



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E550A

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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.

E550A – Range planting for increasing /maintaining organic matter	January 2020	Page 1
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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

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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



WASHINGTON SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

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References for Washington Conservation Practice 550 (Range Planting) Enhancements

Range Planting References:

Range Planting (550) practice standard can be found in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section 4 – Practice Standards and Supporting Documents/Range Planting folder. <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/WA>

Ecological Sites for planning unit soils can be found by using the **Web Soil Survey** <https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/App/HomePage.htm>

Ecological Site Descriptions can be found in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section 2 /Ecological Site Descriptions/ESD-Archives (Reference Only) folder. <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/WA>

Appropriate plant species for this Enhancement can be found in the **Plant Materials Technical Note 1 Seeding Guide** in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section 1 /Reference Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Plant Materials <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/WA>

In depth information on **suitable range and pasture species** can be found in **Plant Materials Technical Note 2**, March 2011, Grass, Grass-Like, Forb, Legume, and Woody Species for the Intermountain West. This document is found in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section 1/References Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Plant Materials. <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/WA>

In depth information on **pasture species for the Intermountain West** can be found in **Plant Materials Technical Note 19**, November 2009, Pasture – Species Selection and Grazing Management Guidelines. This document is found in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section 1/References Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Plant Materials. <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/WA>

Planning and installation of range and pasture seedings can be found in **Range Technical Note 101** (August 2007) Eastern Washington Range and Pasture Seeding, Planning-



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Installation-Evaluation. This document is found in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) Section 1/References Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Range folder. <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/WA>

Wildlife References and WHEGs:

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 (FOTG) Section 1/References Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Biology folder. <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/details>

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.

Consult Biology Technical Note 24, **Plants for Pollinators in the Inland Northwest, Revised 2016** for appropriate plant species east of the Cascade Mts. and for guidance on establishing pollinator habitat, located in FOTG Section 1/Reference Lists/Technical Notes by Discipline/Biology. <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/WA>