



AK Forest Stewardship - Private Landowner Support Cost Share Program

Pruning Worksheet – Practice Requirements & Specifications

Landowner	Stewardship Plan ID	Approved Acres
Cost Share Rate (Per Acre)		
Boreal Forest		
Pruning With Thinning and/or Sanitation Harvest Practices	\$	737.62
Stand-alone Pruning	\$	854.71
Coastal Temperate Forest		
Stand-alone Pruning	\$	222.65
Maximum Reimbursement	Completion Deadline	

Goal: Create a more open forest structure, increase the weather thresholds needed to initiate active crown fire behavior, improve residual tree health, and improve understory plant production.

Practice Description: Remove lower branches from trees to create vertical separation between surface fuels and tree crowns, reducing fire intensity and improving forest health.

Forest Type:

- ☐ **Boreal Forest**
- ☐ **Coastal Temperate Forest**

Pruning Specifications:

- ☐ **All Forest Types:**
 - Remove all branches up to 6 feet above ground level
 - Additional height may be specified: _____
- ☐ **Pruning Quality Standards**
 - Make clean cuts close to (but not flush with) trunk
 - Cut just outside the branch collar
 - No tearing or stripping of bark
 - Remove dead, diseased, and damaged branches first
 - Never remove more than 30% of live crown in a single growing season



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- When possible, pruning should occur during the dormant season in late winter or early spring.
- ☐ **Trees to Prune:**
 - All retained trees in thinned stands
 - Dominant and codominant trees in unthinned stands
 - Trees marked by forester
 - Minimum diameter: 4 inches DBH
- ☐ **Trees NOT to Prune:**
 - Trees scheduled for removal
 - Trees with wounds or disease signs
 - Trees under stress or declining health
- ☐ **Slash Treatment Requirements:** All slash material > 3 inches diameter must be treated with one or more of the following methods:
 - ☐ Chipped or removed from site to an approved disposal area, OR
 - ☐ Lopped and scattered to no more than 12 inches above ground with branches and tops dispersed evenly across the treatment area.
 - ☐ Slash material can also be buried with at least 8 inches of soil covering it.
 - ☐ Piling and burning
 - Burn Permits are required in Alaska from April 1st to August 31st.
 - **Small Scale Burn Permits** are required for burn barrels, burning a maintained lawn of less than 1 acre, and a brush pile of organic material not exceeding 10 feet in diameter by 4 feet in height.
 - **Large Scale Burn Permits** are required for any burning of wooded debris that exceeds the size and complexity of the small-scale burn permit including agricultural parcels, land clearing, and logging operations. Additional equipment and site inspection may be required.
 - Contact a Regional Stewardship Forester or visit www.dnr.alaska.gov/burn/ for additional information about obtaining burn permits.
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ **Avoid:** Treatments that create fresh green spruce slash, wood chips, whole logs, or other fresh spruce material during or immediately preceding the spruce beetle flight period (May – July); wet soil conditions
- ☐ **Special:** Coordination with thinning and sanitation harvest activities



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Approval Requirements:

- ☐ Notify DFFP within 30 days of completion



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Insert Practice Implementation Map Here