

Forest Stand Improvement

Maine Conservation Practice Job Sheet

666



Definition

Forest Stand Improvement is the manipulation of species composition, stand structure, and stocking by cutting or killing selected trees and other vegetation. Generally it may include intermediate treatments such as weeding, releasing, and thinning in young (between 5 and 30 years old) forest stands over time. Thinning can be pre-commercial or commercial.

Purpose

The primary purpose of forest stand improvement is to enhance health and vigor of the stands, or to modify stand species composition. Such stands offer more abundant wildlife habitat, more diverse plant communities, and more resilient forests with reduced potential for damage by wildfire, pests, and moisture stress. At the same time, forest stand improvement may also be used to initiate stand regeneration and restore native plant communities, including desired understory plants. Other purposes include improving recreation, aesthetic and open space values, water quality protection, water conservation and yield. Forest stand improvement aids in the management of carbon storage and uptake. Another purpose of this practice is to increase the future quantity and quality of forest products. Harvesting forest products is often a secondary benefit of forest stand improvement.

Where used

This practice is used on forest land where improvement of forest conditions is needed. For

example, forest stands affected by a severe pest outbreak, lacking in vigor, or requiring modifications to composition or stand structure/stocking may need forest stand improvement.

Operation and maintenance

Periodic inspections during treatment activities are necessary to ensure that objectives are achieved and resource damage is minimized. Follow-up and ongoing management activities will be needed to monitor and ensure desired results.

Considerations

Silvicultural objectives and harvest-regeneration strategies may change over time and may be limited by prior management. Successful development of desired structures or species composition is often dependent upon timely application of forest stand improvement.

Adjust the extent, timing, size of treatment area, or the intensity of the practice to minimize the cumulative effects (on-site and off-site), e.g., habitat fragmentation, nutrient cycling, biodiversity, and visual resources. Such adjustments are especially important when working in forests that provide or are adjacent to habitats for endangered and threatened species. Time the practice so it minimally affects seasonal wildlife activities and retains essential wildlife habitat requirements such as large dead standing and downed trees.

Comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations during the installation, operation and maintenance of this practice, including the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) especially in Canada Lynx and Atlantic salmon habitat areas, ME Natural Resources Protection Act, ME Pesticide application regulations, and ME Forest Practices Act including the Forest Operations Notification requirement (commercial harvests only).

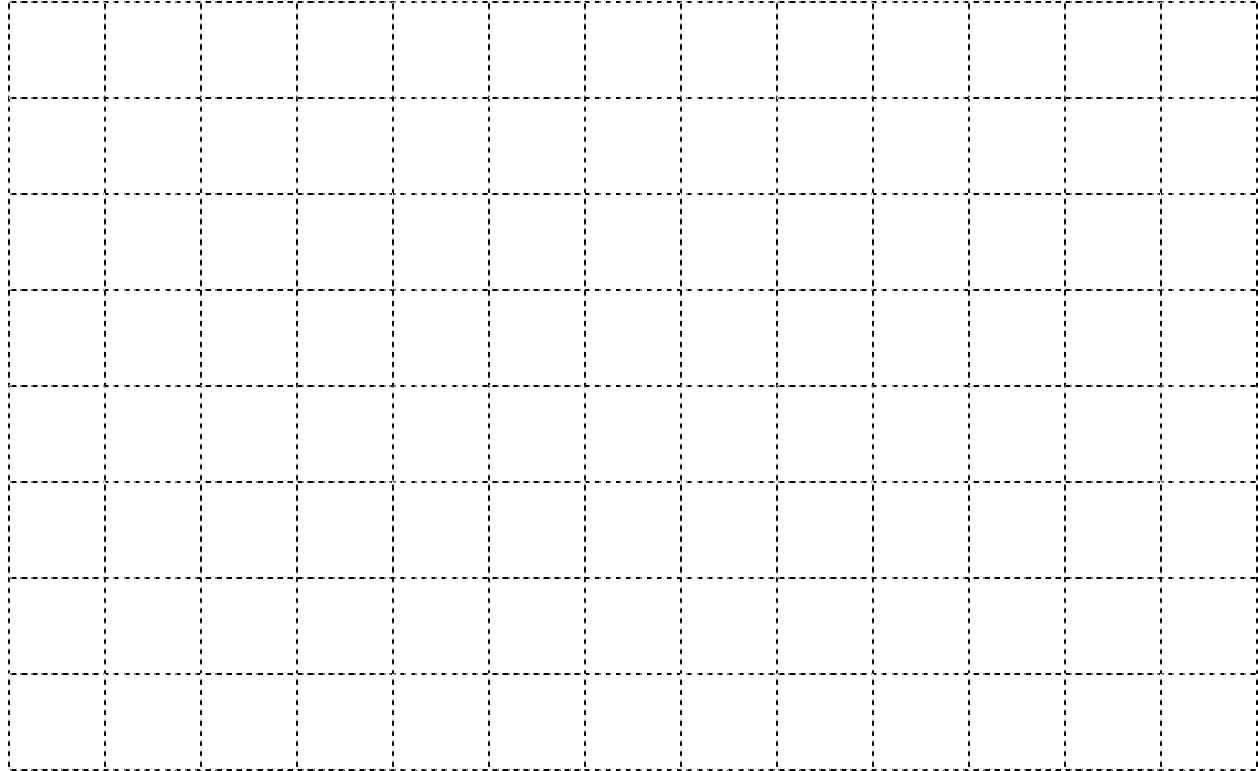
Specifications

Site-specific requirements are listed on the specifications sheet. Inventory information is listed on the Pre-treatment Inventory Worksheet. Additional provisions are entered on the job sketch sheet. Specifications are prepared in accordance with the ME NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. See practice standard and specification guide sheets for Forest Stand Improvement, Code 666 for specific requirements.

Forest Stand Improvement – Job Sheet

If needed, an aerial view of the practice location 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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