Practice: 645 - Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

Scenario: #1 - Mast/Apple Tree Release

Scenario Description:

Releasing individual Hardwood/Apple trees for mast, by reducing stocking and cutting undesirable competing species.

Before Situation:

Apple trees are being overtopped by other trees and plant productivity, health and vigor are negatively effected which limits flowering and fruit production. Food resources on the property are not meeting client's objectives for wildlife habitat. Healthy but suppressed trees will be retained while competing trees (with competing canopies) will be removed giving free growing space and full sunlight to the apple trees. There is limited herbaceous and woody seedlings/saplings regenerating under the apple trees further limiting food and cover.

After Situation:

Typical approach is to release individual trees from competition on 1 acre of land. Tools include chainsaw, brush saws, and bow saws. Trees competing with apple trees have been cut down so that there is sunlight on the apple tree for most of the day. The increase in sunlight will increase productivity, health and vigor of the apple tree stimulating future flowering and fruiting potential. Where larger trees are removed, there is also a flush of understory and forb/grass growth in the opening providing food and cover.

Scenario Feature Measure: Number of Trees Released

Scenario Unit: Each

Scenario Typical Size: 20

Scenario Cost: $431.80 **Scenario Cost/Unit:** $21.59

Cost Details (by category):

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price ($/unit)	Quantity	Cost
Equipment/Installation						
Chainsaw	937	Equipment and power unit costs. Labor not included.	Hour	$6.46	10	$64.60
Labor						
General Labor	231	Labor performed using basic tools such as power tool, shovels, and other tools that do not require extensive training. Ex. pipe layer, herder, concrete placement, materials spreader, flagger, etc.	Hour	$24.48	15	$367.20

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Scenario: #2 - Snags

Scenario Description:

Create 8 snags by double girdling selected trees. Poor quality or deformed trees, such as those with broken tops or large branches, will be chosen for snags when available.

Before Situation:

Forest stands do not have a mix of dead wood among the growing trees. Cavity nesting birds and other wildlife species that use standing dead trees for shelter are declining in the vicinity due to insufficient cover.

After Situation:

8 snags per acre are created by double-girdling the selected trees in the stand. Snags provide habitat to innumerable organisms including fungi, insects and other invertebrates, and land animals such as amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals. Resource concerns for Widllife-Insufficient nesting habitat is addressed.

Scenario Feature Measure: Number of snags

Scenario Unit: Each

Scenario Typical Size: 8

Scenario Cost: $86.36 **Scenario Cost/Unit:** $10.80

Cost Details (by category):

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price ($/unit)	Quantity	Cost
Equipment/Installation						
Chainsaw	937	Equipment and power unit costs. Labor not included.	Hour	$6.46	2	$12.92
Labor						
General Labor	231	Labor performed using basic tools such as power tool, shovels, and other tools that do not require extensive training. Ex. pipe layer, herder, concrete placement, materials spreader, flagger, etc.	Hour	$24.48	3	$73.44

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Scenario: #4 - Grassland Bird Management

Scenario Description:

This scenario involves the monitoring and adaptive management related to a change in the mowing regime on productive hayland by ensuring an early hay cut in mid to late May followed by a delay in the second cut of 65 days. Transects are walked to observe ground nesting birds. Three transects will be run per 20 acres. Monitoring efforts (n=3) are conducted two weeks apart. Observation of nesting are documented on a job-sheet. Haying is delayed until no nest are observed during the monitoring efforts. A third cut is allowed. Research has shown that implementing this management on intensely managed hayfields will provide nearly the same productivity for grassland songbirds as a hayfield not mowed until August 1st. Facilitating practice include 315 Herbaceous Weed Control and 511 Forage Harvest Management. Resource concerns include Wildlife: food and cover.

Before Situation:

Typical setting for this practice is agricultural dominated landscapes with large fields. These agricultural landscapes, and other large grass areas such as airports or preserves, are often the most desirable areas for grassland birds in the Northeast. Breeding success for grassland songbirds on intensively managed hayfields (3-4 cuts per summer) is nearly non-existent as the time period between mowings is too short for successful nesting. Through mowing the nests are destroyed or cover is removed making them vulnerable to predation by crows, ring-billed gulls and other predators. The reduction in nesting sites and nest success treduces the population of grassland nesting birds.

After Situation:

Providing this 65 day period without cutting the field provides grassland birds with good nesting habitat to breed and successfully fledge young.

Scenario Feature Measure:

Scenario Unit: Acre

Scenario Typical Size: 20

Scenario Cost: $1,742.00 **Scenario Cost/Unit:** $87.10

Cost Details (by category):

Component Name	ID	Component Description	Unit	Price ($/unit)	Quantity	Cost
Foregone Income						
FI, Hay, General Grass	2122	General Grass Hay is Primary Land Use	Ton	$41.38	20	$827.60
Labor						
Specialist Labor	235	Labor requiring a specialized skill set: Includes Agronomists, Foresters, Biologists, etc. to provide additional technical information during the planning and implementation of the practice. Does not include NRCS or TSP services.	Hour	$101.60	9	$914.40