



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E315A (WITH MONTANA SUPPLEMENT)

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Herbaceous weed treatment to create desired plant communities consistent with the ecological site

CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 315 - Herbaceous Weed Treatment

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range, Forest, Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plant, Wildlife

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Mechanical, chemical, or biological, herbaceous weed treatment will be used to control targeted, herbaceous weeds to create, release, or restore desired plant communities that are consistent with achievable, ecological site, steady state descriptions.

Criteria

- Herbaceous weed treatment will be applied to achieve the recorded desired level of control of the target weed species and protect the recorded desired species within the plant community. NRCS will not develop biological or chemical recommendations except biological control by grazing animals.
- Ecological site description (ESD), state and transition models will be employed in development of treatment specifications that are ecologically sound and defensible. The treatments must be congruent with dynamics of the ecological site(s) and keyed to state and plant community phases that have the potential for supporting the desired plant community. If an ESD is not available, base specifications on the best approximation of the desired plant community composition, structure, and function.
- Herbaceous weed treatment will include post treatment measures as needed to achieve the recorded resource management objectives.

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- Treatment periods will accommodate reproduction and other life-cycle requirements of target recorded wildlife and/or pollinator species, and the resultant plant community will enhance the plant community composition and structure to meet their needs. **Use the Montana Field Guide on the Montana Natural Heritage Program website (<https://fieldguide.mt.gov/>) for target species information. For additional pollinator resources, use the Species Profiles for At-Risk Invertebrates on the Xerces Society website (<https://xerces.org/>). Contact your Area Biologist if target species information is unavailable.**
- Treatments will be conducted when target weed species are most vulnerable and will promote restoration of the desired plant communities.
- When herbicides are used, environmental hazards and site-specific application criteria listed on the pesticide label must be followed.
- Access to treated or targeted area will be controlled based on management methods applied and restrictions as listed on chemical labels.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, obtain an appropriate management plan based upon land use where this enhancement is planned. The plan will be based on NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Prescribed Grazing (Code 528), Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666), or Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645). The management plan must identify desired plant community composition, structure, and function. The management strategy must complement NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) in supporting upward trends. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)
- Prior to implementation, develop a map indicating areas to be treated as a part of the management plan.
- During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.

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- During implementation, keep records of all treatments, including application method, timing, and amount applied as recommended by NRCS. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315).

Treatment Date	
Treatment Method	
Amount Applied (acres)	

- During implementation, develop a map indicating treated areas.
- After implementation, make the following records and documents available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:
 - Monitoring data records associated with management plan that measures trend toward desired plant community.
 - Treatment records including timing, application method and amount (acres) applied.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation and as needed, NRCS will provide technical assistance.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain (depending on land use where the enhancement will be implemented) NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528), Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666), or Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) as they relate to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, provide assistance as needed in the development of the management plan or completing state specific job sheet for NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) to treat targeted species.

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- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, review documentation and records to verify implementation of the enhancement.

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