



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E580B

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Stream corridor bank vegetation improvement

Conservation Practice 580: Streambank and shoreline protection

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Pasture; Range; Forest; Farmstead; Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 20 years

Enhancement Description

Stream corridor bank vegetation components are established to improve ecosystem functioning and stability.

Criteria

- This enhancement can be applied to streambanks and adjacent floodplain/riparian area of natural channels where the channel is susceptible to erosion.
- Stream corridor vegetative components shall be established as necessary for ecosystem functioning and stability. The appropriate composition of vegetative components is a key element in preventing excess long-term channel migration in re-established stream corridors.
- Establishment of vegetation on channel banks and associated areas shall also be in accordance with NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Critical Area Planting (Code 342).
- Utilize vegetative species that are native and/or compatible with local ecosystems. Avoid introduced, invasive, noxious or exotic species that could become nuisances.
- Select plant materials that provide habitat requirements for desirable wildlife and pollinators.

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- Treatments shall be designed to achieve habitat and population objectives for fish and wildlife species or communities of concern as determined by a site-specific assessment or management plan. Objectives shall be based on the survival and reproductive needs of populations and communities, which include habitat diversity, habitat linkages, daily and seasonal habitat ranges, limiting factors and native plant communities.
- The type, amount, and distribution of vegetation shall be based on the requirements of the fish and wildlife species or communities of concern to the extent possible.
- Treatments shall be designed to meet aesthetic objectives as determined by a site-specific assessment or management plan. Aesthetic objectives shall be based on human needs, including visual quality, noise control, and microclimate control.
- Construction materials, grading practices, and other site development elements shall be selected and designed to be compatible with adjacent land uses.
- Treatments shall be designed to achieve recreation objectives as determined by a site-specific assessment or management plan. Safety requirements shall be based on type of human use and recreation objectives.
- Livestock exclusion shall be considered during establishment of vegetative treatments and appropriate grazing practices applied after establishment to maintain plant community integrity. Wildlife may also need to be controlled during establishment of vegetative treatments. Temporary and local population control methods should be used with caution and within state and local regulations.
- Design the stream corridor and bank vegetation enhancement for an expected life of at least 20 years.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, prepare the planned acres for tree or shrub establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Streambank and Shoreline Protection (Code 580) and Critical Area Planting (Code 342). (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)
- Prior to implementation, select a combination of deep-rooted trees and shrubs appropriate for preventing bank erosion, promoting sedimentation, and limiting long-term channel migration. These plant materials should also provide habitat for wildlife, pollinators, and fish species as determined by a site-specific assessment or management plan (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Plant Species / Type	Number	Planted for what wildlife, pollinators, fish:

- Prior to implementation, select arrangement and spacing design to maximize erosion control and planting techniques and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

TASKS	Species/Type	Species/Type	Species/Type	Species/Type	Species/Type
Planting Date					
Planting Technique					
Arrangement/Spacing					

- During implementation, use erosion control methods based upon specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, protect the area from livestock until vegetation is well-established, and, if necessary, control wildlife access within state and local regulations.
- After implementation, conduct inspections after high flows and undertake prompt actions if there is excessive streambank or streambed instability or erosion.



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NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical assistance to meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, verify the enhancement is planned for acres that have been appropriately graded and prepared for tree and shrub establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Critical Area Planting (Code 342).
- Prior to implementation, verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included.
- As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:
 - Developing a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for targeted suite of species.
 - Meeting with participant to review the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan and plan and specifications.
 - Selecting a combination of appropriate, deep-rooted tree and shrub species for preventing bank erosion, promoting sedimentation, and limiting long-term channel migration and achieving habitat and species objectives.
 - Selecting appropriate arrangement and spacing design to maximize erosion control and planting techniques and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
 - Planning the use of additional erosion control, as needed for the site.
 - Preparing specifications for applying this enhancement using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- During implementation, verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications developed for the site.
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, verify the planned trees and shrub species were established to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, verify the planting is protected from livestock and, as necessary, from wildlife.
- After implementation, verify planned erosion control provided by the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications developed for the site.

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NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

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Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature Date





**IOWA SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
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Additional Criteria for Iowa

- Apply this activity along perennial streams.
- Refer to the Critical Area Planting (342) standard and job sheet contained in the FOTG for approved plant species, seeding dates, seeding rates and further guidance.
- Introduced grasses that establish quickly are recommended for sloped bank vegetation.
- Seed and establish a mix of native species as close to the active stream channel as possible. Extend seeding into the floodplain from the high bank to a minimum of 2.5 times the stream width, not to exceed 120 feet.
- By applying this activity in Iowa according to the Iowa Wildlife Action Plan, the following species will benefit but are not limited to: Monarch, Bullsnake, Northern Bobwhite, Barn Owl, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow Sparrow, Dickcissel, Bobolink, Eastern Meadowlark, Western Meadowlark.
- Use [Iowa Wildlife Working Lands Habitat Evaluation](#) for the WHEG. For Pasture, use Grassland Habitat – Permanent Pastureland; for Crop and Associated Ag Land, use Grassland Habitat – Idle Grasslands.
- If applicant is managing for a species of concern not contained in the above list, reference the [Iowa Wildlife Action Plan](#) and contact an IDNR Biologist.