plan developed to specifically meet the intent and objective(s) of this practice standard is required.
- When selecting plants and designing management for this practice, consider the needs of pollinators and incorporate to the maximum extent practicable using 327 Conservation Cover.

The landowner/operator shall obtain approved starting dates from NRCS prior to starting all cutting practices to ensure that they will be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and cutting restrictions associated with the listing of the Northern Long-eared Bat as a threatened species and other species of concern. In CT, April 15 to August 31 is typically the most critical time for nesting.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE (O&M)

- Monitor treated acres for invasive species, insect and/or disease outbreaks and other concerns that may occur and take appropriate action.
- Occasional disturbance may be incorporated into the management plan to ensure the intended purpose of this practice.
- Any use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals shall not compromise the intended purpose.
- This practice should be applied periodically to maintain the desired early successional plant community and rotated throughout the managed area.
- Follow additional O&M requirements as provided by the FMP, the Forester or NRCS.

JOB SHEET

NOTE: Fill in data below as appropriate for the specific site and job. More than one Job Sheet may be used if needed for more than one field or stand.

RESOURCE CONCERNS ADDRESSED (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

<input type="checkbox"/> Degraded Plant Condition – Undesirable Plant Productivity and Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Degraded Plant Condition – Inadequate Structure and Composition
<input type="checkbox"/> Degraded Plant Condition – Excessive Plant Pest Pressure	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Habitat Inadequate Habitat - Food
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Habitat Inadequate Habitat – Cover/Shelter	<input type="checkbox"/> Fish and Wildlife Habitat Inadequate Habitat – Habitat Continuity (space)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

HABITAT OBJECTIVES (LIST OBJECTIVES THAT WILL ADDRESS RESOURCE CONCERNS)

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PATCH CUT INFORMATION, IF PLANNED PRACTICES BASED ON FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Forest Management Plan By:		Date:	
Pages in Plan Discussing Treatment:			
Stand Number and Acres:			
Forest Cover Type or Dominant Species:			
Dominant Soil Types:			
Tree and/or Shrub Species to Manage or Encourage:			

STAND INFORMATION

	Existing	Desired
Trees per Acre		
Basal Area per Acre		
Average DBH		
Volume per Acre		
Estimated Stumpage Value		

SAVE TREES / LEAVE TREES

Species of Seed Trees	Seed Trees per Acre	Average DBH of Seed Trees

EARLY SUCCESSIONAL HABITAT DEVELOPMENT

CUTTING METHOD

<input type="checkbox"/> Chainsaw/Hand	<input type="checkbox"/> Heavy Equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mower
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		
Additional Information:		

CUT DEMARCATION:

	Flagging	Paint	Color	Mark (i.e. dot, vertical slash, horizontal slash, double flagging, etc.)
Boundary Demarcation				
Save Tree Demarcation				

OTHER SITE PRESCRIPTION STRATEGIES (If brush piles are planned, note below and follow standard and job sheet for 649 Structures for Wildlife. Seasonal or other work restrictions, other habitat practice requirements)

TRANSPORT/YARDING METHOD (note if a specific type of equipment is being required for the job)

<input type="checkbox"/> On Ground (Skidder)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Off Ground (Forwarder)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:			
Stream/Wet Area Crossings?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	If Yes, See Forest Trails & Landings (655) Job Sheet and NRCS Temporary Crossings Guidelines
Skid Trail Layout Needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
New Landings Needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Additional Information:			

WETLANDS/WATERCOURSES

Are Wetlands/Watercourses on the practice site?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Describe:	
Jurisdictional Ruling obtained from town?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Additional Information:				

RELEASE FROM COMPETING VEGETATION

(invasive plant control or non-invasive species requiring control)

Follow 314 Brush Management Standard and Job Sheet or 315 Herbaceous Weed Control Standard and Job Sheet as appropriate.

Are invasive plants present in the cutting area?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	Include details here (species, extent, density, timing of treatment, etc.)
Invasive plants have been or will be treated prior to cutting?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	
Invasive plants present but no treatment planned?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	

For work planned under the NRCS Forest Trails and Landings (655) practice, such as grading and seeding of skid trails, or Access Road (560), see the job sheet specific to that practice.

EROSION/SEDIMENTATION

Practices shall be implemented in accordance to accepted Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will reduce the potential for erosion and sediment transport.

Refer to the CT DEEP’s Best Management Practices for Water Quality While Harvesting Forest Products (http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2697&q=379248&depNav_GID=1631)

and to the US. Forest Service’s A Landowner’s Guide to Building Forest Access Roads

(<http://www.na.fs.fed.us/SPFO/pubs/stewardship/accessroads/accessroads.htm>) for further criteria and specifications.

Additional Information or Operation and Maintenance Requirements (O&M):

• **Attach Practice Location Map and Photos – Required on map:**

- Detailed aerial view of where practice is to be installed.
- All stands are labeled with stand number, acreage and any other identifying characteristics
- All major components, structures, fences, streams, landmarks, etc. are identified

If Applicable to Site:

Forester over-seeing job: _____ Cert. # _____

Harvester Name: _____ Cert. # _____

(Certification level and number can be obtained from the Directory of Certified Forest Practitioners on the CT DEEP website.)

Required:

Landowner has done an on-site inspection of the practice prior to the start of cutting and authorizes the practice to proceed as marked. Landowner understands practice requirement per Practice Standard and Job Sheet.

Landowner Signature: _____ Date: _____

RECORD OF COMPLETION AND CHECK OUT CERTIFICATION

Attachments:

- Map attached with actual treated area(s) and method of treatment(s) delineated and labeled.
- Photos of completed practice.

RECORD OF COMPLETION AND CHECK OUT CERTIFICATION (Complete applicable boxes):

Inspected Prior to Start Inspector/Date:	Inspected During Work Inspector/Date:	Inspected During Work Inspector/Date:	Inspected During Work Inspector/Date:
Forester Name:	Practice #completed According Plan:	Final Inspection Date:	Forester Signature:
Treated Acres:	Practice Completed per NRCS Standard - Date Completed:	Final Inspection Date:	NRCS Inspector:
Notes (erosion and sediment control measures, residual stand density, final appearance of site, etc.)			

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mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

fax: (202) 690-7442

email: program.intake@usda.gov