



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

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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Additional guidance for prairie restoration:

This enhancement can only be used in the Palouse prairie. Species described in the representative ecological site description for this area would typically include:

Native grass species - bluebunch wheatgrass, Idaho fescue, sandberg bluegrass, big bluegrass, Thurbers needlegrass, green needlegrass, sand dropseed, slender wheatgrass, thickspike wheatgrass, western wheatgrass, mountain brome, bottlebrush squirreltail basin wildrye and Indian ricegrass.

Native forbs and legumes - yarrow, arrowleaf balsamroot, Spalding's catchfly, goldenrod, buckwheat, flax, milkvetch, lupine, American vetch, penstemon, coneflower, blanketflower and tapertip hawksbeard.

The producer should work with the Palouse prairie working group for assistance and help in locating seed sources.

For additional information, refer to the following documents:

Idaho NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 24, *Grass, Grass-like, Forb, Legume and Woody Species for the Intermountain West*. ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/tn24_seedspecies

Idaho NRCS Plant Material Technical Note 24 Supplement: *Intermountain Planting Guide*, USDA-ARS Forage and Range Research Lab/Utah State Extension, AG 510. <ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/tn24supplement>.