



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E643C

Restore glade habitat to benefit threatened and endangered species and state species of concern

Conservation Practice 643: Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest, Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERNS: Animal

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Restore Glade natural communities as shown by the Ecological Site Description to conserve biodiversity. Enhancement requires reducing woody canopy cover and applying at least one prescribed fire to treated acres. Restoration of glade communities provide habitat for rare and declining species. Sites that previously or currently support the rare and declining habitat will be targeted for restoration.

Criteria

- States will apply general criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (Code 643) as listed below, and additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.
- All necessary local, state, and federal permits shall be obtained by the landowner (or designee) prior to restoration activities.

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- Applied to sites where the Ecological Site Description designates “glade” habitat or as determined appropriate by site evaluation that considers all glade criteria.
- A pre-treatment habitat assessment, such as a WHEG, of the affected area will be documented to provide a baseline for comparison with post-treatment conditions.
- A restoration and management plan covering a ten-year period shall be developed by a restoration specialist, based on inventory information from the WHEG, and using glade criteria from the Ecological Site Description as the desired future condition (DFC). The plan will identify practices, monitoring, and maintenance activities to be implemented throughout the ten-year period beginning with initial enhancement implementation, to achieve and maintain the DFC.
- Prior to prescribed burning, invasive plant and animal species, and noxious weeds shall be controlled (if present) on the treated area. When possible, control will be limited to that necessary to control undesirable species, while still protecting habitat that benefit native pollinators and other fish and wildlife species that depend on the site for food, cover, and water.
- A written burn plan must be developed, and all necessary approvals secured prior to conducting the prescribed burn. Use the Prescribed Burning (338) conservation practice standard and posted supporting documents to complete the written burn plan.
- Use criteria in other NRCS Conservation Practice Standards to facilitate the restoration and management of rare and declining habitats as appropriate for the site. Depending on site conditions and natural disturbance regimes, these may include: Prescribed Burning (Code 338); Fence (Code 382); Access Control (Code 472); Brush Management (Code 314); Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315); and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645).

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- Where planting and/or seeding is needed to achieve restoration goals, on sites where effects of prescribed burning in stimulating the growth of desired vegetation have been evaluated and determined to be inadequate:
 - Site preparation, planting dates and methods, and plant material care and handling shall optimize vegetation survival and growth.
 - Prepare species and seeding rate specifications to achieve desired habitat condition.
 - Adapt vegetation to the Ecological Site Description and the planned purpose.
- Management practices and activities shall not disturb cover during the primary nesting period.
- Only use chainsaws or other hand methods (hack and squirt, basal spraying, etc.) to remove unwanted woody vegetation. The use of clippers, bulldozers or other mechanical equipment is not an acceptable restoration method for glades.
- The site shall be excluded from grazing.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements:

Participant will:

- Use the Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (Code 643) conservation practice and posted supporting documents to meet the criteria of this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, use appropriate Ecological Site Description to determine glade habitat for restoration.
- Prior to implementation, obtain site-specific designs, including locations and dimensions, and timing of activities.
- Prior to implementation, conduct a pre-treatment habitat assessment of the affected area using the appropriate Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide.
- Follow restoration methods as outlined in the Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats Standard and supporting jobsheets, implementation requirements, or other documents.
- Obtain a Prescribed Burn Plan written by a certified burn planner that meets NRCS criteria and provide a copy to the NRCS field office.
- Conduct at least one prescribed burn after tree and shrub removal.
- If seeding is required, appropriate species will be selected as described in the Ecological Site Description.
- After implementation, conduct a post-treatment habitat assessment of the affected area using the appropriate Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide. The score must result in a 0.5 or greater.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, verify that the enhancement is planned for the appropriate land use and is applicable to the site.
- Prior to implementation, provide assistance with the development of a Prescribed Burn Plan or refer to an appropriate burn planner.
- Prior to implementation, provide technical assistance in preparing specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using NRCS approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

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- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation certify that the prescribed burn was completed according to the burn plan and Prescribed Burning (338) practice specifications.
- After implementation, verify the habitat was restored according to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, verify any erosion control and/or invasive plant treatment needed for the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications developed for the site.

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.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature Date



**IOWA SUPPLEMENT TO
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Additional Criteria for Iowa

- Use [Iowa Wildlife Working Lands Habitat Evaluation](#) for the WHEG. Use the Grassland Habitat -- Idle Grasslands for the evaluation.