

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 21 - *Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat*



Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat

This activity consists of restoring/renovating prairie habitat by establishing native vegetation and managing the restored plant community.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable to cropland, pastureland and rangeland that can be restored to native prairie vegetation.

Benefits

Establishing and managing native prairie vegetation will provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for

adapted species, especially grassland nesting birds.

Criteria for Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat

The resulting plant community will consist of at least 10 species of native perennial grasses and at least 6 species of native perennial forbs or other amounts prescribed by the NRCS State Office. Species appropriate fungal and microbial inoculants will be used during establishment where appropriate. Additional planting conditions may be specified if an ecological site description has been developed for the area.

After establishment, the field will be protected from grazing and disturbance during the primary nesting and fawning season as defined by the NRCS State Office. A grazing management plan will be prepared, documented, and followed. Grazing intensity outside of the nesting season will never exceed “moderately” grazed as defined by the NRCS State Office. Rest or rotation intervals will also be documented.

Documentation Requirements for Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat

Following implementation of this activity, the landowner must document the restoration of native vegetation by providing a brief written description of the actions taken; providing receipts and dates; documenting the area (acres) restored, grazing management plan, and delineating the location of the restored prairie on a map or aerial photograph.



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Reference:

643 – Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats

- ***Biology Jobsheet 12 – Tall Grass Prairie***

338 – Prescribed Burning

- ***Biology TechNote 13: Planning and Conducting Prescribed Burns in Minnesota***

528 – Prescribed Grazing

The resulting plant community will consist of at least 10 species of native perennial grasses and at least 6 species of native perennial forbs.

NATIVE GRASSES, FORBS AND LEGUMES

Native grass seed origin shall be within a 200 mile radius of the project site, unless otherwise identified as an acceptable cultivar.

The following are native grasses:

Big Bluestem

Indiangrass

Green Needlegrass

Little Bluestem

Sideoats Grama

Prairie Sandreed

Canada Wildrye

Slender Wheatgrass

Western Wheatgrass

Blue Grama

Switchgrass

Canada Bluejoint

Prairie Cordgrass

Virginia Wildrye

Kalms Brome



FORBS AND LEGUMES

Forbs and legumes with origins native to Minnesota are preferred. When local Minnesota seed sources are not available, native forbs and legume seed shall originate from Wisconsin, northern Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, northern Iowa, and the Canadian provinces of southern Manitoba and Ontario. If the true origin of the seed can be certified as one of the accepted states or provinces, then there would be no restriction on where the seed is grown. Certification must be provided by the grower, and responsibility for obtaining certification rests with the producer.

The following list identifies native forbs and wildflowers beneficial to upland wildlife and native habitat restoration. The list is not inclusive, and identifies those species, which are readily available through private vendor seed supplies.

| DRY | MESIC to WET | DRY to WET |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Bush Clover | Canada Tick Trefoil | Black-eyed Susan |
| Dotted Blazingstar | Common Ox-eye | Illinois Bundleflower |
| Purple Coneflower | Giant Sunflower | Purple Prairie Clover |
| Showy Penstemon | Golden Alexanders | Maximillian Sunflower |
| Silky Aster | Partridge Pea | Stiff Goldenrod |
| DRY to MESIC | Rattlesnake Master | Yarrow |
| Butterfly Weed | Tall Blazingstar | |
| Compass Plant | Wild Bergamot | |
| Hoary Vervain | Yellow Coneflower | |
| Leadplant | WET | |
| Prairie Smoke | Blue Vervain | |
| Rough Blazingstar | Boneset | |
| Showy Goldenrod | Joe-pye Weed | |
| Smooth Aster | New England Aster | |
| Stiff Tickseed | Panicled Aster | |
| | Swamp Milkweed | |

The field will be protected from grazing and disturbance during the primary nesting and fawning season, which is **May 1 to July 15.**