

## Forest stand Improvement (Mechanical Treatment of Understory)

S. C. Practice Job Sheet 666

Prepared for: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Farm: \_\_\_\_\_ Tract: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### DEFINITION

The manipulation of dense understory woody and select tree competition on forest land to improve wildlife habitat.

### PURPOSE

Restore natural plant communities

Improve wildlife habitat

Improve forest health

Achieve a desired native plant community

Ecosystem restoration

### CONDITON WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

On forest land where competing vegetation limits the development of preferred tree and understory species and the restoration of the natural native vegetative community. Typical conditions where this practice is applicable would be dense stands of volunteer pines, sweetgum, over stocked pines or any area that lacks vertical and vegetative diversity.

### CRITERIA

This practice addresses mechanized removal of under story and mid story woody vegetation,

such as with a roller chopper, or gyro-track or other appropriate mechanical means.

This is typically applied as part of the initial phase of restoring a natural native plant community within the pine savannah type ecosystem.

In pine stands for the improvement of wildlife habitat, the goal for the forest stand must be to bring the basal area to between 30 to 60 square feet per acre.

### OPERATIONS

Evaluate the habitat conditions within the forest stand and identify the amount of area in need of treatment.

Ensure that the planned goal for the forest stand is to bring the basal area to between 30 to 60 square feet per acre.

The management of the acres planned must meet the BA requirement listed above by the completion of the Conservation contract.

As part of the restoration of pine savannah habitat, management of the area is best achieved through the application of prescribed burning on a two to three year cycle.

**Habitat Elements Improved:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cover                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Control of Invasive Species |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wildlife foraging area       | <input type="checkbox"/> Nesting habitat             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native herbaceous vegetation | <input type="checkbox"/> Year round food sources     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fall /winter food sources    |  |

Coordinate this treatment with 314 Brush Management and 315 Herbaceous Weed Control if necessary to control invasive species

Existing Basal Area of Trees prior to treatment: \_\_\_\_\_

Planned Basal Area of Trees: \_\_\_\_\_

Target Species of plants for treatment: \_\_\_\_\_

Existing WHIG Wildlife Habitat Index: \_\_\_\_\_ Planned WHIG Wildlife Habitat Index: \_\_\_\_\_

Acres of forest habitat improved: \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Management Activities suggested:**

- Prescribed burning
- Firebreaks
- Native Warm season grass seeding
- Mowing
- Disking

Certification:

Job Sheet

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Installation

Meets NRCS Standards and Specifications?      YES      NO

Certification by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_