A close up of a sign

Description automatically generated

Spring is a great time for groups and landowners to be doing maintenance on trees planted in buffers. Use this handy checklist of beneficial stewardship activities. For more information, contact us at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**January – April:**

\_\_\_ Remove any bee/wasp nests from within shelters before bees become active.

\_\_\_ After frost heaving has ended, fix any down, damaged, or leaning trees, shelters, and stakes.  Redrive stakes into ground and replace broken or rotten stakes.  Tighten zip ties.

\_\_\_ Check and reseat shelters to ensure the bottoms are 1-2” below the ground surface.

\_\_\_ Remove bird nets from shelters for trees that are within 12”-18” from top of shelter.

\_\_\_ Remove shelters that are beginning to perforate.   Other options: In areas of potential buck rubs, cut the bottom 12” off of shelter but leave remainder of shelter on tree; Slide shelter up tree trunk and reattach it to stake or lower limbs of tree; Cut slit the entire length of shelter but leave shelter on.  Which option to use will depend on site specifics.

\_\_\_ Kick mice out of shelters.

\_\_\_ Order trees, shelters, and stakes for spring replanting.  Order early!

**March – early May:**

\_\_\_ Replant trees/shrubs and install or reuse shelters if you did not replant last fall.

**April – June:**

\_\_\_ Conduct herbicide application around trees/shrubs. Remember to utilize herbicide that is

water safe!

\_\_\_Estimate survival of trees in the buffer for future replant (fall or following spring).

\_\_\_ Mark and tally any missing or obviously dead trees for future replanting (fall or following

spring).

\_\_\_ Mow as needed between trees.

\_\_\_ Lift shelter and remove weeds from inside shelters that may be competing with the

seedling inside.

\_\_\_ Remove bird nets from shelters for trees that are within 12”-18” from top of shelter.

\_\_\_ Inspect for noxious and invasive weeds.  Make note of species present and plan to treat at appropriate time for most effective control.

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