

Job Sheet for

Forest Stand Improvement For Wildlife Habitat

(666, 645)

Purpose: Woodland improved harvesting is a practice used to remove unwanted trees from an area in order to improve timber stand composition, open up the canopy so that more sunlight can reach the ground, provide better herbaceous plant growth in the understory, and improve the understory plant diversity for wildlife habitat.

Requirements:

- Thinning should be done so that the least damage is done to the land and remaining trees
- Thinning should preferably be done in late February or early March so that new growth can begin in the spring, but can be done at any time
- Post-thinning tree density should be approximately 300 stems per acre or less
- Mast producing hardwood species, if present, should be preserved
- Hardwood species beneficial to wildlife include: dogwood, redbud, black cherry, wild plum, red maple, mulberry, holly, black locust, oaks, hickories, elms, beech, blackgum, crabapple and persimmon



Maintenance:

- Periodic thinnings may be necessary to take out dead or diseased trees or to allow more sunlight to reach the ground
- Dead snags or cavity trees may be left for song birds and other species

Suggested Plantings:

- Mast producing hardwoods include: pear, persimmon, black cherry, crabapple, oak, and hickory

Primary Habitat Consideration:

- Provide natural food sources for quail, deer, turkeys, and other wildlife
- Improve forest stand diversity

