

Downed Tree Structures

A Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Practice Job Sheet

DOWNED TREE STRUCTURES PROVIDE TEMPORARY WOODY COVER FOR BOBWHITE QUAIL AND OTHER WILDLIFE

PURPOSE:

Downed tree structures provide a temporary source of woody cover in areas where shrubby cover is lacking. Downed tree structures also provide an immediate source of shrubby cover while new shrub plantings become established. Shrubby cover is often the missing habitat component for bobwhite quail in warm-season grass fields. Structures should be placed next to early-successional vegetation such as managed wildlife friendly grasses/legumes and tilled soil in order to be most effective.



SPECIFICATIONS:

- Downed tree structures should be located according to the plan map.
- Structures should be 30'x 50' (0.034ac x 3 = 0.1ac) with bare ground beneath, disking or herbicide may be used to achieve desired effect. Do not seed these areas.
- Place at least 3 downed trees in each structure. Downed trees should be a minimum of 20 feet in height and well branched.
- Downed trees should not be pushed into dense piles. Do not create small, dense brush piles. Simply drag the downed trees into a loose arrangement.

MAINTENANCE:

- Exclude livestock from downed tree structures.
- Use herbicides to suppress invasive vegetation and to control noxious weeds.
- Enhance structures by periodically adding downed trees.

PRIMARY HABITAT CONSIDERATIONS:

- Provide a natural cover source for quail and other wildlife.

Consult with NRCS or ODOW private lands biologists or OPF/OQF biologists for recommendations on more complex sites. Contact your local ODOW office or OPF/OQF biologist for additional information on wildlife management.

