



Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT17 – Creating forest openings to improve hardwood stands

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

A copy of the forest management plan that contains a management objective and outlines specific management actions, including thinning to create forest openings, must be provided to NRCS to support this enhancement. The plan must include a plan map which delineates areas to be treated. Consultation with a Nebraska Forest Service forester or NRCS staff with adequate job approval authority in Forest Stand Improvement is recommended to develop or review the forest management plan.

Common Species for Regeneration:

- Ponderosa Pine
- Green Ash
- Silver Maple
- Quaking Aspen
- Paper Birch
- Cottonwood

Mast Producing Species Requiring Advance Regeneration:

- Bur Oak
- Northern Red Oak
- Chinkapin Oak
- White Oak
- Shagbark Hickory
- Black Walnut

Examples of Understory Species to Benefit from Forest Openings:

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|-----------------|-------------------|------------|-------------------|
| American plum | Chokecherry | Elderberry | American Hazelnut |
| Skunkbush Sumac | Mountain Mahogany | Coralberry | Western Snowberry |

On many sites, the removal of aggressive woody species, including Eastern red cedar, honeylocust, white mulberry and non-native species such as Russian olive, Siberian elm, etc. in areas where desired species occur will serve to allow for regeneration of those species. Strategic placement of slash may protect existing or newly sprouting tree and shrub species from damage from wildlife or livestock.

References

USDA/NRCS-Missouri. Temporary Forest Openings for Wildlife. April 2008. Job Sheet – Biology - 27. http://www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/forms/out/wildlife_js/JS-BIOL-27TemporaryForestOpeningFINAL2008.pdf

