

Soil Erosion Enhancement Activity – SOE02 - Protection of cultural resource



Enhancement Description

Stabilization and protection of identified cultural resource and/or historic properties with vegetation to prevent damage from erosion and loss of cultural and historic deposits, including associated artifacts.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forestland.

Benefits

Culturally important and historic sites can be damaged by erosion. Historic and prehistoric cultural deposits, including associated artifacts and features can be lost or destroyed making later study or interpretation of the sites impossible. Revegetating these areas with conservation cover can protect the sites from further damage and loss of cultural and historic remains.

Criteria for Protection of Cultural Resources

1. Areas to be protected must be identified as a culturally significant or historic site and documented as such in one of the following ways:
 - a. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)
 - b. Determined eligible for listing on NRHP through Section 106 review (National Historic Preservation Act compliance).
 - c. State government or Tribal government registry.
 - d. State government or Tribal government inventory of historic places.
2. Areas must be protected from further degradation by revegetating with conservation covers that emphasize the use of native species that enhance fish and wildlife habitat including pollinator habitat.

Documentation Requirements

1. Documentation that the site meets one of the 4 criteria listed above.
2. A map or sketch showing the location and extent of the area that is protected.
3. Documentation of the plant species used for revegetation.

Michigan Supplemental Enhancement Activity

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- Site eligibility will be determined prior to scheduling this enhancement for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). A Cultural Resources Review will be conducted if one is not already on file prior to scheduling this enhancement.
- The local NRCS office will work with the Cultural Resources Coordinator (CRC) to determine if the proposed site meets one of the four criteria identified in the National Enhancement Sheet (SOE02).
- Once it has been determined that the proposed site meets one of the four criteria listed in SOE02, the site will be protected from further degradation by following the recommendations in the Cultural Resources Field Review Report completed by the Cultural Resources Specialist. At a minimum the site will be protected with a vegetative cover.
- For sites where a vegetative cover is suitable to protect the site from soil erosion or continued human activity, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Michigan conservation practice standard Conservation Cover (327) in the electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) will be followed. Native species will be used to enhance fish and wildlife habitat, including pollinator habitat.
- For sites where a vegetative cover alone will not protect the site, the participant will need to install alternative measures to secure the site from soil erosion or further damage from human activity as recommended by the Cultural Resources Specialist in the Cultural Resources Field Review Report.