



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E550A**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Range planting for increasing/maintaining organic matter

**Conservation Practice 550: RANGE PLANTING**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range, Forest, Crop (Annual & Mixed), Crop (Perennial)**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Soil**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years**

**Enhancement Description**

Establishment of adapted perennial or self-sustaining vegetation such as grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees for the purpose of increasing or maintaining organic matter levels in the soil.

**Criteria**

- Specified species and cultivars or varieties, planting rates, dates, and methods shall be consistent with PMC, research institution, or agency demonstration trials, local laws and/or regulations, management objectives, and adapted to the site. Plant materials/seed selected will be compatible with desired ecological site descriptions steady states (or their substitutive documentation from the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide).
- Seedbed preparation and planting methods will be suitable to meet any special needs for obtaining an acceptable establishment of planted materials, and provide adequate cover for erosion control within an acceptable time frame.
- Recommended planting depths, hydrologic conditions, dates, rates, soil amendments at planting, seed quality requirements, and management during establishment (weed control and/or deferment) shall be followed in order to enhance establishment success.

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- The plant species, cultivars or varieties selected will be deep rooted, perennial plants that will increase productive plant biomass on the site.
- Reduce the temporal frequency of carbon release caused by non-historical repetition of fire.

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**Documentation and Implementation Requirements**

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**Participant will:**

*Prior to implementation*

- Prepare a range planting plan that details seedbed preparation techniques, planting method, planting dates, and seeding rates. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Planting Date(s)	
Seedbed Preparation	
Planting Method	
Seeding rates	

*During implementation*

- Notify NRCS if there are any changes to the range planting plan.

*After implementation*

- Provide documentation for review by NRCS of actual seedbed preparation technique, planting method, planting date, seeding rates, and percentage success of the plantings.

**NRCS will:**

*Prior to implementation*

- Provide the Ecological Site Description(s) or other reference documents (if the ecological site description is not available) that outlines the best approximation of the desired plant community composition, structure, and function.
- As needed, assist the participant with development of a range planting plan which details seedbed preparation, planting method, planting dates, and seeding rates.

*During implementation*



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- Evaluate any changes to the range planting plan to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.

*After implementation*

- Review actual planting date and seeding rates to determine if the enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

### **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