

**Practice:** 647 - Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

**Scenario:** #1 - Habitat Mowing

**Scenario Description:** This scenario address inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife where setting back succession by mowing incoming woody species will improve habitat for the target species. Mowing can be used to increase structural diversity by creating areas of shorter vegetation preferred by some species or certain life stages of species. This scenario can be used nationwide. The typical setting for this scenario is at the edge of crop fields, in pastures, at the edge of woodlands or brushy areas, and in odd areas such as pivot corners. Where the management of woody plants is require to create or maintain early successional habitat conservation practice 314 brush management or 666 forest stand improvement should be used. Where chemical control of weeds, including invasives, is required to reduce competition for the desired plant community conservation practice 315 herbaceous weed control should be used. Where the seedbank is inadequate for natural regeneration and seeding is required use conservation practice 550 range seeding or 327 Conservation Cover. Where the need is to create early successional habitat within or at the edge of woodland or forest use conservation practice 666 forest stand improvement to remove trees.

**Before Situation:** The site is static or trending to later successional plant community. The disturbance regeme to maintain an earlier successional plant community is lacking. Pastures are often monotypic, lacking in diversity. Competition for sunlight from dense grass stands prevents seedling establishment. Stands are often dense and inhibit the movements of young wildlife such as game bird chicks. Area lacks diversity in the height of vegetation.

**After Situation:** Early successional habitat maintained. Mowing has provided more sun light for forb establishment. The heterogeneity of the habitat structure has been increased.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** width and length of treated area

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 2

**Total Scenario Cost:** \$77.01

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$38.51

**Cost Details**

Component Name	Id	Description	Unit	Cost	Qty	Total
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**Labor**

Equipment Operators, Light	232	Includes: Skid Steer Loaders, Hydraulic Excavators <50 HP, Trenchers <12", Ag Equipment <150 HP, Pickup Trucks, Forklifts, Mulchers	Hour	\$24.60	1	\$24.60
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**Equipment Installation**

Mower, Bush Hog	940	Equipment and power unit costs. Labor not included.	Hour	\$52.41	1	\$52.41
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**Practice:** 647 - Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

**Scenario:** #2 - Habitat Disking

**Scenario Description:** This practice addresses inadequate wildlife habitat for species requiring early successional habitat. This scenario provides early successional habitat by setting back succession and manipulating species composition by disking vegetation and creating bare ground. The typical setting for this scenario is at the edge of crop fields, in pastures, and in odd areas such as pivot corners. This scenario is applicable nationwide. Where the management of woody plants is required to create or maintain early successional habitat conservation practice 314 brush management or 666 forest stand improvement should be used. Where chemical control of weeds, including invasives, is required to reduce competition for the desired plant community conservation practice 315 herbaceous weed control should be used. Where the seedbank is inadequate for natural regeneration and seeding is required, use conservation practice 550 range seeding or 327 Conservation Cover. Where the need is to create early successional habitat within or at the edge of woodland or forest use conservation practice 666 forest stand improvement to remove trees.

**Before Situation:** The site is static or trending to higher successional plant species. The disturbance regime to maintain a lower successional stage is lacking. Pastures are often monotypic, lacking in diversity. Bare ground for seedling establishment is absent. Stands are often dense and inhibit the movements of younger wildlife species such as game bird chicks.

**After Situation:** The application of this scenario improves wildlife habitat for species requiring early successional plant communities by reducing competition and creating bare ground for the establishment of early successional plants. Additionally, brood rearing habitat is improved both by the resultant food resources and the increased openness of the plant community that allows chicks to negotiate the terrain and exploit those food resources.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** width and length of treated area

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 2

**Total Scenario Cost:** \$207.27

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$103.64

**Cost Details**

Component Name	Id	Description	Unit	Cost	Qty	Total
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**Equipment Installation**

Tillage, Primary	946	Includes heavy disking (offset) or chisel plow. Includes equipment, power unit and labor costs.	Acre	\$16.77	2	\$33.53
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**Mobilization**

Mobilization, small equipment	1138	Equipment <70 HP but can't be transported by a pick-up truck or with typical weights between 3,500 to 14,000 pounds.	Each	\$173.74	1	\$173.74
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**Scenario:** #3 - Early Successional Habitat Forest Opening (Clearcut)

**Scenario Description:** Early successional habitat (ESH) openings involve creating 2-acre clearcut patches in closed-canopy or degraded stands using hand tools such as chainsaws. The goal is to provide openings of early successional habitat within a matrix of later successional, more mature forested habitat. Resource concerns include: Undesirable plant productivity and health, inadequate structure and composition, and habitat degradation. ESH openings within central hardwood stands progress from sapling to pole-timber sized trees, and the range of successional stages has the potential to provide optimal food (increased soft mast and browse) and cover (high stem density, down woody debris) for several years, which benefits the numerous life stages of early successional target wildlife. A professional wildlife biologist will delineate ESH openings at least 2 acres or greater in size. Location of wildlife openings can be adjusted to avoid steep slopes, riparian zones, and other environmentally sensitive areas, but can be located in xeric to mesic conditions. Tree tops can be removed to provide optimal conditions for tree and shrub regeneration, or left in place to deter deer browse while still providing open-canopy conditions that promotes early succession. To ensure a diversity of successional stages and maintain the overall forest habitat matrix, ESH openings should not exceed 25% of total forestland acreage per stand or tract, as determined by a professional wildlife biologist. Felling trees with chainsaws should occur from November 15th through March 31st to minimize disturbance to nesting wildlife, especially federally listed Indiana bats.

**Before Situation:** The existing stand is closed-canopy with very little understory vegetation (tree reproduction or herbaceous species). The stand likely has been degraded in value by past harvesting practices so that the level of acceptable growing stock is too low to justify managing for timber production in its present condition, and/or the landowner's primary concern is not timber but maximizing the abundance and diversity wildlife using the stand. The present form, species composition, and structure cannot meet the resource concerns and landowner objectives. Creating small openings by cutting all trees greater than 2" in diameter will foster the regeneration of high-value shade intolerant species, including soft mast producing shrub species.

**After Situation:** A new, young stand of desirable trees, shrubs, briars, vines, and herbaceous species is established within the ESH opening because the existing tree canopy is removed allowing full sunlight to reach the ground. The ESH opening provides diversity within the overall forested habitat matrix, which diversifies habitat conditions to benefit a variety of wildlife. Within this ESH opening, succession progresses from mostly seedlings and herbaceous plants, to briars and saplings, to pole-sized stages, to eventual canopy closure in 15-20 years. Woody stem density will increase until the canopy closes, providing previously unavailable cover for reproduction, foraging, and escape used by a variety of game and non-game wildlife. Different species utilize the various stages of succession, and some use the entire continuum.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** width and length of treated area

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 2

**Total Scenario Cost:** \$1,729.73

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$864.87

**Cost Details**

Component Name	Id	Description	Unit	Cost	Qty	Total
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**Labor**

General Labor	231	Labor performed using basic tools such as power tool, shovels, and other tools that do not require extensive training. Ex. pipe layer, herder, concrete placement, materials spreader, flagger, etc.	Hour	\$20.52	9	\$184.70
Supervisor or Manager	234	Labor involving supervision or management activities. Includes crew supervisors, foremen and farm/ranch managers time required for adopting new technology, etc.	Hour	\$40.68	32	\$1,301.71

**Materials**

Herbicide, Glyphosate	334	A broad-spectrum, non-selective systemic herbicide. Refer to WIN-PST for product names and active ingredients. Includes materials and shipping only.	Acre	\$15.93	2	\$31.85
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**Equipment Installation**

Chainsaw	937	Equipment and power unit costs. Labor not included.	Hour	\$4.41	28	\$123.48
Truck, Pickup	939	Equipment and power unit costs. Labor not included.	Hour	\$22.00	4	\$87.99

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**Scenario:** #4 - Edge Feathering (Cutback Borders)

**Scenario Description:** Edge feathering involves cutting overstory trees within a 30-50' zone along the edge of forestland using hand tools such as chainsaws. The goal is to create a transitional zone between later successional stages like mature forest and very early successional stages like open fields. The forest overstory is removing allowing more sunlight deeper into the forest edge, which releases shade-intolerant trees and shrubs that can provide optimal food (increased soft mast and browse) and cover (high stem density, down woody debris) for numerous life stages of early successional target wildlife. A professional wildlife biologist will delineate edge feathering areas so that they extend at least 30 feet into the edge to reduce predation, but width of the feathered area can vary. Leave trees or shrubs of special wildlife benefit, such as dogwoods, viburnums, serviceberry, etc. Leaving cut slash and debris within the cutback area provides additional wildlife cover. Edge feathering along a given forest edge can occur at different times (years) to provide diversity in stages of growth. Herbicides may be used to control regeneration of undesirable species. Resource concerns within this zone include: Inadequate structure and composition and habitat degradation. Felling trees with chainsaws should occur from November 15th through March 31st to minimize disturbance to nesting wildlife, especially federally listed Indiana bats.

**Before Situation:** There is a "hard edge" (high contrast) between a closed-canopy forest with very little mid/understory herbaceous vegetation and an adjacent open field with very little woody cover. Little to no transitional habitat occurs between the two habitat types, hindering movement of species that utilize portions of both habitats. Few shade-intolerant, soft mast producing shrubs are present along the forest edge.

**After Situation:** A transitional area of young trees, shrubs, briars, vines, and herbaceous species is established along and at least 30 feet into a forest edge because the existing tree canopy was removed allowing full sunlight to reach the ground. The feathered edge/cutback border provides strategically located habitat diversity, which benefits a variety of wildlife. Within this feathered edge, succession progresses from mostly seedlings and herbaceous plants, to briars and saplings, to pole-sized stages, to eventual canopy closure in 15-20 years. Woody stem density will increase until the canopy closes, providing previously unavailable cover for reproduction, foraging, and escape used by a variety of game and non-game wildlife. Different species utilize the various stages of succession, and some use the entire continuum. The early successional benefit is extended if additional/adjacent areas are treated in subsequent years, or if the same areas are treated again before canopy closure.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** width and length of treated area

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 2

**Total Scenario Cost:** \$980.12

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$490.06

**Cost Details**

Component Name	Id	Description	Unit	Cost	Qty	Total
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**Labor**

General Labor	231	Labor performed using basic tools such as power tool, shovels, and other tools that do not require extensive training. Ex. pipe layer, herder, concrete placement, materials spreader, flagger, etc.	Hour	\$20.52	8	\$164.18
Supervisor or Manager	234	Labor involving supervision or management activities. Includes crew supervisors, foremen and farm/ranch managers time required for adopting new technology, etc.	Hour	\$40.68	17	\$691.53

**Materials**

Herbicide, Glyphosate	334	A broad-spectrum, non-selective systemic herbicide. Refer to WIN-PST for product names and active ingredients. Includes materials and shipping only.	Acre	\$15.93	2	\$31.85
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**Equipment Installation**

Chainsaw	937	Equipment and power unit costs. Labor not included.	Hour	\$4.41	16	\$70.56
Truck, Pickup	939	Equipment and power unit costs. Labor not included.	Hour	\$22.00	1	\$22.00

**Practice:** 647 - Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

**Scenario:** #5 - Habitat Selective Herbicide

**Scenario Description:** This scenario address inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife where setting back succession by applying herbicide to selectively control undesirable woody plants will improve habitat for the target species. Selective control of woody plants can increase habitat structural and botanical diversity by creating opportunities for grasses and forbs, preferred by target wildlife species during certain stages of life, to compete for sunlight, water and space. In this typical scenario a selective herbicide containing the active ingredient Imazapyr is applied by ground equipment to the target area. The typical setting for this scenario is at the edge of crop fields, the edge of pastures, the edge of forests, and in odd areas around agricultural operations.

**Before Situation:** The site is static or trending to later successional plant community. The disturbance forces needed to maintain an earlier successional plant community is lacking. Pastures are often monotypic, lacking in diversity. Competition for sunlight from dense grass stands prevents seedling establishment. Stands are often dense and inhibit the movements of young wildlife such as game bird chicks. Area lacks diversity in the height of vegetation.

**After Situation:** Early successional habitat conditions are created or improved. The diversity of the habitat structure and composition has been increased.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** width and length of treated area

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 2

**Total Scenario Cost:** \$93.85

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$46.92

**Cost Details**

Component Name	Id	Description	Unit	Cost	Qty	Total
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**Materials**

Herbicide, Imazapyr	336	Pre and post-emergent, non-selective herbicide for control of undesirable vegetation in non-crop areas. Refer to WIN-PST for product names and active ingredients. Includes materials and shipping only.	Acre	\$40.73	2	\$81.46
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**Equipment Installation**

Chemical, ground application	948	Chemical application performed by ground equipment. Includes equipment, power unit and labor costs.	Acre	\$6.19	2	\$12.39
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**Practice:** 647 - Early Successional Habitat Development/Management

**Scenario:** #6 - Habitat Non-Selective Herbicide

**Scenario Description:** This scenario address inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife where setting back succession by applying herbicide to fully control undesirable plant growth will improve habitat for the target species. Thorough vegetation control is needed to increase habitat structural and botanical diversity by creating opportunities for grasses and forbs, preferred by target wildlife species during certain stages of life, to compete for sunlight, water and space. In this typical scenario a non-selective herbicide containing the active ingredient Glyphosate is applied by ground equipment to the target area. The typical setting for this scenario is at the edge of crop fields, the edge of pastures, the edge of forests, and in odd areas around agricultural operations.

**Before Situation:** The site is static or trending to later successional plant community. The disturbance forces needed to maintain an earlier successional plant community is lacking. Pastures are often monotypic, lacking in diversity. Competition for sunlight from dense grass stands prevents seedling establishment. Stands are often dense and inhibit the movements of young wildlife such as game bird chicks. Area lacks diversity in the height of vegetation.

**After Situation:** Early successional habitat conditions are created or improved. The diversity of the habitat structure and composition has been increased.

**Scenario Feature Measure:** width and length of treated area

**Scenario Unit:** Acre

**Scenario Typical Size:** 2

**Total Scenario Cost:** \$44.24

**Scenario Cost/Unit:** \$22.12

**Cost Details**

Component Name	Id	Description	Unit	Cost	Qty	Total
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**Materials**

Herbicide, Glyphosate	334	A broad-spectrum, non-selective systemic herbicide. Refer to WIN-PST for product names and active ingredients. Includes materials and shipping only.	Acre	\$15.93	2	\$31.85
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**Equipment Installation**

Chemical, ground application	948	Chemical application performed by ground equipment. Includes equipment, power unit and labor costs.	Acre	\$6.19	2	\$12.39
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