

Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT25 – Prune low density pine or hardwood trees to improve tree quality and wildlife habitat



Enhancement Description

This enhancement is to enrich the health and productivity of individual trees, while improving other resources such as recreation, timber value, and aesthetics through the use of a silvicultural technique--pruning.

Land Use Applicability

Forestland

Benefits

Pruning improves tree quality by training the tree to a single straight stem and developing more valuable knot free trunks, and allowing sunlight to the forest floor stimulating herbaceous plants. The activity may also reduce wildfire hazard by removing ladder fuels.

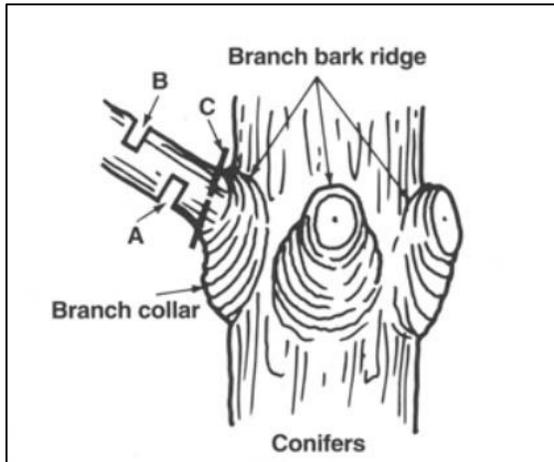
Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all forest land use acres.

Criteria

Implement the following:

1. Apply to young hardwood or pine stands with low density stocking (i.e., less than 400 trees/acre) which have a significant number of branches within 8 feet of the ground, indicating that natural pruning is not occurring.
2. Apply proper pruning techniques:
 - a. Cut only the branch wood leaving the trunk wood to grow over and close the pruning wound.
 - b. The three-cut method shown below reduces the risk of the pruned branch peeling trunk bark off as it falls.



3. Prune a minimum of 75 crop trees/acre with straight trunks to a minimum of 8 feet with live healthy crowns.
4. Leave a live crown ratio of at least 33 percent live crown
5. Use pruning saws or loppers
6. Prune during the dormant season

Adoption Requirements

The enhancement is considered adopted when the above criteria has been applied on the land use acre.

Documentation Requirements

1. Inventory of trees to be pruned (species, number per acre)
2. Map locating the forested area (s) that pruning activities were performed.
3. Representative digital images/photos of the area showing before and after treatments.

References

NRCS, 2006. Agroforestry Notes 31. Silvopasture tree Pruning. National Agroforestry Center

Shigo, A.L., 1986. A New Tree Biology and Dictionary: Facts, Photos, and Philosophies on trees and their problems and proper care. Shigo and Trees, Associates, LLC.



Operations & Maintenance, Conservation Measures, and Client Acknowledgement

Operation and Maintenance	
Operation:	
Maintenance:	
Conservation Measures	
Actions that must be implemented by the landowner/manager during enhancement implementation:	
Client's Acknowledgement Statement	
The Client acknowledges that:	
a. They have received a copy of the enhancement and understand the contents and requirements.	
b. It shall be the responsibility of the client to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights, and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this enhancement.	
Planner:	Date:
_____	_____
Client:	Date:
_____	_____