



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E550A

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Range planting for increasing/maintaining organic matter

Conservation Practice 550: RANGE PLANTING

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range, Forest, Crop (Annual & Mixed), Crop (Perennial)

RESOURCE CONCERN: Soil

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Establishment of adapted perennial or self-sustaining vegetation such as grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees for the purpose of increasing or maintaining organic matter levels in the soil.

Criteria

- Specified species and cultivars or varieties, planting rates, dates, and methods shall be consistent with PMC, research institution, or agency demonstration trials, local laws and/or regulations, management objectives, and adapted to the site. Plant materials/seed selected will be compatible with desired ecological site descriptions steady states (or their substitutive documentation from the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide).
- Seedbed preparation and planting methods will be suitable to meet any special needs for obtaining an acceptable establishment of planted materials, and provide adequate cover for erosion control within an acceptable time frame.
- Recommended planting depths, hydrologic conditions, dates, rates, soil amendments at planting, seed quality requirements, and management during establishment (weed control and/or deferment) shall be followed in order to enhance establishment success.

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- The plant species, cultivars or varieties selected will be deep rooted, perennial plants that will increase productive plant biomass on the site.
- Reduce the temporal frequency of carbon release caused by non-historical repetition of fire.

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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

Prior to implementation

- Prepare a range planting plan that details seedbed preparation techniques, planting method, planting dates, and seeding rates. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Planting Date(s)	
Seedbed Preparation	
Planting Method	
Seeding rates	

During implementation

- Notify NRCS if there are any changes to the range planting plan.

After implementation

- Provide documentation for review by NRCS of actual seedbed preparation technique, planting method, planting date, seeding rates, and percentage success of the plantings.

NRCS will:

Prior to implementation

- Provide the Ecological Site Description(s) or other reference documents (if the ecological site description is not available) that outlines the best approximation of the desired plant community composition, structure, and function.
- As needed, assist the participant with development of a range planting plan which details seedbed preparation, planting method, planting dates, and seeding rates.

During implementation



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- Evaluate any changes to the range planting plan to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.

After implementation

- Review actual planting date and seeding rates to determine if the enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

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



**OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT**

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

ACTIVITY E550A

Additional Documentation Requirements for Oregon

- In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E550A the following additional documentation requirements apply in Oregon
- Recommended a minimum of 3 species for the seeding mix that includes different structural and functional groups.
- Livestock will be excluded from new seedings until they are well established –typically 1 to 2 growing seasons after planting and should be documented with an Oregon Prescribed Grazing Specification (528).
- These seeding recommendations assume that the seedbed is clean, firm, and weed-free and that the seeding is performed with a drill. Broadcast seedings will require **twice** as much seed.
- Seedling density for a successful planting will be at least 3 seeded plants per square foot at the end of the second growing season after planting.

References include:

[Oregon – Washington Guide for Conservation Seedings and Plantings, 2000, USDA-NRCS](#)

[Intermountain Planting Guide](#)

[Grass, Grass-Like, Forb, Legume, and Woody Species for the Intermountain West](#)