



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E315A**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Herbaceous weed treatment to create desired plant communities consistent with the ecological site

**CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 315 - Herbaceous Weed Treatment**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range, Forest, Associated Ag Land**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Plant, Wildlife**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years**

**Enhancement Description**

Mechanical, chemical, or biological, herbaceous weed treatment will be used to control targeted, herbaceous weeds to create, release, or restore desired plant communities that are consistent with achievable, ecological site, steady state descriptions.

**Criteria**

- Herbaceous weed treatment will be applied to achieve the recorded desired level of control of the target weed species and protect the recorded desired species within the plant community. NRCS will not develop biological or chemical recommendations except biological control by grazing animals.
- Ecological site description (ESD), state and transition models will be employed in development of treatment specifications that are ecologically sound and defensible. The treatments must be congruent with dynamics of the ecological site(s) and keyed to state and plant community phases that have the potential for supporting the desired plant community. If an ESD is not available, base specifications on the best approximation of the desired plant community composition, structure, and function.
- Herbaceous weed treatment will include post treatment measures as needed to achieve the recorded resource management objectives.

E315A - Herbaceous weed treatment to create desired plant communities consistent with the ecological site	April 2022	Page   1
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## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Treatment periods will accommodate reproduction and other life-cycle requirements of target recorded wildlife and/or pollinator species, and the resultant plant community will enhance the plant community composition and structure to meet their needs.
- Treatments will be conducted when target weed species are most vulnerable and will promote restoration of the desired plant communities.
- When herbicides are used, environmental hazards and site-specific application criteria listed on the pesticide label must be followed.
- Access to treated or targeted area will be controlled based on management methods applied and restrictions as listed on chemical labels.

### Documentation and Implementation Requirements

#### Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain an appropriate management plan based upon land use where this enhancement is planned. The plan will be based on NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Prescribed Grazing (Code 528), Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666), or Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645). The management plan must identify desired plant community composition, structure, and function. The management strategy must complement NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) in supporting upward trends. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)
- Prior to implementation, develop a map indicating areas to be treated as a part of the management plan.
- During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.
- During implementation, keep records of all treatments, including application method, timing, and amount applied as recommended by NRCS. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315).



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Treatment Date	
Treatment Method	
Amount Applied (acres)	

- During implementation, develop a map indicating treated areas.
- After implementation, make the following records and documents available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:
  - Monitoring data records associated with management plan that measures trend toward desired plant community.
  - Treatment records including timing, application method and amount (acres) applied.

**NRCS will:**

- Prior to implementation and as needed, NRCS will provide technical assistance.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain (depending on land use where the enhancement will be implemented) NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528), Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666), or Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) as they relate to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, provide assistance as needed in the development of the management plan or completing state specific job sheet for NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) to treat targeted species.
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.



- After implementation, review documentation and records to verify implementation of the enhancement.

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

**NRCS Documentation Review:**

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_

Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**2024 CSP ENHANCEMENTS – GUIDANCE & PERFORMANCE CERTIFICATION**

ENHANCEMENT NUMBER AND TITLE:

**E315A – Herbaceous Weed Treatment to Create Desired Plant Communities Consistent with the Ecological Site**

**Conservation Practice 315A: Herbaceous Weed Treatment**

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ENHANCEMENT: This herbaceous weed treatment enhancement will be used to remove invasive herbaceous species from pasture, forest land, and other associated lands. Invasive plants such as kudzu and cogongrass or other similar species rapidly infest areas and shade or out compete native vegetation. This destroys native plant communities in those areas.

**Some important things to note:**

- **Minimum Required Treatment:** 100% of the eligible treatment area must be completed during the contract. Eligible treatment area is defined as any area with an infestation as described above. An exception to the 100% treatment rule can be made by field office personnel if there is a need to leave an infested area for conservation purposes, such as to protect a gulley covered in kudzu from excess erosion that would take place if kudzu were treated in that particular gulley.
- This practice is applicable where invasive herbaceous species are encroaching into areas such as pastures, food plots, roads, firebreaks, woodlands or other similar areas.
- Treatment will consist of herbicide application by backpack, utv, tractor or other similar method.
- If possible, choose a herbicide that will remove target species without damaging trees in the overstory. Be cautious of soil active herbicides in that setting.
- Follow herbicide label directions.

ATTACH COPIES OF REQUIRED DOCUMENTS AS NOTED BY THE ENHANCEMENT JOB SHEET. CHECK THE BOX OR OTHERWISE IDENTIFY THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION.

- MAPS OF THE AREA or LOCATION(S) WHERE THIS PRACTICE WAS APPLIED
- HERBICIDE INVOICE SHOWING TYPE AND AMOUNT PURCHASED FOR THIS PRACTICE.
- REPRESENTATIVE DIGITAL IMAGES/PHOTOS OF THE AREA AND INDICATE AREA ON MAP
- DATES OF COMPLETED ACTIVITY

The attached documents support the full implementation of this Conservation Stewardship Enhancement.

# Alabama Supplemental Guidance for CSP Enhancement

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CSP Participant Name

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Date