

ACTIONS NEEDED

Reversing the decline of America's white oak population is possible, but intervention must begin today. To restore the long-term sustainability of America's white oak forests, and maintain the economic, social and environmental benefits they provide, we need active, cross-boundary collaboration, participation and support from industry, resource professionals, policymakers, landowners and others who can align knowledge and resources behind the following recommended forest management practices, before it's too late.

RECOMMENDED FOREST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following 10 recommended forest management practices will provide sustainability benefits across all oak forests as well as the upland forests they inhabit.

- **Crop tree release.** This practice is the primary technique used to ensure oaks continue to maintain vigorous growth.
- **Midstory/understory removal.** This practice is aimed at improving the vigor of advance regeneration.
- **Shelterwood establishment cuts.** A shelterwood harvest allows forest owners to capitalize on their timber value and provides a semi-shaded light regime favorable to oaks.
- **Group openings and gaps cuts.** A group opening allows for harvesting of older stands that dominate the region and provides a semi-shaded area around the opening edge that is conducive to oak regeneration.
- **Two-aged deferment cuts.** This practice is a technique of last resort, sacrificing immediate oak regeneration but maintaining future oak regeneration potential.
- **Site preparation for regeneration.** This practice removes trees that are or will compete with oak regeneration.
- **Afforestation.** This practice involves the establishment of new forests with seedlings or seeds, competition control, and at times control of deer and other wildlife.
- **Underplanting/enhancement.** This approach uses artificial regeneration to establish oak that is limited or nonexistent in upland hardwood stands.
- **Scarification.** Scarification is used to help ensure adequate acorn germination and seedling establishment.
- **Prescribed fire.** This approach can be used as a phase in a shelterwood establishment cut, or after a harvest as a liberation or cleaning tool.