



# **BRUSH AND BROWSE MANAGEMENT FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT (647)**

## ***Biology Job Sheet #1***

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) - Minnesota**

### **WHAT IS BRUSH AND BROWSE MANAGEMENT?**

Brush and browse management is the manipulation of woody tree and shrub stands to achieve early successional plant composition. Browse management encourages regrowth and regeneration (suckering) of palatable and nutritious vegetation beneficial to large mammals.



### **REQUIREMENTS**

Knowing what you have, what you want, and developing a plan to improve your habitat is the essence of a successful project.

The design, layout, and timing of brush/browse management varies with the species being managed. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can assist in inventorying your property and developing a specific project plan.

Brush and browse management may be accomplished by one, or a combination of the following methods.

MDNR

1. **Mechanical:** including dozer shearing, mowing, hand cutting, and hydro-axe.
  - Shearing is best accomplished in the winter when the ground is frozen.
  - Maximum regrowth (suckering) is achieved when cut during the dormant season (October - March).
2. **Prescribed Burning:** Check with your DNR wildlife manager or forester about required permits. Refer to NRCS practice standard PRESCRIBED BURNING (338) for additional recommendations.
3. **Chemical-Herbicides:** including broadcast, spot, cut stem or basal treatments. Due to cost and environmental considerations, herbicide treatment should be restricted to small manageable areas. Always follow label directions.

### **MAINTENANCE**

Without continued management activities, shrub areas will naturally succeed to over mature brush and trees. Maintenance activities may need to be repeated every 5-10 years.

### **PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATION**

Brush and browse management increases plant diversity and restores habitat composition for open land species such as sharp-tailed grouse and woodcock. Management of brushland also provides palatable vegetation for large mammals such as white-tailed deer and moose.



## Practice Specifications Approval and Completion Certification

**LANDOWNER/OPERATOR ACKNOWLEDGES:**

- a. They have received a copy of the specifications and understand the contents including the scope and location of the practice.
- b. They have obtained all necessary permits and/or rights in advance of practice application, and will comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.
- c. No changes will be made in the installation of the job without prior concurrence of the NRCS.
- d. Maintenance of the installed work is necessary for proper performance during the life of the practice. The practice life is \_\_\_\_\_.

**I have reviewed all specifications and agree to install as specified:**

Landowner/operator name and title (type or print):		
Landowner/operator Signature:		Date:
Landowner/operator name and title (type or print):		
Landowner/operator Signature:		Date:

***NRCS Review Only***

**DESIGN INSTALLATION AND LAYOUT APPROVAL:**

Designed By:	Date:	Job Approval Authority (JAA):
Approved By:	Date:	Job Approval Authority (JAA):

**RECORD OF COMPLETION AND CHECK OUT CERTIFICATION:**

Treated Acres:	Date Completed by Client:	Date Certified:

**Certification Statement:**

I certify that implementation of this conservation practice is complete, meets criteria for the stated purpose(s), and meets the NRCS conservation practice standard and specifications.

NRCS Signature:	Date:	Job Approval Authority (JAA):