

Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT05 - Multi-Story Cropping, Sustainable Management of Nontimber Forest Plants



Multi-Story Cropping, Sustainable Management of Nontimber Forest Plants

This activity involves the manipulation of forest species composition, structure, and canopy cover to achieve or maintain a desired native plant community to facilitate the sustainable management of native non-timber forest plant(s) (e.g., goldenseal, ramps, mushrooms, ginseng, ferns, “sugarbush”, etc.).

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on forest land.

Benefits

Implementation of this enhancement activity can result in increased plant health and vigor, decreased intensity of pest outbreaks, decreased spread of diseases, decreased use of pesticides and improved water quality.

Criteria for Multi-Story Cropping – Sustainable Management of Nontimber Forest Plants

Multi-Story Cropping can cover a wide variety and types of plants and products. Multi-Story Cropping requires the development and implementation of a plan for the manipulation of forest growth through management of the competition for light, nutrients, moisture and control of allelopathic (toxic) effects to promote the production of a nontimber forest plant complex while maintaining a healthy forest ecosystem. The plan will include the following components as a minimum:

- The objectives of the multi-story cropping enhancement.
- Maps, images and/or descriptions of the proposed multi-story area.
- An inventory of the targeted area to identify trees and understory species necessary to achieve the desired purposes.
- Listing of management activities that will be used to complete the multi-story cropping such as, but are not limited to, pruning, selective thinning and the introduction of new species to achieve plant diversity or to re-establish native plants.
- Identification of specific canopy and plant densities in the overstory and understory to achieve the intended purpose(s)
- The plant community will be diverse to avoid species-specific pests and to enhance wildlife food and habitat.



Documentation Requirements for Multi-Story Cropping – Sustainable Management of Nontimber Forest Plants

- Brief written description of the actions taken to enhance the multi-story cropping.
- Delineations on a map or aerial photo of the areas being treated with multi-story cropping
- Representative digital pictures of the overstory and understory plant community following multi-story cropping management activities.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Additional Criteria for Nebraska:

- Consultation with a Professional trained in Forest Planning for the manipulation of forest plants
- Assessment of both the existing or planned native non-timber forest plant(s)

TABLE OF IMPLEMENTAION OF ENHANCEMENT – PLT05

Tract	Field(s)	Acres	Listing of management activities used	List non-timber forest plant(s)

I certify that the following information meets specifications and has been provided to NRCS:

1. Complete the table above: Digital images representative of the overstory and understory plant community before and following multi-story cropping management activities. Provide a map with delineation of the area where the enhancement was applied if it is a partial field.
2. Copies of dated receipts for equipment or services purchased.
3. The requirements for this enhancement activity including the Additional Criteria for Nebraska as described above have been met.

I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all laws, regulations and ordinances pertaining to the application of these activities.

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____