

**Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT06 – Renovation of a windbreak, shelterbelt or hedgerow for wildlife habitat**



**Enhancement Description**

This enhancement is for the renovation of existing sites that are declining in vigor, need additional woody plants (trees or shrubs) or otherwise no longer provide wildlife habitat benefits. Existing rows of woody plants may be thinned, removed or replaced with new plantings. Existing woody plants may be pruned, either branches or roots or both, to improve windbreak function, health and vigor.

**Land Use Applicability**

Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland

**Benefits**

Renovation restores the function of existing windbreaks, shelterbelts or hedgerows to provide wildlife habitat benefits as well as other benefits such as reduced wind erosion, pesticide drift, mitigation of odor and noise and controlled snow deposition. Species composition may be upgraded by adding trees or shrubs that produce wildlife food and shelter as well as wood products and visual quality, such as spring blossoms or fall colors. Woody species threatened by pests such as emerald ash borer can be replaced with more resilient species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.

**Conditions Where Enhancement Applies**

This enhancement applies only to the acres of existing windbreaks or shelterbelts in the crop or pasture land use.

**Criteria**

1. Identify wildlife species to be benefited by the renovation,
2. Develop a plan for new trees and/or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions,
3. Remove dead or dying trees that do not provide the desired habitat unless habitat for cavity nesting wildlife is desired,
4. Remove other trees or invasives that do not provide the desired habitat,
5. Replace removed trees by planting new trees or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat while serving the required windbreak or shelter belt function, and
6. Prune or thin less desirable trees to encourage the growth of trees that will provide wildlife habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions.



### **Adoption Requirements**

This enhancement is considered adopted when all six criteria above have been implemented.

### **Documentation Requirements**

1. Brief written description of the tasks completed with dates and any receipts for planting stock, herbicides, etc.,
2. Delineations on a map or aerial photo of renovated windbreak, and
3. Photos of before and after renovation.

### **North Dakota Requirements**

Windbreak must be in three rows or greater (Siberian elm/Russian olive rows may be removed and replaced with native trees or shrubs to minimum of three rows).

Windbreaks of less than three rows may be expanded to 3 rows or greater.

Windward row must contain shrubs, juniper or spruce species.

Leeward row must contain native shrub suckering species.

Fabric can not be used on suckering shrubs.

Existing windbreaks adjacent (within 150 ft.) to wetlands are not eligible to be renovated except to remove trees with a height expectancy of greater than 20 ft.

Existing windbreaks adjacent to native grassland are not eligible unless one of the following enhancements is completed: a) all tall trees greater than 20 ft. in height expectancy are removed from the existing planting or b) a grassland buffer (minimum 150 ft.) is installed between the native grassland and the first row of the shelterbelt. (May require relocation of trees/shrubs. Also, native grass can not be destroyed to create the buffer.) All other practice 645-Upland Wildlife Habitat Management requirements must be met.