

## Plant Enhancement Activity – PLT06 - Renovation of a Windbreak, Shelter Belt or Hedgerow for Wildlife Habitat



### Renovation of a Windbreak, Shelter Belt or Hedgerow for Wildlife Habitat

This enhancement is for the renovation of existing sites that are declining in vigor, need additional woody plants (trees or shrubs) or otherwise no longer provide wildlife habitat benefits. Existing rows of woody plants may be thinned, removed or replaced with new plantings. Existing woody plants may be pruned, either branches or roots or both, to improve windbreak function, health and vigor.

### Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable on cropland and pasture land.

### Benefits

Renovation restores the function of existing windbreaks, shelterbelts or hedgerows to provide wildlife habitat benefits as well as other benefits such as reduced wind erosion, pesticide drift, mitigation of odor and noise and controlled snow deposition. Species composition may be upgraded by adding trees or shrubs that produce wildlife food and shelter as well as wood products and visual quality, such as spring blossoms or fall colors. Woody species threatened by pests such as emerald ash borer can be replaced with more resilient species that provide wildlife habitat benefits.

### Criteria

- Identification of wildlife species to be benefited by the renovation.
- Develop a plan for new trees and/or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions.
- Removal of dead or dying trees that do not provide the desired habitat unless habitat for cavity nesting wildlife is desired.
- Removal of other trees or invasives that do not provide the desired habitat.
- Replacement of removed trees by planting new trees or shrubs that will provide the desired habitat while serving the required windbreak or shelter belt function.
- Pruning or thinning of less desirable trees to encourage the growth of trees that will provide wildlife habitat and windbreak or shelter belt functions.

### Documentation Requirements

- Brief written description of the tasks completed with dates and any receipts for planting stock, herbicides, etc.
- Delineations on a map or aerial photo of renovated windbreak



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

## IDAHO ADDENDUM 2009

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#### **Additional guidance for windbreak renovation:**

Wildlife species benefitted by windbreaks and shelterbelts include songbirds, raptors, small and large mammals and pollinators.

#### **Wildlife Friendly Species**

Plant species known to favor the kinds of wildlife typically adapted to the site include all native perennial plant species, typically represented by a diverse mixture as described in the representative ecological site description. Native shrubs include chokecherry, golden current, shrubby cinquefoil, juniper, serviceberry, woods rose, silver buffaloberry, redosier dogwood, and native willow (multiple species). Native trees include cottonwood, quaking aspen, Douglas and black hawthorn and Ponderosa pine . Introduced woody species include Nanking cherry, cotoneaster and Siberian peashrub. **Russian olive and salt cedar will not be used in windbreak renovations.**

For additional information, refer to the following documents:

Idaho NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 32, *Native Shrubs and Trees for Riparian Areas*. [ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/riparian\\_woodys.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/riparian_woodys.pdf)

Idaho NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 43, *Tree Planting Care and Management*. [ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/treecare\\_1007.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/treecare_1007.pdf)

Idaho NRCS Plant Material Technical Note 50, *Conservation Shrubs and trees for the Intermountain West*. [ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/tn50\\_shrubs.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/tn50_shrubs.pdf)