



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E381A (WITH MONTANA SUPPLEMENT)

Silvopasture to improve wildlife habitat

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Conservation Practice 381: Silvopasture Establishment

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Forest; Associated Agricultural Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plants; Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 15 years

Enhancement Description

Establishing a combination of trees or shrubs and compatible forages on the same acreage, providing forage, shade, and/or shelter for livestock that include a purpose of enhancing wildlife cover and shelter.

Criteria

- Tree species and forage species must be adapted to the site and compatible with the planned management of the site.
- No plants on the federal or state noxious weeds list shall be planted.
- Where trees will be added to existing pasture, site preparation should be based on existing vegetation and soil conditions. Trees will be planted at an appropriate density to allow acceptable forage production and wood products.
- If pesticides are used, label recommendations must be followed.
- Only viable, high quality and adapted planting stock or seed will be used.
- 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.

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- Establish forage species and understory shrubs that will provide forage, browse, seed, cover, or nesting habitat for the wildlife species of concern. For additional guidance refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645).
 - **MT: Refer to Biology Tech Note MT-20 Creating and Enhancing Habitat for Pollinator Insects and Plant Materials Tech Note MT- 46 Seeding Rates and Recommended Cultivars for wildlife friendly grasses, forbs, shrubs, and trees.**
- Favor herbaceous seed mixes that include a diverse mix of native forbs and/or legumes to benefit wildlife including pollinators. Select species that vary in attributes such as timing of flowering, and production of leaves and fruit.
- Plantings will be protected from grazing until an adequate stand is established and meets the species specific, local standard for beginning grazing.



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Documentation Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

Prior to implementation, select a tree or shrub species for establishment.

Tree or Shrub species	
Trees per acre	
Percent canopy cover	

Prior to implementation, develop a grazing plan to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for plants to recover before re-grazing occurs.

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.

After implementation, make documentation and photographs of livestock turn in/turn out grazing records for each field available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

After implementation, make the forage planting/or tree planting and grazing records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

The State approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) as completed and certified by an NRCS or partner wildlife biologist. Wildlife species of concern for the silvopastoral area will be specified on the WHEG. Total WHEG score after installation will equal 0.60 or greater.

NRCS will:

Prior to implementation, complete the State approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) as completed and certified by an NRCS or partner wildlife biologist when applicable. Total score after implementation will equal 0.60 or greater.



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WHEG score after implementation = _____

- MT: Use Biology Tech Note MT-19 Habitat Evaluation Guides for Montana for species of concern.

Prior to implementation, verify a grazing plan was developed to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.

Prior to implementation and as needed, NRCS will provide technical assistance:

- Planning site preparation and establishment specifications meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512) or Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490) and Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612).
- 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.
- 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 planting was established 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

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