

FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT

PRACTICE INTRODUCTION

USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service - practice code 666



FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT

To manipulate species of trees by cutting or killing selected trees and understory vegetation.

PRACTICE INFORMATION

This practice applies to forest land where competing vegetation hinders development and stocking of preferred tree and understory species. The preferred species are identified and retained to achieve the intended purpose of improving the stand. Spacing, density and amounts of preferred plants are carefully planned. Consideration is given to the total ecosystem. Timing of treatment and retaining dead or dying trees will help minimize impacts on nesting birds and other

wildlife. Food and cover for wildlife are further retained by minimal modifications of composition and spacing necessary to improve the vegetative cover considering the total natural resource base.

Purposes of this practice include the following:

1. Improve or sustain timber production
2. Improve understory forage production, aesthetics, wildlife habitat, recreation, and hydrologic condition.
3. To harvest forest products
4. To initiate forest stand regeneration.
5. To achieve a combination of purposes

Additional information including standards and specifications for establishment and management of this practice are on file in the local NRCS Field Office Technical Guide.