TECHNICAL NOTES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Boise, Idaho SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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TN - ~~WOODLAND~~ forestry NO. 6

SUMMARY OF WOODLAND HARVEST CUTTING, WOODLAND INTERMEDIATE CUTTING AND TIPS FOR IMPROVING STANDS OF TIMBER

The following table shows the different silvicultural practices that can be applied in mature and immature stands of timber. The planner needs to assist the cooperator in making a decision as to whether his woodlot is mature or immature. If the cooperator wants to improve the existing stand of trees, his woodlot must be considered immature and only those practices listed under intermediate cutting should be used to improve the stand. If the cooperator wants to harvest his stand of trees and start over by encouraging natural seed germination or by planting seedlings, his woodlot must be considered mature and only those practices listed under woodland harvest cutting should be used to harvest the stand. (Refer to Woodland Technical Notes number 4 and 5 for a detailed description of each type of cutting.)

Summary of Woodland Harvest Cutting and Woodland Intermediate Cutting

Woodland Harvest Cutting	Woodland Intermediate Cutting
Mature Timber	Immature Timber
Removes Existing Trees & Provides for Regeneration	Improves Quality of Stand
Types of Harvest Cuts:	Types of Intermediate Cuts:
Seed Tree 1/	Thinning 2/
Shelterwood	Release Cutting
Clear Cut	Cleaning
Group Selection	Liberation
Single Tree Selection	Weeding
	Improvement Cutting
	Salvage Cutting
	Sanitation Cutting

1/ See Woodland Technical Note #4

2/ See Woodland Technical Note #5

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Tips for Improving Stands of Timber:

1. In precommercial thinnings, do not waste time cutting brush or suppressed trees that do not compete or have the potential for competing with selected crop trees. For most sites, the only significant competition is for sunlight.

2. Brush fields often have adequate desirable reproduction concealed by brush. In a release cutting, where tree seedlings are overtopped by brush, release only 400-500 seedlings per acre. Seedlings released should have an average spacing of 9-10 feet. Cut only the brush that is overtopping the seedlings.

3. Do not leave trees standing alone even if the nearby trees are poorly formed or low in quality. Trees generally need the protection of other nearby trees to survive and produce high quality wood products.

4. The best time to thin a stand of trees is about age 20 when the trees are about 1-3 inches in diameter.

5. The older a stand of trees becomes, the less ability they have to respond to thinning. Thinning will not usually improve the growth rate of certain trees such as lodgepole pine and western larch after they are past 40 years of age. Trees with crowns less than 1/3 of the length of the tree will not usually respond well to thinning.