

## Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 22 – Restoration and management of rare or declining habitats



### Enhancement Description

This enhancement consists of restoring habitats recognized by NRCS State Offices as rare or declining.

### Land Use Applicability

Cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forestland

### Benefits

Restoring rare and declining habitats will provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for native adapted fish and wildlife species, especially grassland nesting birds.

### Criteria

1. NRCS State Offices will identify the kinds of habitats applicable as well as the criteria needed (e.g., plant species needed, water depth, etc) to achieve the desired outcome(s). For example, how many acres of undesirable herbaceous species and brush control are needed as well as the frequency of prescribed burning to achieve the desired condition.
2. Acceptance of this enhancement requires that the client must comply with the requirements of Conservation Practice Standard, Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (643).
3. A pre-treatment habitat assessment of the affected area will be documented to provide a baseline for comparison with post-treatment conditions.
4. A management plan covering the length of the contract will be developed for this enhancement activity.
5. During the establishment period, periodic mowing can be used outside of the primary nesting and fawning seasons to help achieve the desired ecological outcome. Grazing may be permitted after establishment if grazing was a historical component of the ecological site. Other agricultural activities such as haying or cropping shall not be done on the site during the contract period.
6. All plant functional groups (species that respond in a similar way to environmental perturbations) native to a site must be restored.

### Documentation Requirements

The landowner must document the restoration of rare and declining habitat by providing:

1. Brief written description of the actions taken;
2. Size of the area (acres)
3. Information on establishment of desired vegetation
4. Delineate on a map or aerial photograph the location of the restored habitat

## Michigan Supplement

### Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM22 - Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats

The following plant communities are eligible for restoration:

Community Name	Category	State Rank	Global Rank
Boreal Forest	forest	S3	GU
Dry Northern Forest	forest	S3	G3?
Dry Southern Forest	forest	S3	G4
Dry-mesic Northern Forest	forest	S3	G4
Dry-mesic Southern Forest	forest	S3	G4
Mesic Northern Forest	forest	S3	G4
Mesic Southern Forest	forest	S3	G2G3
Wooded Dune and Swale Complex	forest	S3	G3
Alvar	grass	S1	G2?
Dry-mesic Prairie	grass	S1	G3
Hillside Prairie	grass	S1	G3
Mesic Prairie	grass	S1	G2
Mesic Sand Prairie	grass	S1	G2
Northern Bald	grass	S1	GU
Dry Sand Prairie	grass	S2	G3
Granite Bedrock Glade	grass	S2	G3G5
Great Lakes Barrens	grass	S2	G3
Limestone Bedrock Glade	grass	S2	G2G4
Volcanic Bedrock Glade	grass	S2	GU
Open Dunes	grass	S3	G3
Cave	other	S1	G4?
Granite Lakeshore Cliff	other	S1	GU
Volcanic Lakeshore Cliff	other	S1	GU
Granite Bedrock Lakeshore	other	S2	G4G5
Granite Cliff	other	S2	G4G5
Limestone Bedrock Lakeshore	other	S2	G3
Limestone Cliff	other	S2	G4G5
Limestone Lakeshore Cliff	other	S2	G4G5
Sandstone Bedrock Lakeshore	other	S2	G4G5
Sandstone Cliff	other	S2	G4G5

## 2011 Ranking Period 1

Sandstone Cobble Shore	other	S2	G2G3
Sandstone Lakeshore Cliff	other	S2	G3
Sinkhole	other	S2	G3G5
Volcanic Cliff	other	S2	G4G5
Limestone Cobble Shore	other	S3	G2G3
Sand and Gravel Beach	other	S3	G3?
Volcanic Bedrock Lakeshore	other	S3	G4G5
Volcanic Cobble Shore	other	S3	G4G5
Bur Oak Plains	savanna	S1	G1
Lakeplain Oak Openings	savanna	S1	G2?
Oak Barrens	savanna	S1	G2?
Oak Openings	savanna	S1	G1
Oak-Pine Barrens	savanna	S2	G3
Pine Barrens	savanna	S2	G3
Inland Salt Marsh	wetland	S1	G1
Coastal Fen	wetland	S2	G1G2
Coastal Plain Marsh	wetland	S2	G2
Interdunal Wetland	wetland	S2	G2?
Patterned Fen	wetland	S2	GU
Great Lakes Marsh	wetland	S3	G2
Intermittent Wetland	wetland	S3	G2
Inundated Shrub Swamp	wetland	S3	G4
Muskeg	wetland	S3	G4G5
Northern Fen	wetland	S3	G3
Poor Fen	wetland	S3	G3
Wet-mesic Flatwoods	wetland/forest	S2	G2G3
Floodplain Forest	wetland/forest	S3	G3?
Hardwood-Conifer Swamp	wetland/forest	S3	G4
Rich Conifer Swamp	wetland/forest	S3	G4
Rich Tamarack Swamp	wetland/forest	S3	G4
Southern Hardwood Swamp	wetland/forest	S3	G3
Northern Hardwood Swamp	wetland/forest	S3?	G4
Lakeplain Wet Prairie	wetland/grass	S1	G2
Lakeplain Wet-mesic Prairie	wetland/grass	S1	G1?
Wet Prairie	wetland/grass	S2	G3
Wet-mesic Prairie	wetland/grass	S2	G2
Wet-mesic Sand Prairie	wetland/grass	S2	G2G3
Prairie Fen	wetland/grass	S3	G3
Southern Wet Meadow	wetland/grass	S3	G4?

Management activities will, at a minimum, address the restoration or rehabilitation of native plant communities as follows:

- seeding and/or planting of other vegetative propagules (e.g. vegetative plugs, tree/shrub seedlings, et cetera)
- re-introduction or mimicking of natural disturbance regimes (e.g. prescribed fire, mechanical cutting, et cetera)
- restoration of natural hydrology and topography (tile breaks, ditch plugs, drawdowns, et cetera)
- Control of invasive species

For specific information on species composition and disturbance regimes for the plant communities listed in the above table, refer to “Natural Communities of Michigan: Classification and Description,” available at the following website:

<http://web4.msue.msu.edu/mnfi/pub/publications.cfm>

**Before planning this enhancement, contact the NRCS State Biologist for further guidance.**