



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E390B

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Increase riparian herbaceous cover width to enhance wildlife habitat

Conservation Practice 390: Riparian Herbaceous Cover

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

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 Years

Enhancement Description

Where an existing herbaceous riparian buffer is located along a river, stream, pond, lake, or other waterbody, increase the diversity of native species, control invasive species, install fencing and relocate equipment operations, trails, and livestock, and increase the width of the buffer.

Criteria

- Existing buffer width shall be at least 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater. Maximum enhancement buffer width may be increased up to the greater of 100 feet or the State-allowed maximum width.
- The management plan shall consider habitat and wildlife objectives such as habitat diversity, habitat linkages, daily and seasonal habitat ranges, limiting factors, and native plant communities.
- Select native species adapted to the site. Selected species should have multiple values such as those suited for biomass, wintering and nesting cover, aesthetics, forage value for aquatic invertebrates, and tolerance to locally used herbicides.

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- Density of the vegetative stand established shall be managed for targeted wildlife habitat requirements and shall encourage plant diversity. The location, layout and vegetative structure and composition of the buffer should complement natural features.
- Corridor configuration, establishment procedures and management should enhance habitats for threatened, endangered and other plant or animal species of concern, where applicable.
- Include forbs and legumes that provide pollen and nectar for native pollinators. Utilize a diverse mix of plant species that bloom at different times throughout the year.
- If mowing is necessary to maintain herbaceous cover it will occur outside the nesting and fawning season and allow for adequate re-growth for winter cover. To protect pollinators and maintain habitat with a diversity of plant structure, a third or less of the site should be disturbed (mowed, grazed, burned, etc.) each year, allowing for recolonization of pollinators from surrounding habitat.
- Harmful plant and animal pests present on the site will be controlled or eliminated as necessary to achieve and maintain the intended purpose. Pest management will be conducted in a manner that mitigates impacts to pollinators.
- Protect riparian vegetation by reducing or excluding haying and grazing until the desired plant community is well established, with grazing deferred for a minimum of two years.
- Control access of people, machinery, and livestock to the riparian zone with fencing.
- Design the expanded buffer enhancement for an expected life of at least 5 years.

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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, prepare the planned buffer area for vegetation establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390). (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)
- Prior to implementation, in areas that are highly disturbed and unlikely to have existing native seed in the soil, work closely with NRCS to select plant species that are adapted to your specific site. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Species	Species type (grass, legume, forb)	Rate (Lbs/Ac) PLS

- Prior to implementation, select planting technique and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Planting Date	
Planting Technique	
Seeding Depth	

- During implementation, grade the site, as needed, to eliminate concentrated flow through the buffer including that from uphill from the buffer.
- During implementation, conduct planting of selected species according to dates, techniques, depth, and other requirements listed in the plan.
- During implementation, install and maintain erosion control measures as needed, such as silt fencing and mulching.
- During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes to allow NRCS to verify that the changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, control harmful pests at the site, as necessary, and in a manner that mitigates impacts to pollinators.



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- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- During implementation, verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, verify the vegetation was established to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, verify the planting is protected from pests, has had limited haying, and that grazing is being excluded, if established less than two years.

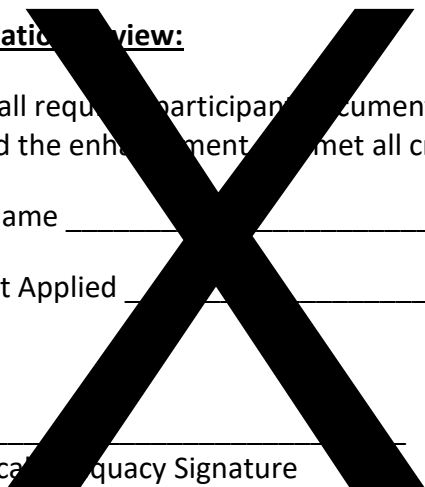
NRCS Documentation Review:

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 Assistance Signature Date



XXXXXXXXXX

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OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT

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Plant Guidance

Plants seeded or planted at the site should be suitable to the MLRA (ecoregion) and riparian habitat location. Planners should consult ecological site information (if available and using native plants) in determining plant selections. Origin of native plants or seeds used for enhancement should originate from the same MLRA as the enhancement location.

Refer to the following documents to help select suitable wildlife plants to seed or plant for expansion of an Herbaceous Riparian Buffer. Many plants that are good for pollinators are also good for other wildlife. Other plants not contained in these documents may be appropriate for use. For further recommendations in plant species selection for enhancements, please contact your Basin or State Biologist, or State Plant Materials Specialist.

Statewide

"Oregon & Washington Guide for Conservation Seedings and Plantings" at:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_042417.pdf

Oregon Plant Materials Technical Note Note 13 - Plants for Pollinators in Oregon. It can be downloaded at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_041919.pdf

Westside

Guide for using Willamette Valley plants along your streams:
<http://linnswcd.oacd.org/NativePlantGuide05.pdf>

V h t t p s : / / w w w . o r e g o n m e t r o . g o v / n a t i v e - p l a n t s - w i l l a m e t t e - v a l l e y - y a r d s - b o o k l e t
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/native-plants-willamette-valley-yards-booklet>

Oregon Plant Materials Technical Note 42 - Enhancements for Native Bees in Western Oregon and Washington Cranberry Production, located at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSCconsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd1342652&ext=pdf

