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:	Mast Producing Species Requiring Advance Regeneration:
Ponderosa Pine	Bur Oak
Green Ash	Northern Red Oak
Silver Maple	Chinkapin Oak
Quaking Aspen	White Oak
Paper Birch	Shagbark Hickory
Cottonwood	Black Walnut

Examples of Understory Species to Benefit from Forest Openings:

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

Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)

Complete the Table below:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning					To be completed by Producer during certification		
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**
Tract	Field	Planned Acres	Size of patch to be treated (Planned)	Approximate Timeframe	Applied Acres	Size of patch to be treated (Applied)	Date activities were completed
Ex.100	***2b***	***160.0***	***10.0 acres***	***April of 2013***	***160 ac***	***10.0 acres***	***4/30/13***

Ex. = example. NRCS completes column 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5 (Tract, Field and Acres Planned, etc). Operator completes remaining columns.

I certify that the enhancement criteria have been met and the required documentation provided to NRCS.

Certified by: _____ Date:_____