

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.