

Early Successional Habitat Development/Management Virginia Conservation Practice Job Sheet **647**



Definition

Manage plant succession to develop and maintain early successional habitat to benefit desired wildlife and/or natural communities.

Criteria

Management will be designed to achieve the desired plant community structure (e.g., density, vertical and horizontal cover) and plant species diversity.

Where planting is needed, regionally adapted plant materials will be used. Site preparation, planting dates, and planting methods shall optimize survival.

Planting of noxious weeds and invasive species is prohibited.

Measures must be provided to control noxious weeds and invasive species.

If using chemical methods of control, Pesticide Screening Tool (WinPST) shall be used to assess risks, and appropriate

mitigation to reduce known risks shall be employed.

To benefit insect food sources for grassland nesting birds, spraying or other control of noxious weeds will be in a targeted manner through the use of spot spraying, mechanical or hand wick applicators, or other approved methods to protect grasses, forbs and legumes that benefit native pollinators and other wildlife.

Management practices and activities are not to disturb cover during the primary nesting period (April 15 – August 15). Exceptions could be granted for periodic management when necessary to maintain the health of the plant community or to meet specific requirements of target species.

Minimize soil disturbance in natural communities where soil integrity is essential, on steep slopes, on highly erodible soil, and where establishment of invasive species is likely.

The practice shall be protected from livestock grazing and trampling to the extent necessary to ensure that it will perform the intended purpose(s).

This summary does not address all requirements and considerations in the VA Early Successional Habitat Development/Mtg Conservation Practice Standard (VA-647). Consult the Conservation Practice Standard for further details.

Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgt – Practice Certification 647

General Information																																																			
Client: _____	County: _____																																																		
Field Office: _____	Contract #: _____																																																		
Farm #: _____	Tract #: _____																																																		
Field # and acreage: _____																																																			
Producer's Purpose																																																			
To provide habitat for species requiring early successional habitat for all or part of their life cycle.																																																			
Practice Specifications																																																			
<p>Technique Used:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Disking: 30 ft. minimum width, 1/3 of each site on a rotational basis</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Field Number</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Disk Strip Width or Disk Area</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Average Distance Between Strips</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Years between disking individual strip/plot</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Edge feathering (cutback borders): 30-50 ft. zone into and along edge of forestland. Leave as much cut slash and debris as possible to provide additional cover</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Field Number</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Feathering/Cutback Area</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Years between feathering/cutback</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Follow up or concurrent management</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Rolling drum chopper: maintain early successional vegetation</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 25%;">Field Number</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Chopped Area</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Years between chopping</th> <th style="width: 25%;">Follow up or concurrent management</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>				Field Number	Disk Strip Width or Disk Area	Average Distance Between Strips	Years between disking individual strip/plot													Field Number	Feathering/Cutback Area	Years between feathering/cutback	Follow up or concurrent management													Field Number	Chopped Area	Years between chopping	Follow up or concurrent management												
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Mowing/prescribed grazing: Site preparation and limited other applications

Field Number	Mowed Block Width or Mowed Area	Average Distance Between blocks	Years between mowing individual fields

Mulching: Forestry mulcher used to set back succession, ≤6" DBH only

Field Number	Mulched Block Width Area	Average Distance Between blocks

Herbicide application (*Use Brush Management (314) and/or Herbaceous Weed Control (315) Standard and Criteria when applying this method of establishing early successional habitat*)

Field Number	Herbicide used	Application rate	When to apply

Additional instructions:

Operation and Maintenance

Actions shall be carried out to insure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the application and use of the practice (operation), and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance).

Occasional disturbance may be incorporated into the management plan to ensure the intended purpose of this practice.

Any use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals shall not compromise the intended purpose.

Additional Operation and Maintenance instructions:

Planner Certification

The Early Successional Habitat Development/Management practice planned in this job sheet fulfills minimum requirements of Virginia NRCS Conservation Practice Standard 647.

Signature Title Date

Certification of Practice Completion

The Early Successional Habitat Development/Management practice planned in this job sheet has been completed and maintained according to Virginia NRCS specifications (indicate in Practice Specifications any changes to the planned activities and acreage).

Signature Title Date

If needed, an aerial view or a side view of the practice can be shown below. Other relevant information, complementary practices and measures, and additional specifications may be included.

Scale 1"= _____ ft. (NA indicates sketch not to scale: grid size=1/2" by 1/2")

Additional Specifications and Notes:

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