

# WoodsWISE Resilience Program

## Practice Descriptions & Practice Plan Checklist

February 2026





## Eligible Practices

The WoodsWISE Resilience Program incentivizes eight practices. Proposed practices fall into one of three categories: *early stand tending*, *regeneration support*, and *forest health*.

Funding for the WoodsWISE Resilience Program is intended for practices that are necessary to enhance the long-term resilience of the stand but are not financially viable under current stand and market conditions. Harvests in forest stands that would generate a positive financial return are not eligible for this program. Market conditions are dynamic and may change the financial viability of a stand and practice over the duration of the program.

## Practice Categories

### Early Stand Tending

- Early stand tending/pre-commercial thinning\*: Reduction of tree density in young stands and/or seedling and sapling-sized stands. Trees removed are too small to generate a commercial product and are left on site. Tree removal/retention can be based on spacing guidelines (PCT) or by compositional goals and competition control (cleaning or weeding).
- Early commercial thinning\*: Reduction of tree density in stands where at least some trees/part of the tree can be used for a forest product. Trees are removed to meet multiple objectives, which may include the release of crop trees, but also to reduce overall competition and resource stress, and manage composition/structure.
- Crop tree release\*: A thinning method to reduce stand density by release and retention of future crop trees. Crop trees are chosen based on form, vigor, and species, and released on three or four sides. Crop tree release can be completed in pre-commercial and commercial size classes.
- \* There can be overlap between ECT, PCT, and Crop Tree Release depending on landowner goals and stand conditions. If the primary objective is to release future crop trees, select Crop Tree Release. Otherwise, select ECT or PCT based on stand age and/or tree size.

### Regeneration Support

- Tree planting: The addition of artificial regeneration into a stand to meet landowner objectives. Planting could be classified as *enrichment planting* or *assisted*



*migration planting*. Enrichment planting emphasizes increasing the density of regeneration to meet compositional or structural goals. Assisted migration planting is the intentional movement of plant material in response to climate change. Planting over large acreage will require additional MFS approval and practice justification.

- Regeneration protection: The addition of temporary tree tubes, cages or exclosures to protect natural or artificial regeneration from animal browsing.
- Regeneration management: The intentional removal of individual or groups of trees to encourage regeneration establishment and growth. The primary objective of any regeneration management must be to increase stand resilience and align with the stage of stand development.

## Forest Health

- Invasive plant control: The use of chemical or mechanical control methods to reduce or eradicate invasive plant species in forest stands.
- Sanitation cutting: A targeted removal of trees/species to reduce the threat of infecting residual trees with disease, insect, fungi, or other detrimental health effects.

## Program Practice Plan

All landowners enrolled in the WoodsWISE Resilience Program must have a Practice Plan written by a trained Stewardship+ Forster. The plan must follow the template provided by the Maine Forest Service and include a description of all practices for which financial incentives are requested. The completed Practice Plan is submitted by the Consulting Forester to the assigned District Forester. Work on the property cannot begin until the Practice Plan has been approved by the Maine Forest Service. Landowners and Consulting Foresters will be notified that a Practice Plan is approved via an approval letter from the Maine Forest Service.

Note: all practices must be completed within one year of receiving the final application approval letter. If a practice is delayed or expected to take longer than a year, the Consulting Forester must submit a written request to the Maine Forest Service for approval. Written requests can be submitted to the Landowner Outreach Forester.



## Required Plan Details by Practice

The Practice Plan includes four parts: cover page, property budget, practice description, and MFS review. If funding is requested for multiple practices on a property, a combined set of all required materials should be submitted as one document. A single cover page is required per property at the time of plan submission. All budget details should be included in a single budget sheet that follows the provided budget template; each requested practice must have a practice description, and one MFS review per property. Details on each portion of the practice plan, including specific information by practice, are described below.

### Cover Page

One cover page per property, even if funding is requested for multiple practices

- Primary landowner name
- Woodlot town
- Woodlot county
- Forester name
- Forester license #
- List of requested practices
- Total # of acres to be treated across practices
- Total amount of requested funding across practices
- Landowner certification check box
- Forester signature
- Date of practice plan submission

### Budget

One cumulative budget per practice plan, even if requesting funding for multiple practices. Portions of the budget are practice-specific expenses. Expenses are estimates. If expenses change significantly, the Consulting Forester needs to notify MFS of changes in writing with additional justification as needed.

- Practice plan base rate
- Additional practice plan allowance, if applicable
- Forester supervision expenses, by practice
- Landowner labor, if applicable, by practice
- Contractor costs, if applicable, by practice



- Materials or supplies, if applicable, by practice
- Other expenses, if applicable, by practice
- Total anticipated expenses, by practice
- Total property budget
- An estimate of any financial gains from completing a practice, if applicable.

## Maine Forest Review

The Maine Forest Service Review is completed after the practice plan is submitted. Only one review is required per property and application.

## Practice Description- All Practices

A practice description is required for each proposed practice. All practice descriptions should be compiled into a single document before submission to the District Forester. The practice description is made up of six parts. Below is a description of the required information for each part of the practice plan for every practice. At the end of the practice description checklist, there is a breakdown by practice of any additional information required within the practice description.

### *Stand Description*

A description of the area where the practice will be applied, which could be all or part of a forested stand.

- Total practice acres
- Stand compositions by major species or species
- Age structure, i.e., even-aged, uneven-aged, two-aged,
- Brief description of stand structure, i.e., vertical or horizontal heterogeneity or homogeneity. Include key quantitative measures such as BA, diameters, heights, crown classes, and live crown ratios (see specifications by practice).
- Approximate percentage of live and dead trees
- Description of any forest health issues, including invasive plants, diseases, etc.
- Summary of any other noteworthy stand features

### *Practice Prescription*

A description of the practice, specifically how the practice will achieve silvicultural goals and how the practice will be implemented and monitored.

- Name of the practice



- Trees or other plants to be cut/removed by species, size, and other characteristics, a quantitative measure of how much/many trees will be removed, and the means of cutting/removal. (See specifications by practice.)
- Description of when the work will be completed, i.e., season or time of year
- Description of how long the work is anticipated to take
- Description of how the work will be completed, i.e., equipment or tools to be used, person(s) completing the work, if known in advance
- Description of practice controls to ensure correct implementation, e.g., communications/training the landowner/operator, marking if any, specific layout considerations if relevant. Identify monitoring needs, frequency, timeframes.
- Summary of how the practices increase forest resilience

### *Map and Photos*

Photos of the treatment area and any relevant maps can be embedded directly into the practice plan template.

- Map of the practice area, including:
  - Soils from [USDA Web Soil Survey](#)
  - Any out areas, areas of special interest, regulated areas like water bodies or stream crossings, if applicable
- Pre-treatment photos

### *Post-Treatment Conditions*

A description of the desired stand conditions after practice implementation, i.e., what the successful practice will look like.

- Anticipated residual stand conditions, i.e., changes in species composition, stocking or density, changes in stand structure, changes in average stand diameter
- Next anticipated entry or action in the stand, including monitoring, if applicable
- Harvest prescription followed and residual stand has limited damage.

### *Possible Challenges or Limitations*

Identify any factors that could result in the residual stand condition being different than expected post-practice.

- Description of any challenges that may impact practice implementation or success, i.e., forest health issues or operability concerns



### *Regulatory Consideration*

Identify regulatory considerations within the practice area and explain how these considerations will be handled during practice implementation

- Description of any regulatory consideration, i.e., waterbodies, right of ways, easements, specific town ordinances

## Additional Practice Description Information- By Practice

### *Early Stand Tending/Pre-Commercial Thinning*

#### Stand Description

- Current stand density (tpa) or stocking (e.g., basal area [ft<sup>2</sup>/acre], relative density)
- Average tree dbh (inches) and approximate range/distribution of diameters
- Description of canopy structure/layers (include relevant parameters if needed, e.g., total height, LCR, H/D ratio)

#### Practice Prescription

- Decision criteria for trees to remove, i.e., species, form, health concerns
- Decision criteria for residual trees, i.e., species, form, spacing

#### Maps and Photos

No additional practice-specific information needed

#### Post-Treatment Conditions

No additional practice-specific information needed

#### Possible Challenges or Limitations

No additional practice-specific information needed

#### Regulatory Considerations

No additional practice-specific information needed

### *Early Commercial Thinning*

#### Stand Description

- Current stand density (tpa) or stocking (e.g., basal area [ft<sup>2</sup>/acre], relative density)
- Average tree dbh (inches) and approximate range/distribution of diameters
- Description of canopy structure/layers (include relevant parameters if needed, e.g., total height, LCR, H/D ratio)



### Practice Prescription

- Decision criteria for trees to remove, i.e., species, form, health concerns
- Decision criteria for residual trees, i.e., species, form, spacing

### Maps and Photos

No additional practice-specific information needed

### Post-Treatment Conditions

No additional practice-specific information needed

### Possible Challenges or Limitations

No additional practice-specific information needed

### Regulatory Considerations

No additional practice-specific information needed

## *Crop Tree Release*

### Stand Description

- Current stand density (tpa) or stocking (e.g., basal area [ft<sup>2</sup>/acre], relative density)
- Average tree dbh (inches) and approximate range/distribution of diameters
- Description of canopy structure/layers (include relevant parameters if needed, e.g., total height, LCR, H/D ratio)

### Practice Prescription

- Decision criteria for trees to remove, i.e., species, form, health concerns
- Decision criteria for residual trees, i.e., species, form, spacing
- Size range of selected crop trees
  - Justification may be required for CTR in stands with an average diameter >9 inches

### Maps and Photos

No additional practice-specific information needed

### Post-Treatment Conditions

No additional practice-specific information needed

### Possible Challenges or Limitations

No additional practice-specific information needed



## Regulatory Considerations

No additional practice-specific information needed

## *Planting*

### Stand Description

- A summary of current regeneration in the stand, if any
- Presence of competing vegetation that will impact seedlings, if any
- Degree/distribution of crown closure
- Identification of site preparation needed, if any

### Practice Prescription

- Description of how planting sites will be selected
- Description of any site preparation needed, including method/equipment
- List of species to be planted and description of planting stock, i.e., bareroot or containerized
- Source for planting stock, if known
- Description of any planting stock protection, i.e., tree tubes, caging, temporary enclosures
- Season when planting should occur (spring, fall, month, etc.)

### Maps and Photos

No additional practice-specific information needed

### Post-Treatment Conditions

- Summary of monitoring plan for planted trees
- Description of acceptable level of seedling mortality

### Possible Challenges or Limitations

No additional practice-specific information needed

### Regulatory Considerations

- Note any relevant quarantines do not violate, i.e., ash
- Planting practices cannot be used to fulfill any Department of Environmental Protection, Maine Forest Service, or other remediations for regulatory violations

## *Regeneration Protection*

### Stand Description

- A summary of current regeneration in the stand, if any



- Presence of competing vegetation that will impact seedlings, if any
- Summary of regeneration concern, i.e., browsing agent

#### Practice Prescription

- Description of how protected regeneration will be selected
- Description of protection method, i.e., tree tubes, enclosure

#### Maps and Photos

No additional practice-specific information needed

#### Post-Treatment Conditions

- Timeline for removal of any installed infrastructure, i.e., tubing or fencing

#### Possible Challenges or Limitations

No additional practice-specific information needed

#### Regulatory Considerations

No additional practice-specific information needed

### *Regeneration Management*

#### Stand Description

- A summary of current regeneration in the stand, if any
- Description of how established regeneration is being stagnated, if applicable

#### Practice Prescription

- Name of the recommended regeneration method, if applicable
- Description of which trees or other vegetation will be removed, i.e., removal of trees in gaps, if applicable. Include method of removals and quantitative measures of removal rates (e.g. gap sizes & distribution)
- Criteria for trees removed and trees retained, i.e., tree removed based on species or form, tree retained based on size class or canopy position, if applicable

#### Maps and Photos

No additional practice-specific information needed

#### Post-Treatment Conditions

No additional practice-specific information needed



### Possible Challenges or Limitations

No additional practice-specific information needed

### Regulatory Considerations

No additional practice-specific information needed

### *Invasive Plant Control*

#### Stand Description

- Description of invasive plants that are present
- Assessment of the intensity of invasive plants, i.e., light, medium, or heavy invasion

#### Practice Prescription

- Description of how invasive plants will be removed or managed, i.e., chemical or mechanical control
- Certifications needed to complete the work, i.e., licensed applicator, if applicable
- For practices using chemical control, each prescription shall include:
  - Target species
  - Type of application (foliar, basal bark, cut stem, etc.)
  - Method of application (backpack/wand, mistblower, spraybottle, brush/sponge)
  - Chemical product name
  - Active ingredient
  - Note: the following information is not required if a licensed applicator implements the treatment:
    - Estimated pounds of active ingredient per acre treated
    - Estimated total spray volume applied per acre treated
    - Adjuvant added to spray mix (if any)

#### Maps and Photos

No additional practice-specific information needed

#### Post-Treatment Conditions

- Timeline for invasive plant follow-up
- Any additional recommendations for action, even if they exceed the life of this funding program

### Possible Challenges or Limitations

No additional practice-specific information needed



## Regulatory Considerations

No additional practice-specific information needed

## *Sanitation Cutting*

### Stand Description

- Description of the forest health threat, including whether the threat is already present or imminent

### Practice Prescription

- How will the targeted species be removed
- Decision criteria for tree removal
- Quantitative summary of trees to be removed, i.e., basal area removed, tpa, etc....
- Timing considerations guided by the forest health concern

### Maps and Photos

No additional practice-specific information needed

### Post-Treatment Conditions

- Timeline for forest health follow-up

### Possible Challenges or Limitations

- Special considerations for moving a pest or diseased wood, if applicable

### Regulatory Considerations

- Acknowledgement of any quarantine zones if applicable, i.e., ash species. Do not move wood outside of quarantine zones, if applicable