



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

**E328D**

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Leave standing grain crops unharvested to benefit wildlife

Conservation Practice 328: Conservation Crop Rotation

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERN: ANIMALS

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

#### Enhancement Description

Implement a crop rotation which allows a portion of grain crops to be left in fields unharvested to provide food and cover for wildlife during winter months.

#### Criteria

- Crops must be grown in a planned sequence as outlined in the plan. The crop rotation shall include a minimum of three different crops. For this purpose, a cover crop is considered a different crop.
- Where applicable, plan suitable crop substitutions when the planned crop cannot be planted due to weather, soil conditions, or other local situations.
- Select the crops and crop management activities that provide food, cover, and shelter for the targeted wildlife species using an approved habitat evaluation procedure.
- Leave a minimum ½ acre of unharvested, standing grain crops for each 40 acres of cropland. Unharvested plots shall be located in a single location on the 40 acre unit and additional plots shall be located on different 40 acres. *This enhancement is to be planned, contracted, and implemented on an entire field, not just the unharvested acres.*

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- Locate the unharvested plots adjacent to permanent cover such as brushy fence rows, field borders, forest land, or wetlands (this does not include newly established vegetation).
- Leave unharvested crops standing over winter until it is time to prepare the soil for planting the next crop.





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## Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, provide NRCS with the planned crop rotation. *\*See Washington State Guidance.*

Field	Acres	Planned Crops (in sequence)	Length of Crop Rotation (years)

- Prior to implementation, develop a map showing planned location(s), crop type(s), and acreage of crops to be left unharvested.
- During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes in crops, crop rotation, or unharvested areas to verify the planned system meets the enhancement criteria.
- During implementation, take photos of all unharvested plots. Photos must indicate field location and date.
- After implementation, if changes to the rotation were made, complete the tables above to document the applied Conservation Crop Rotation for the contract period and provide to NRCS.
- After implementation, make a map showing implemented location(s), crop type(s), and acreage of crops that were left unharvested each year available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.
- After implementation, make photos of the unharvested plots available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

NRCS will:

- As needed, provide technical assistance in selecting crop rotations or substitute crops that would meet the criteria of the enhancement.
- As needed, provide technical assistance in selecting crops for food, cover, and shelter according to the approved habitat evaluation procedure.
- As needed, provide additional assistance to the participant as requested.



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- During implementation, evaluate planned crop changes, crop rotation, or unharvested areas to verify the planned system meets the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, review the map(s) showing implemented location(s), crop type(s), and acreage of crops that were left unharvested each year, to verify implementation of the enhancement.
- After implementation, review photos of unharvested plots 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 \_\_\_\_\_ Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



**WASHINGTON SUPPLEMENT TO  
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**CONSERVATION  
STEWARDSHIP  
PROGRAM**

**E328D**

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

- Prior to implementation, review documentation to verify a record of implementing Conservation Crop Rotation, meeting all NRCS CPS 328, Conservation Crop Rotation, general criteria. Verify records of existing Conservation Crop Rotation Implementation
- 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.
- 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. For planning unit ecological sites and forage suitability groups see bullet below.
- To assess benchmark pollinator habitat, use the **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/