



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E612G

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Tree/shrub planting for wildlife habitat

CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest; Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals, Plants

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 15 years

Enhancement Description

Tree/shrub planting will provide the plant diversity, structure, and composition needed to enhance habitat and forage for identified wildlife species.

Criteria

- States will apply criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612), and any additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.
- Select a minimum of five species of trees and shrubs to be planted, with at least one tree species and one shrub species. (i.e., one tree and four shrubs; two trees and three shrubs; three trees and two shrubs; four trees and one shrub).
- Groupings of trees and shrubs will be managed for best growth, visual appeal, proximity to areas of wildlife use.
- Selection of species should also be chosen according to the site's natural disturbance regime. Species should be selected based on traits, successional status, structure, and composition.
- Build forest resilience by favoring existing species that are better adapted to projected future climate conditions, and by enhancing relative compositional and structural diversity.
- Do not plant species on the Federal or State invasive species or noxious weed lists.



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- Only viable, high-quality and site-adapted planting stock or seed will be used.
- A precondition for tree/shrub establishment is appropriately prepared sites. Refer to criteria in NRCS CPS Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490).
- Implementation and timing of planting will be appropriate for the site and ensure successful establishment.
- Plantings must be protected from unacceptable adverse impacts from insects, disease, wildlife, and/or fire. Apply supporting practices and treatments as necessary to protect establishing trees and shrubs.
- Each site will be evaluated to determine if mulching, supplemental water, or other treatments (e.g., tree protection devices, shade cards, weed mats) will be needed to assure adequate survival and growth.
- The enhancement will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with States’ Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation:
 - provide an updated Forest Management Plan that documents intended objectives for wildlife habitat.
 - prepare the planned acres for trees and/or shrub establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree-Shrub Site Preparation (490).
 - select a combination of five trees and shrubs for their importance in providing food for native wildlife, and their adaptability to site conditions.
 - select planting technique, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the site conditions.

Species	Note selected species characteristic(s)



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- During implementation:
 - install and maintain erosion control measures for the site, as needed.
 - protect the planting(s) from plant and animal pests and fire.
 - notify NRCS in writing of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.

TASK	Species	Species	Species
Planting Date			
Planting Technique			
Arrangement/Spacing			

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation:
 - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (CPS 490) as it relates to implementing this enhancement. Verify the enhancement is planned for acres that have been appropriately prepared for tree/shrub establishment.
 - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
 - verify the enhancement is planned for the appropriate land use.
 - verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included in the planning combination.
 - NRCS will provide Technical Assistance, as needed, in the following:
 - Selecting a combination of species to meet enhancement criteria.
 - Selecting planting techniques, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for target native wildlife, the site and soil conditions.
 - Planning the use of additional erosion control for the site, as needed.
 - Preparing specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved state implementation requirements, national technical notes, appropriate state technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- During implementation:
 - evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria and were established to specifications developed for the site.



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- After implementation:
 - verify the planned trees and shrub species were established to specifications developed for the site.
 - verify the plantings were protected from plant and animal pests and fire.
 - verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained 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

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Additional Criteria for Washington

- In addition to the criteria specified in the National job sheet E612G the following additional criteria apply in Washington:
 - Establish if the treatment activity is agroforestry, afforestation or reforestation (Refer to Forestry Technical Note 30 Afforestation and Agroforestry on Agricultural Lands).
 - For agroforestry treatment activities, refer to the NRCS Conservation Practice Standards for agroforestry practices and any associated Planner's /Specification Guides for guidance on orientation, timing, design, treatment methods and considerations needed for successful implementation of the enhancement activity. See below for list of Agroforestry practices associated with this enhancement:
 - > 381 Silvopasture Establishment
 - > 391 Riparian Forest Buffer
 - For afforestation and reforestation treatment activities, seedling stock types, planting methods, care, handling, temporary storage and protection options see 612 Specification Guide and Implementation Requirements standard instructions.
 - The Web Soil Survey provides reports on site suitability for trees and shrubs such as:
Ecological Site Descriptions (ESD), Forest Productivity and Rangeland and Forest Vegetation Classification. Natural Heritage Program ecological sites or USFS plant associations may be substituted for ESDs, if ESDs are unavailable.



- 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 food and forage habitat for a target wildlife species or group of species.

Additional Documentation Requirements for Washington

- In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E612G the following additional documentation requirements apply in Washington:
 - Document species composition and abundance (stocking and/or cover) before and after treatment for the planting area.
 - As Needed Implementation Requirements for supporting practices such as:
 - 384 Woody Residue Treatment when there is an unusual amount of woody slash inhibiting planting.
 - 315 Herbaceous Weed Treatment or 314 Brush Management if there is a need for post-planting vegetation control due to pervasive competing vegetation.
 - 484 Mulch or 441 Irrigation system micro-irrigation when moisture management issues are inhibiting establishment of new plantings.
 - For long term success of planting, stocking (Survival) surveys should be done and documented for the first 3 years or until the planted and seeded stock are determined to be established and free to grow. If there is enough mortality to compromise the functionality of the planting, then it is recommended that the dead trees or shrubs are replaced. Volunteer trees and shrubs are acceptable replacements if their location maintains the functionality of the planting.