

## FOREST STAND IMPROVEMENT 666

### Conservation Practice Job Sheet

\_\_\_\_\_

Farm Bill Program\ Participant

\_\_\_\_\_

Farm Bill Program\Contract No.

Purpose: To improve the forest by adjusting the number of trees per acre or the understory vegetation. There are many goals or objectives that can be met by conducting a forest stand improvement, the following table has many of these identified.

Purpose (check all that apply)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase the quantity and quality of forest products	<input type="checkbox"/> Harvest forest products
<input type="checkbox"/> Initiate forest stand regeneration	<input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the potential damage from wildlife, pests, and moisture stress
<input type="checkbox"/> Restore natural plant communities	<input type="checkbox"/> Achieve a desired understory plant community
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve aesthetics, recreation and open space	<input type="checkbox"/> Improve wildlife habitat
<input type="checkbox"/> Improve water utilization and conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Achieve a desired level of crop tree stocking and density
<input type="checkbox"/> Increase carbon sequestration	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance renewable energy production
<input type="checkbox"/> Remove damaged or dying trees	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

**Practice Specifications:**

**Acres to be treated:** \_\_\_\_\_

Species to be removed	Mgmt. System*	Residual Trees per acre	Field No.	Improvement Method

\*Even-aged or Uneven-aged Management

Timing of forest stand improvement practices: \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-Treatment Conditions:

Pre-treatment basal area \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-treatment trees per acre \_\_\_\_\_

Post Treatment Conditions:

Post treatment basal area \_\_\_\_\_

Post treatment trees per acre \_\_\_\_\_

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## General Considerations:

1. Preferred tree and understory species must be identified and retained to achieve the planned purposes.
2. Landowners with wildlife habitat management as a primary or secondary objective should plan retention of a sufficient number of den trees, snags, and roost trees. The practices should be timed to minimize disturbance of seasonal wildlife activities such as bird nesting.
3. Chemical herbicides can be applied by tree injection, foliar spraying, basal application, and soil application. Always follow label directions carefully to avoid unsafe use of the chemical. It is important to plan harvest treatments and proceed with practice installation carefully to avoid damage to the site. Forest stand improvement activities should be performed to minimize soil erosion, compaction, rutting, and damage to remaining vegetation and hydrologic conditions.
4. Riparian forest buffers should be left along all perennial, intermittent and seasonal waterbodies to prevent sediment and/or chemicals from forest management activities from reaching the water.
5. Trees to be targeted for removal during improvement thinnings should include: suppressed trees that will not live until the next thinning; trees with injuries resulting from fire, ice, insects, lightning, etc.; poorly formed trees (forked, crooked, etc.) that have a low value; trees which are not well adapted to the site and have a resultant low growth rate or poor form; mature trees which have begun to decline in vigor; and tree species which do not supplement the objectives of the landowner.
6. Timber sales should be made on a competitive bid basis to protect the landowner's economic investment in the forest stand, a timber contract should always be used to define the rights and responsibilities of both the seller and the buyer and a landowner should contact a resource professional before conducting a timber sale.
7. Property boundaries should be clearly marked and maintained to avoid conflict and misunderstandings with neighboring landowners and/or contractors.

## NRCS will:

Assist participants in preparing a plan for conducting the forest stand improvement such as determining current trees per acre, basal area, types of trees on the area and use this information to set a target for after treatment numbers for trees per acre, basal area and the kinds of trees to be left on the area.

Assist the participant with the development of plans for supporting practices such as Integrated Pest Management (595), firebreaks (394), and prescribed burning (338).

Measure and certify treated acres.

## Participant will:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Remove enough trees to reach the targeted trees per acre
- \_\_\_\_\_ Remove enough trees to reach the targeted basal area per acre
- \_\_\_\_\_ Retain at least four species of trees if they were present on the site before treatments were applied
- \_\_\_\_\_ Protect remaining trees from excessive damage during the treatment applications
- \_\_\_\_\_ Maintain and protect remaining trees
- \_\_\_\_\_ Follow NRCS Integrated Pest Management, firebreaks, and prescribed burning Standards and Specifications for cost shared practices.

For chemical applications, use appropriate and approved herbicides for forestry and follow the herbicide label for timing and amount to use. *Important: Follow the label recommendations!* Get herbicide recommendations from licensed professionals, approved Technical Service Providers or the Texas Forest Service.

**Payment will be made upon completion of the forest stand improvement operation and post-operation check-out by NRCS personnel, a Technical Service Provider or the Texas Forest Service.**

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. ToolKit Maps may be used to show the location of the area targeted for Forest Stand Improvement practices.

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


Additional information:


**Participant \*\*Please READ\*\***

I understand the requirements of the practice and my questions concerning the practice have been answered. I further understand that a failure to adhere to the above requirements may jeopardize any and all payments.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Participant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date