

**Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 21 – Prairie restoration for grazing and wildlife habitat**



**Enhancement Description**

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

**Land Use Applicability**

Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland

**Benefits**

Establishing and managing native prairie vegetation will provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for adapted species, especially grassland nesting birds.

**Conditions Where Enhancement Applies**

This enhancement applies to sites that have soils that indicate it was once a prairie or can sustain native prairie species.

NOTE: this enhancement can only be initiated in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the contract to ensure the activity has time to establish before the end of the contract.

**Criteria**

1. The resulting plant community will consist of at least 4 species of native perennial grasses and at least 4 species of native forbs adapted to the soils. In areas where seed availability and site adaptability is an issue, the NRCS State Office can modify the seeding combinations to meet local conditions.
2. Seeding must be done in a properly prepared seed bed as determined by the NRCS State Office.
3. 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.
4. During the establishment phase, weeds shall be controlled on the site.
5. After establishment:
  - a. The site will be protected from grazing and disturbance during the primary nesting and fawning season as defined by the NRCS State Office.
  - b. The site will be deferred from use for up to 3 years.
6. A grazing management plan will be developed and implemented.

**Adoption Requirements**

This enhancement is considered adopted when the applicant has successfully established the minimum number of native perennial grasses and forbs to the subject area.



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### **Documentation Requirements**

Following implementation of this activity, the participant must:

1. Document the list of the species planted,
2. Maintain the receipts for the seeds purchased,
3. Document the seeding dates,
4. Document the area (acres) restored by delineating the location of the restored prairie on a map or aerial photograph, and
5. Document the grazing management plan was implemented.

### **References**

Fuhlendorf, S.D., H. Zhang, T.R. Tunnell, D.M. Engle and A.F. Cross. 2002. Effects of Grazing on Restorations of Southern Mixed Prairie Soils. *Restoration Ecology* Vol. 10, Issue 2: 401-407.

Packard, S. 1997. *The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook: For Prairies, Savannas, and Woodlands*. Island Press.

Schramm, P. 1990. *Prairie Restoration: A Twenty Five year Perspective on Establishment and Management*. Proceeding of the Twelfth North American Prairie Conference.

USDA-NRCS. 2010. *Conservation Practice Standard: Prescribed Grazing-Code 528*.



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## IDAHO ADDENDUM 2013

### **Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM21 – *Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat***

#### **Additional guidance for prairie restoration:**

**This enhancement can only be used in the Palouse prairie.** The site will be protected during the nesting/fawning season, **April 1 through August 1**. 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 to locate seed sources.

For additional information, refer to the following documents:

Idaho NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 24, *Conservation Plant Species for the Intermountain West*. [ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/tn24\\_seed\\_species\\_1011.pdf](ftp://ftp-fc.sc.egov.usda.gov/ID/programs/technotes/tn24_seed_species_1011.pdf)

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.pdf>

**This activity may NOT be used with the following enhancements:**  
**AIR03, ANM03, ANM09, ANM10, ANM23, ENR09, ENR10, ENR12, PLT15, PLT18, SOE05, SQL01, SQL04, SQL05, SQL08, SQL09, SQL10, SQL12, WQL04, WQL07, WQL10, WQL11, WQL13, WQL14, WQL17, WQL20, WQL21, WQL22, WQL24, WQL25, WQL26, WQL27, WQT01, WQT03, WQT05, WQT07, WQT08, CCR99**

**Potential duplicate practices: 528 – Prescribed grazing, 612 – Tree and shrub establishment, 512 – Forage and biomass planting, 327 – Conservation cover (native), 550 Range planting (native), 645 – Upland wildlife habitat management**