



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

State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)

A copy of a forest management plan that contains a management objective and outlines specific management actions pertaining to this enhancement 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.

Additional Criteria for Nebraska

Common Species for Regeneration:

- Ponderosa Pine (in mixed stands)
- 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:

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

The removal of aggressive woody species, including Eastern red cedar, honeylocust, etc. and non-native species such as Russian olive, Siberian elm, white mulberry, 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.

A minimum of 10% of the entire planned forest area must be treated with distributed openings.

Treatments involving tree removal should not occur during the primary nesting period for migratory birds (April 1 to July 15) with consideration for early or late nesting species (i.e. raptors).

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



United States Department of Agriculture
 Natural Resources Conservation Service

NE-PLT17 2015 Ranking Period 1

Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)

Additional State Documentation Requirements

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
Tract	Field	Total Acres Planned	Acres Applied	Management Activities Applied	Date Completed
<i>EX. T1001</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>50 Total Forest Acres</i>	<i>10 Acres of Opening</i>	<i>Tree removal to create openings Disposal of dead woody material</i>	<i>11/11/2015 04/15/2016</i>

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-3 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 4-6 PRODUCER COMPLETES

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

1. A copy of the forest management plan or similar document that identifies required elements.
2. Map showing where treatments were applied to create openings (highlighted, outlined, etc.).
3. Documentation of completed management activity, as required. – (COMPLETE TABLE ABOVE)
4. Representative digital images of the area showing before and after photos of the area that was treated.

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____