



**KANSAS SUPPLEMENT TO  
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY  
E314A**

**CONSERVATION  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROGRAM**

**Brush management to improve wildlife habitat**

**Additional Criteria for Kansas**

In addition to the criteria specified in National Enhancement E314A, the following apply in Kansas:

- Employ ecological site description (ESD) state and transition models to develop ecologically sound and defensible treatment specifications. Plan treatments congruent with dynamics of the ecological site(s), and keyed to the state and plant community phases with potential to support the desired plant community. If ESD is unavailable, base specifications on the best approximation of the desired plant community composition, structure, and function.
- Use either the Lesser Prairie-chicken or the Greater Prairie-chicken WHEG found in Kansas Biology Technical Note KS-36, Prairie-Chicken Habitat Assessment, when grassland birds are the species of concern on Range or Pasture land use. For other wildlife species and land uses, use the CART national wildlife questions for the appropriate land use. In order to convert to a WHEG score, take the CART score and divide by 100. For example: CART score = 50, calculated WHEG score is  $(50/100) = 0.50$ .
- Reference Kansas Conservation Practice Standard 314, Brush Management, Construction Specifications, to identify brush species and associated canopy levels of concern. Use low infestation canopy cover criteria in Table 1.
- Use the current version of Chemical Weed Control published by K-State Research and Extension to provide the participant a chemical control reference.
- Utilize browsing goats as an optional method of biological control in Kansas.

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# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Do not broadcast apply chemicals without providing a written justification (approved by NRCS) supporting the need.
- Conduct treatments outside of the following dates for the wildlife species of concern, unless necessary to obtain optimum control:
  - Upland bird nesting dates are April 15 to July 15.
  - Migratory bird nesting dates are April 1 to July 15.
  - Fawning dates are May 20 to June 10.

### **Additional Documentation Requirements for Kansas**

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in National Enhancement E314A, the following apply in Kansas:

- In participant’s objectives, include the desired state and phase of the plant community referenced in published ESD for the treatment area(s). When ESDs are not available, include a written description of desired plant community.

**Ecological Site:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Desired ESD State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Desired ESD Plant Community Phase:** \_\_\_\_\_

- Identify the wildlife of concern.

**Wildlife Species of Concern:** \_\_\_\_\_

- NRCS determines brush species canopy cover utilizing guidance in Kansas Range Technical Note KS-8, Brush Management, (Rev. 1).
- Biological control utilizing goats requires a written grazing plan meeting Kansas Conservation Practice Standard 528, Prescribed Grazing, Construction Specifications. Consider the following:

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## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Base stocking rates on known infestations of targeted woody species capable of grazing or impacted by browsing.
- Numbers of goats needed for suppression is estimated at 4 to 5 goats per acre of targeted woody species in the grazing unit.
- Often, repeated treatments of grazing are necessary year after year.
- Determine recommended number of goats annually, based on infestation acres of the grazing unit.
- Document utilization on Form KS-ECS-414, Proper Grazing Use.