



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E645A

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Reduction of attractants to human-subsidized predators in sensitive wildlife species habitat

Conservation Practice 645: Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Pasture; Range; Forest; Associated Ag Land; Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

Reduction of artificial perching sites, nest sites, food, and water available to subsidized predators in areas where human-subsidized predators are a threat to sensitive wildlife species. Human-subsidized predators may include ravens, crows, magpies, coyotes, foxes, skunks, raccoons, and other species. Activities under this enhancement may include removal of non-native or invasive trees; removal of unused power poles, corrals, windmills, buildings, and other vertical structures; and/or removal or management of watering facilities, dead livestock, road kill, garbage, animal feed, dumps, and other non-natural food sources.

Criteria

- Identify the targeted sensitive wildlife species.
- Identify the subsidized predator(s).
- Coordinate planned activities with a NRCS or partner biologist.
 - Coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Wildlife Agency may be required.

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- Treat only artificial, human caused attractants.
 - This activity shall not be used to remove or modify natural water sources, natural perching and nesting sites, or natural food sources for native predators.
- Develop an assessment of the predator attractants, including:
 - Each individual subsidy with a point on a map,
 - A description of the subsidy,
 - Effects to non-target wildlife species, especially raptors and other native predators, and
 - Potential effects to all sensitive as well as threatened and endangered (T&E) species.
- Conduct attractant removal activities in a manner to avoid direct mortality and outside of the nesting season.
- Lethal control shall not be performed as a component of this activity.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Y Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to review results of predator attractant assessment conducted by NRCS and to discuss predator attractants to be removed.
- Y During implementation, maintain a field log to include:
 - o Map of the assessed and removed predator attractants with point locations and descriptions of each item.
 - o Dates when the attractant was removed.
 - o Before and after photographs of each removed attractant.
- Y After implementation, provide the field log to NRCS for review to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

NRCS will:

- Y Prior to implementation, identify targeted sensitive species and conduct an assessment of subsidized predator attractants on site.
- Y Prior to implementation, provide and explain state NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Y Prior to implementation, develop technical specifications for attractant removal needed to improve habitat for the targeted sensitive species consistent with NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645).
- Y Prior to implementation, assess effects on non-target wildlife species and complete any required coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Wildlife Agency.
- Y After implementation, review field log to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

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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.

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Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date



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**WASHINGTON SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E645A**

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To meet criteria utilize one or more of the following references or Technical Notes:

- 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 in Section 1/References Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Biology folder.
- To identify species of greatest conservation need (SGCNs) in your area that might be sensitive or vulnerable to increased predation risk, see Washington’s 2015 **State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)**:
<https://wdfw.wa.gov/species-habitats/at-risk/swap>
- 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 WHEGs**, contact the **NRCS State or Area Biologist** for the current guide.
- **Ecological Site Descriptions** and **Forage Suitability Groups** can be found in the **NRCS Field Office Technical Guide** in Section 2.