



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY E315A

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.
- 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.
- 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).

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by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:

toward desired plant community. ○ Treatment records including timing, application method and amount (acres) applied.



Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.

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
 - Monitoring data records associated with management plan that measures trend

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation and as needed, NRCS will provide technical assistance.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain (depending on land use where the
- Prior to implementation, provide assistance as needed in the development of the
- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet 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.

management plan or completing state specific job sheet for NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) to treat targeted species.

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 _____

Total Amount Applied _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature



United States Department of Agriculture

**WASHINGTON SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

References/Criteria for Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315) Enhancements.

Forage Suitability Groups can be used in place of **Ecological Site Descriptions** for pastures situations.

Herbaceous Weed Treatment References:

NRCS Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315) Practice Standard is located in the FOTG Section IV/Washington Conservation Practices/Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315) folder.

[CPS Herbaceous Weed Treatment 315 2022](#)

NRCS Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315) Planner's Guide is located in the FOTG Section IV/Washington Conservation Practices/Herbaceous Weed Treatment (315) folder.

[Herbaceous Weed Treatment \(315\) Planners Guide 2022](#)

NRCS Conservation Practice Standards **Prescribed Grazing (528)**, **Forest Stand Improvement (666)**, and **Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645)** are also located in the FOTG Section 4/Practice Standards and Supporting Documents.

[Washington | Field Office Technical Guide | NRCS - USDA](#)

Ecological Site Descriptions and **Forage Suitability Groups** can be found in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section 2. For planning unit ecological sites and forage suitability groups see bullet below. [Washington | Field Office Technical Guide | NRCS - USDA](#)

Soil information, including productivity, **Ecological Sites and Forage Suitability Groups** for planning unit soils can be found by using the **Web Soil Survey**

[Web Soil Survey - Home \(usda.gov\)](https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/)

Wildlife References and WHEG's:

For Washington State's **Sage Grouse Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG)**, and other species **WHEG's**, – contact the NRCS State Biologist for the current guide.

Washington State's Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) is **Biology Technical Note 14 Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG)**. It can be found in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section 1/References Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Biology folder. [Washington | Field Office Technical Guide | NRCS - USDA](#)

Use the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) **Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) database** to identify priority wildlife and habitat in your area.

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/>

Pollinator Habitat Assessment Form and Guide - Farms and Agricultural Landscapes (*Plant Materials Technical Note 23 OR Biology Technical Note 31*). This assessment guide will be available in both discipline areas during 2023; see: FOTG Section 1/Reference Lists/Technical Notes by discipline/. For ***Natural Areas and Rangelands*** contact State or Area Biologist for appropriate guide.

Biology Technical Note 28: Habitat Planning for Beneficial Insects - Guidelines for Conservation Biological Control. This is located in FOTG Section 1/Reference Lists/Technical Notes by discipline/Biology.

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