

Animal Enhancement Activity –ANM19- Wildlife Corridors



Enhancement Description

Wildlife corridors are linear strips of vegetation that connect 2 or more patches of suitable wildlife habitat. Participants will establish vegetative corridors as described below.

Land Use Applicability: This enhancement is applicable to cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forest.

Benefits

Corridors connect habitats providing additional life requisites (e.g., feeding, nesting, roosting, escape cover, etc.) as well as interaction among local populations for reproduction or other social behaviors. Fragmentation of habitat with resultant loss of connectivity threatens the continued existence of fish and wildlife populations.

Criteria for Wildlife Corridors

Continuity –corridors must be uninterrupted strips (i.e., no roads, vegetative or physical barriers, etc.) connecting 2 or more patches of suitable habitat. Wildlife friendly fencing is not considered a barrier. Suitable habitat may consist of grasslands, rangelands, forests, wetlands, shrubby areas, or natural substrates suitable for use by wildlife species adapted to the landscape and site conditions and conforming to the composition and quality criteria below.

Composition - corridor vegetation must be suited to natural site conditions, consistent with the larger natural landscape context, and appropriate for the kinds of wildlife present, hence native vegetation is highly preferred. Vegetation in the “patches of suitable habitat” (above) must also meet these criteria.

Quality – invasive exotic vegetation must be controlled.

Dimension –the average width must be ≥ 30 feet with no section < 20 feet wide. Since context is so important no one size fits all conditions, however wider corridors are better and irregular boundaries (or borders) are preferred over straight.

Documentation Requirements for Wildlife Corridors

- Map showing location of wildlife corridors connecting suitable habitats with required dimensions.
- Brief descriptions of the habitats to be connected.
- Description of the vegetation composition.



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Reference:

645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

- ***Biology Jobsheet #6 - Forest Stand Improvement for Wildlife***
- ***Biology Jobsheet #9 – Establishment of Native Grasses and Forbs***
- ***Biology Jobsheet #10 – Tree and Shrub Establishment***

Wildlife friendly fence is any fence less than 6 feet tall.

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 that are considered wildlife friendly:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Big Bluestem | Slender Wheatgrass |
| Indiangrass | Western Wheatgrass |
| Green Needlegrass | Blue Grama |
| Little Bluestem | Switchgrass |
| Sideoats Grama | Canada Bluejoint |
| Prairie Sandreed | Prairie Cordgrass |
| Canada Wildrye | 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	



TREES AND SHRUBS

SPECIES		TREE RATING ZONE 1/	FOOD	COVER	NEST
CONIFEROUS TREES					
Balsam Fir	(Abies balsamea)	1-4	F,W	X	
Black Spruce	(Picea mariana)	1-4,5	F,W	X	X
Eastern Red Cedar	(Juniperus virginiana)	1,2,4-6	F,W	X	X
Eastern White Pine	(Pinus strobus)	1-4,6	F,W	X	X
Jack Pine	(Pinus banksiana)	1 - 4	F,W	X	X
Northern White Cedar	(Thuja occidentalis)	1-4	F,W	X	X
Red Pine	(Pinus resinosa)	1-3	F,W	X	X
Tamarack	(Larix laricina)	1-4	F,W	X	
White Spruce	(Picea glauca)	1-5	F,W	X	X
DECIDUOUS TREES					
American Plum	(Prunus americana)	1-6	S,F	X	X
Bigtooth Aspen	(Populus grandidentata)	1-6	F,W		X
Bitternut Hickory	(Carya cordiformis)	1,2,4,6	F,W	X	X
Black Cherry	(Prunus serotina)	1-6	S,F		
Black Walnut	(Juglans nigra)	1,6	F,W	X	X
Bur Oak	(Quercus macrocarpa)	1-6	F,W	X	X
Common Chokecherry	(Prunus virginiana)	1-6	S	X	
E. Cottonwood - Native	(Populus deltoides)	1-6	F,W		
Green Ash	(Fraxinus pennsylvanica)	1-6	F,W		
Hackberry	(Celtis occidentalis)	1-6	W		
Hawthorn	(Crataegus species)	1-4,6	W	X	X
Mountain Ash	(Sorbus americana)	1-4	F,W		
Mountain Maple	(Acer spicatum)	1-3	S,F		X
No. Pin Oak	(Quercus ellipsoidalis)	1-6	F,W	X	X
No. Red Oak	(Quercus rubra)	1-4,6	F,W	X	X
Paper Birch	(Betula papyrifera)	1-4,6	F,W		
Pin Cherry	(Prunus pennsylvanica)	1-6	S,F		
Quaking Aspen	(Populus tremuloides)	1-6	F,W		X
Red Maple	(Acer rubrum)	1-4,6	S,F,W	X	X
Shagbark Hickory	(Carya ovata)	1,2	F,W	X	X
Sugar Maple	(Acer saccharum)	1-6	S,F,W		X
Swamp White Oak	(Quercus bicolor)	1,2,4,6	F,W	X	X
White Oak	(Quercus alba)	1,2,4,6	F,W	X	X
Willows – Native	(Salix spp)	1-6	F,W		X
Yellow Birch	(Betula alleghaniensis)	1-4,6	F,W		

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DECIDUOUS SHRUBS					
American Hazelnut	(Corylus americana)	1-5	W	X	X
Arrow-wood	(Viburnum dentatum)	1-6	F,W	X	
Chokeberry	(Aronia melanocarpa)	1-3	W	X	
False Indigo	(Amorpha fruticosa)	1,2,4-6	F	X	
Gray Dogwood	(Cornus racemosa)	1-6	F	X	X
Highbush Cranberry	(Viburnum trilobum)	1-6	F,W	X	
Nannyberry	(Viburnum lentago)	1-6	F,W	X	
Ninebark	(Physocarpus opulifolius)	1-3	F,W	X	
Red Osier Dogwood	(Cornus stolonifera)	1-6	F	X	X
Serviceberry	(Amelanchier alnifolia)	2-6	S	X	X
Silky Dogwood	(Cornus amomum)	1,2,6	F	X	X
Silver Buffaloberry	(Sheperdia argentea)	5,6	S	X	X
Smooth Sumac	(Rhus glabra)	1-6	W		
Staghorn Sumac	(Rhus typhina)	1-3	W		

Food availability codes: S = summer, F = fall, W = winter