

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM20 – Silvopasture for Wildlife Habitat



Silvopasture for Wildlife Habitat

Silvopasture integrates trees, livestock, and forage into a single system on one site resulting in annual forage production for grazing and long-term products from trees. Although silvopastures can provide quality habitat for some species of wildlife, not all silvopastures are designed or managed to benefit wildlife. Manipulation of both the understory and overstory plant composition can enhance wildlife values while still providing livestock and forestry benefits.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on pasture land and forest land.

Benefits

Integrating trees, forage and livestock creates a land management system to produce marketable products while maintaining long-term productivity. Economic risk is reduced because the system produces multiple products, most of which have an established market. When a landowner is also interested in providing habitat for wildlife, silvopasture designs and management can be modified to create structure and plant diversity which is attractive to many wildlife species including quail, wild turkey, nongame birds and other terrestrial wildlife.

Criteria

- Identify wildlife species to be benefited by the silvopasture.
- Inventory the habitat condition of the silvopasture, the farm, and adjoining farms to determine habitat needs for the targeted wildlife.
- Develop a plan to enhance the silvopasture to provide habitat for the targeted species.
- Use one or more of the following methods to improve habitat for the targeted species.
 - Establish additional understory vegetation (e.g., native grass, forbs and shrubs) that will improve habitat conditions for the targeted species. Establish clusters of other tree species if needed as a food source (e.g., oaks for mast).
 - Defer or manage grazing periods to enhance wildlife habitat during critical life cycle periods.
 - Manage tree canopy to achieve the desired understory plant community.
 - Leave some dead or dying trees as snags if cavity nesting wildlife is targeted.
 - Remove trees or invasives that do not provide the desired habitat.
 - Replace removed trees by planting new trees or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat.
 - Prune or thin less desirable trees to encourage the growth of trees that will provide the desired wildlife habitat.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Documentation Requirements

- Brief written description of the tasks completed with dates and any receipts for planting stock, herbicides, etc.
- Delineations on a map or aerial photo of silvopasture.

TENNESSEE SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR THIS ENHANCEMENT
ANM20 – *Silvopasture for Wildlife Habitat*

APPROVED TREE/SHRUB PLANTING MIXTURES

Combination of at least 3 tree and/or shrub species from the following list to enhance wildlife habitat. Trees or shrubs will be established by one of the following patterns:

- Block (or row) pattern, with plantings at least 0.5 acres in size.
- Interplanted to replace undesirable trees that were removed, or trees harvested.

Trees planted in blocks will be planted to an approximate 10 ft. by 10 ft. spacing (435/ac) or 12 ft. by 12 ft. spacing (302/acre). Shrubs will be planted to an approximate 8 ft. by 8 ft. spacing (680/acre). Interplanted or replacement tree planting may be at the original stand spacing or on a spacing that optimizes rapid growth.

List of approved trees

Ash, green	Ash, white	Cherry, black	Oak, black
Oak, cherrybark	Oak, northern red	Oak, nuttall	Oak, pin
Oak, shumard	Oak, southern red	Oak, swamp chestnut	Oak, swamp white
Oak, water	Oak, white	Oak, willow	Pecan
Walnut, black			

List of approved shrubs

Crabapple, southern	Dogwood, silky	Elderberry	Indigobush
Plum, Chickasaw or wild	Spicebush	Sumac	Viburnum, mapleleaf

All woody plantings should be protected from grazing until seedlings are of sufficient size and age to withstand damage from livestock.

APPROVED NATIVE GRASS/FORB MIXTURES FOR UNDERSTORY IMPROVEMENT

Mix 1 (per acre) – up to 50% tree canopy cover

Little bluestem –	3.0 lbs. PLS
Indiangrass –	0.5 lb. PLS
Sideoats grama –	1.0 lb. PLS
Illinois bundleflower –	1.0 lb.
Partridge pea –	1.0 lb.

Mix 2 (per acre) – up to 75% tree canopy cover

Virginia wildrye –	2.5 lbs. PLS
Little bluestem –	1.0 lb. PLS
Indiangrass –	1.0 lb. PLS
Partridge pea –	1.0 lb.

No planting of understory vegetation should be performed when the tree canopy cover exceeds 75%.

