



AK Forest Stewardship - Private Landowner Support Cost Share Program

Thinning Worksheet – Practice Requirements & Specifications

Landowner	Stewardship Plan ID	Approved Acres
Cost Share Rate (Per Acre)		
Boreal Forest		
Chainsaw Thinning	\$	959.59
Silvicultural Slash Treatment	\$	185.47
Coastal Temperate Forest		
Chainsaw Thinning	\$	959.59
Heavy Equipment Thinning	\$	541.45
Silvicultural Slash Treatment	\$	185.47
Maximum Reimbursement	Completion Deadline	

Goal: Create a more open forest structure that is less at risk of severe wildfire, promote fire-resistant hardwood species, reduce competition and improve health in residual trees.

Practice Description: Mechanically thin forest stands to reduce density, improve health, and decrease wildfire risk through targeted tree removal.

Forest Type:

- ☐ **Boreal Forest**
 - ☐ **Pure Black Spruce**
 - ☐ **Mixed White Spruce/Hardwood**
- ☐ **Coastal Temperate Forest**
 - ☐ **Young Growth Stands <35 years**

Thinning Specifications:

Removal Standards

- ☐ **Boreal Forest**
 - ☐ **Black Spruce Stands:**
 - Target spacing: 8 x 8 feet
 - Retain approximately 680 trees per acre
 - ☐ **White Spruce/Hardwood Stands:**
 - Target spacing: 10 x 10 feet
 - Retain approximately 435 trees per acre



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- Favor retention of hardwood species (e.g. birch, aspen, cottonwood/poplar, alder)
- ☐ **Coastal Temperate Forest**
 - ☐ **Young-Growth Stands (<35 years):**
 - Target: 220 trees per acre OR 14 x 14 feet spacing
- ☐ **Remove:**
 - Dead, dying, damaged, or diseased trees
 - Trees with poor form (e.g., severe lean, multiple tops, codominant stems in clumps).
 - Small, suppressed trees in competition
- ☐ **Retain:**
 - Largest, healthiest trees with good form and crown
 - Valuable hardwoods in mixed stands
 - Forester designated trees for wildlife habitat.
- ☐ **Slash Treatment Requirements: Slash Treatment Requirements:** For purposes of this practice, *bole* means the main stem of a felled tree; *slash* means branches, tops, and other non-stem woody material. All slash greater than 5 inches in diameter must be treated by 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.



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- Contact a Regional Stewardship Forester or visit www.dnr.alaska.gov/burn/ for additional information about obtaining burn permits.

☐ Other: _____

Bole Treatment (required): All felled boles will be limbed, and the limbs treated as slash under the methods above. Boles that are not removed or utilized under Wood Utilization will be bucked into lengths not exceeding **16 feet** and left in contact with the ground. No portion of a bole may remain suspended more than 12 inches above ground level, and boles may not be left crossed or stacked on one another. Boles that lie in contact with the ground along their full length without bucking satisfy this requirement.

☐ **Wood Utilization:**

☐ **Firewood:**

- Cut logs into stove length pieces, split, and loosely stack in sunlight to increase the speed that the material dries out to reduce spruce beetle habitat.
- If feasible, remove the bark from the logs before stacking.
- Use the material as soon as possible or only store enough wood for a single winter's use.
- Do not stack spruce firewood against living spruce trees.

☐ 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 pruning activities

Approval Requirements:

- ☐ Notify DFFP within 30 days of completion



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Insert Practice Implementation Map Here