



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E512J

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Establish wildlife corridors to provide habitat continuity or access to water

Conservation Practice 512: Forage and Biomass Planting

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of perennial, herbaceous species that can provide cover needed for wildlife species of concern to move from food/cover/water sources to other food/cover/water sources as needed for their life cycles, and/or to enhance the utility of underused wildlife habitat areas.

Criteria

- Select native, perennial, grass/forb/legume plant species and their cultivars based on climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects, that meet the cover demand for movement by the wildlife species of concern.
- Recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths, and dates from land grant universities (LGU), plant materials program, extension agencies, or agency field trials will be followed.
- Seeding medium that does not restrict plant emergence will be provided, and planting will take place when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.
- Federal, state, or local noxious species will not be planted.

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- Plant nutrients and/or soil amendments for establishment purposes will be applied according to a current soil test. Legume seed will be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper viable strain of Rhizobia immediately before planting.
- Plant selection will be made and maintained based on the state's approved NRCS habitat evaluation procedure.
- Protection from grazing or other plant defoliation/biomass loss will be provided as needed to assure adequate corridor cover during the primary wildlife movement time frames.
- Grazing or other plant defoliation/biomass operations will be timed as needed to assure adequate corridor cover during the primary wildlife movement time frames.
- Wildlife species of concern for corridor utilization will be specified on the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, select a perennial forage species or grassland mixture for establishment. *If livestock are included in the system, forage species selected will meet the desired level of nutrition for the kind and class of the livestock to be fed.* (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Species	Species type (grass, legume, broadleaf)

- Prior to implementation, select planting technique, seeding rates and timing appropriate for the site and climatic conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Planting Date	
Planting Technique	
Seeding rates	

- If livestock are included in the system, prior to implementation a grazing plan must be developed to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.*
- If livestock are included in the grazing system, in areas where animals congregate, establish persistent species than can tolerate close grazing and trampling.*
- During implementation, keep the following documentation:
 - Records and photographs of planting preparation and any materials purchased or materials on hand used for the implementation of the enhancement.
 - Documentation of seed (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or soil amendments used for the implementation of the enhancement.
 - If livestock are included in the grazing system, documentation and photographs of turn in/turn out grazing records for each field.*



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- During implementation, ensure that the forage/biomass is protected from grazing or other plant defoliation/biomass loss.
- After implementation, make the forage planting and grazing records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical assistance to meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, complete the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG). **Species of concern:** _____
WHEG score before implementation: _____
WHEG score after implementation: _____
- As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:
 - Planning site preparation and establishment specifications meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage and Biomass Planting (512).
 - Prepare specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
 - If livestock are included in the system, develop a grazing plan to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.*
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meets the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, verify the planned perennial grassland mixture was established to specifications developed for the site.



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NRCS Documentation Review:

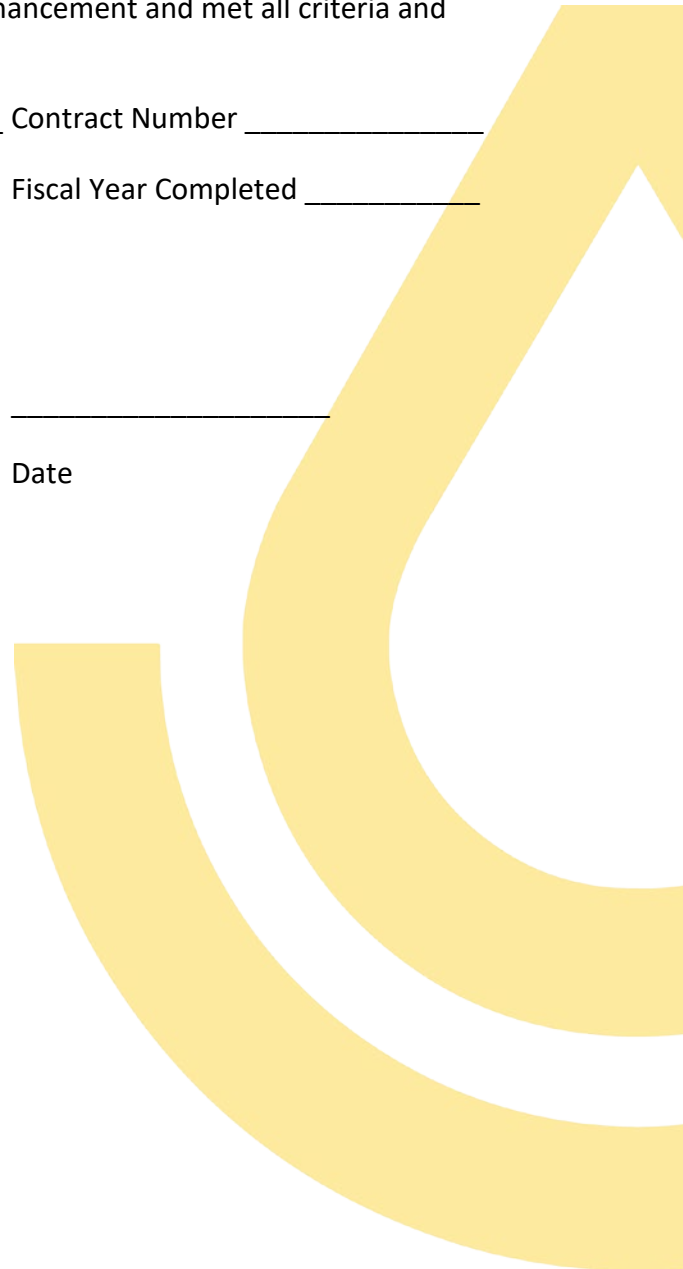
I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date





SOUTH DAKOTA (SD) SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

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Additional Criteria for SD:

In addition to the criteria specified in the national job sheet E512J, the following additional criteria apply in SD:

- Any herbaceous (grass and forb) plant species native to SD, suitable to the site, is acceptable provided the vegetation is tall enough and the mix is dense enough to provide cover for the selected group of species.
- Consult the local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to determine the wildlife and/or pollinator requirements. Wildlife life-cycle requirements are found in Biology Technical Note Number 15, including attachments. The local NRCS office shall follow and use the species or guild habitat requirements as identified in Biology Technical Note Number 15 and its attachments.

Criteria related to the written grazing management plan:

- Start of grazing period will be changed by a minimum of two weeks in each pasture/paddock each year during the growing season.
- Adequate recovery periods must be provided:
 - Minimum of 30 days between grazing events on pasture, 45 days on range.
 - Longer recovery periods will be needed during slow growth period and during drought.
- Maximum utilization will not exceed 50 percent (%) by weight of the total current year's growth.
- Grazing should not commence before the following minimum heights are reached:
 - 4 inches: little bluestem, sideoats grama;
 - 8 inches: big bluestem, Indiangrass, intermediate wheatgrass, pubescent wheatgrass, prairie sandreed, sand bluestem, tall wheatgrass;
 - 12 inches: switchgrass;
 - 6 inches: all other species.



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Additional Documentation Requirements for SD:

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the national job sheet E512J, the following additional documentation requirements apply in SD:

- Complete the SD Grazing Tool (SD-CPA-39 Forage/Animal Inventory, Grazing Schedule using the SD-CPA-15 or similar form, and SD-CPA-16 or similar grazing records document), if applicable.
- Complete a drought contingency plan using the SD Drought Tool or provide the participant with a copy of the example drought contingency plan located within the SD Prescribed Grazing Technical Note 9, if applicable.
- Complete the SD Seeding Tool (SD-CPA-4).
- Complete the SD Wildlife Habitat Quality Rating Worksheet (SD-CPA-19).