



**CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**E381A**

**CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM**

Silvopasture to improve wildlife habitat

**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).
- 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. Specific pollinator species targeted will be notated on the WHEG, and total



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score after implementation will equal 0.60 or greater.

**WHEG score after implementation = \_\_\_\_\_**

- 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



WASHINGTON SUPPLEMENT TO  
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

CONSERVATION  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROGRAM

E381A

Additional Criteria for Washington

- In addition, to the criteria specified in the National job sheet E381A the following additional criteria apply in Washington:
  - Review WDFW’s PHS database for species of concern such as Elk, Turkey or other species of concern whose habitat range includes the project site and which are likely to flourish in early successional habitats interspersed with trees/shrubs.
  - WA NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide is Biological Technote #14 found in e-FOTG, section 1. Use the Pasture tab for the habitat elements to inventory. For the purposes of this Enhancement, evaluate the Plant Diversity habitat element as follows, if the herbaceous species mix meets requirements for a 2 and tree/shrubs are also present then score it a 3. If the herbaceous species mix meets a 4, trees/shrubs may also be present.
  - Publications, such as, Woodland Fish and Wildlife series, WDFW’s Living with Wildlife series and other Extension or peer reviewed publications will be used to develop an appropriate list of plant species for seeding or planting to improve habitat for the target wildlife species or group of species.
  - Develop objectives and strategy for spatial diversity for the planting and seeding. See Forestry Technical Note 10 (FOTG, section I) for stocking guidelines of commercial tree species. Canopy cover goals for woody species will be 40-60%. On Table 2 of Forestry Technical Note 10, columns 8 and 9 are designed for achieving It will take time for the plants to grow enough to achieve the canopy cover goal and then maintenance treatments to sustain it. Use USDA/PLANTS for minimum spacing for all other woody species not found in Forestry Technical Note 10.
    - One tree and one shrub species will be included in the planting list to benefit cover.

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## Additional Documentation Requirements for Washington\*-

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E381A the following additional documentation requirements apply in Washington:

- With the help of NRCS or Partner Wildlife Biologist complete the Pasture tab of the Biological Technical Note 14 and submit as documentation.
- When improving habitat for a target wildlife species or group of species, document reference.
- Provide documentation of spatial diversity (photos, diagrams, GPS or ...) and stocking for planted (plants per acre) and total cover for seeded species.
  - Records of all grazing activities including utilization or stubble height.
- 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 <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx> in Section I/References Lists/ Technical Notes by Discipline/Biology folder.
- 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/>
- For Washington State’s **Sage Grouse Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG), and other species WHEG’s**, – contact the **NRCS State Biologist** for the current guide.
- **Ecological Site Descriptions and Forage Suitability Groups** can be found in the **NRCS Field Office Technical Guide** <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx> in Section II.
- WA NRCS Plant Materials Technical Note 1 Seeding Guide, NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Section 1
- WSU Extension EB 1870 Pasture and Hayland Renovation: <https://s3.wp.wsu.edu/uploads/sites/2079/2015/06/Pasture-and-Hayland-Renovation-for-Western-Washington-and-Oregon-WSU.pdf>

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