



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E645D

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Enhanced Wildlife Habitat Management for Upland Landscapes

**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 (Inadequate Fish & Wildlife Habitat)**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 1 years**

#### Enhancement Description

Enhance existing upland wildlife foraging, breeding or overwintering habitat (currently meeting minimum wildlife habitat planning criteria) for locally breeding and migratory wildlife species.

#### Criteria

- Appropriate locations for this enhancement will be provided by the NRCS State Office who will base locations on current distribution of the targeted species and potential expansion into adjacent habitat for the target species.
- Create a supplement to an existing Wildlife Habitat Management Plan listing management actions that will provide locally breeding or migratory wildlife species with enhanced foraging, breeding, or overwintering habitat. The supplement will identify management activities, locations where they will be applied, the amount in which they'll be applied and the time they will be applied to meet the targeted wildlife needs.
- Use a Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG), appropriate to target species and land use, to document that implementation of the Enhancement will improve wildlife habitat value above minimum planning criteria. The following may be used to meet this criterion:
  - [For circumstances where planning criteria for wildlife habitat is equal to 0.5] Post implementation, planning criteria for wildlife habitat is equal to or greater than 0.6.
  - [For circumstances where planning criteria for wildlife habitat is greater than 0.5] Post implementation, planning criteria for wildlife habitat increases at least 0.1.



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- States will apply general criteria from NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard (NCPS) Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) as well as additional criteria either already contained in the State’s Specification or determined by the NRCS State Office. Examples of State criteria are:
  - No nitroguanidine neonicotinoids (clothianidin, dinotefuran, imidacloprid, and thiamethoxam) will be applied in any manner to the acres covered by this enhancement.
  - No insecticides allowed from February 1 – September 30th or while resident plants are in bloom on cropland, orchard, or vineyards.
  - All existing or newly installed vertical pipes used for any purpose, will be capped (e.g., fence post construction, vents for irrigation or water storage, wildlife structure placement).
  - Disturbance to key migratory, nesting, rearing, or hiding locations are controlled, almost eliminated, when target wildlife species are using locations.
  - To assess efficacy and support adaptive management, contracted areas are monitored using NRCS State Office approved monitoring approaches.
- Operations and Maintenance actions will include:
  - Regular use of a WHEG to evaluate habitat conditions and to adapt the habitat management supplement and schedule of implementation if necessary. If planned habitat conditions do not materialize as expected explore additional alternatives to reach desired wildlife habitat conditions.
  - Follow all required Operations and Maintenance actions required by NCPS Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) and all facilitating practices planned/contracted to address the limiting habitat elements/ factors.
  - Annually inspect and repair structural or vegetative components associated with this enhancement.
- Use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals shall not compromise the habitat management objectives and will adhere to the State’s Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) specifications.
- Use criteria in other NRCS Conservation Practice Standards to facilitate the management of wetland wildlife habitat associated with the uplands as appropriate for the site.
- Depending on site conditions, facilitating practices may be used to implement this enhancement. The NRCS Conservation Practice Standards may include, but are not limited to: Wildlife Habitat Planting (Code 420), Hedgerow Planting (Code 422), Fence (Code 382), Restoration of Rare or Declining Plant Communities (Code 643), Field Border (Code 386),



Filter Strip (code 393), Grade Stabilization Structure (Code 410), Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390), Shallow Water Development and Management (Code 646), Stream Crossing (code 578), Structure for Water Control (Code 587).

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Documentation and Implementation Requirements

#### **Participant will:**

- Prior to implementation, review NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645), including any State approved implementation requirements, job sheets or work sheets.
- Prior to implementation, provide NRCS with any relevant information related to onsite operations and management for inclusion in the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.
- Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to review results of wildlife habitat assessment conducted by NRCS and discuss range of management alternatives that would improve wildlife habitat conditions.
- Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to obtain and review Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.
- During implementation, follow the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.
- During implementation, maintain field log to include:
  - Date/time of each field visit and document any required monitoring activities from the supplement
  - Digital photographs to document habitat provided through the management actions intended to reduce the impacts of human disturbance.
- After implementation, provide the field log to NRCS for review to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

#### **NRCS will:**

- As needed, provide additional technical assistance to the participant.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain State NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.



# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Prior to implementation, assess habitat condition using Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide to calculate current WHEG score and anticipated WHEG score after implementation of Enhancement; **Existing WHEG score = \_\_\_\_\_ Planned Post Implementation WHEG score = \_\_\_\_\_.**
- Prior to implementation, review results of wildlife habitat evaluation with participant and discuss range of management alternatives that would improve wildlife habitat conditions.
- Prior to implementation, develop Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for wildlife habitat on land type for targeted suite of species using those habitats.
- Prior to implementation, review and explain the Wildlife Habitat Management Plan to the participant.
- After implementation, reassess habitat condition using the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide; **Post Implementation WHEG score = \_\_\_\_\_.**
- After implementation, review field log to verify 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 ACTIVITY E645D

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

## Additional Documentation Requirements for Oregon

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E645D, the following additional documentation requirements apply in Oregon:

1. Use an Oregon Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide to determine general habitat condition before and after implementation of the enhancement.  
[eFOTG: Section 3: Oregon Conservation Planning Documents: Wildlife Habitat Inventory Documents](#)
2. Using the Oregon Conservation Strategy, identify the priority habitat type or types and priority wildlife species that this Wildlife Habitat Management Plan will address.

[Oregon Conservation Strategy Species](#)

[Oregon Conservation Strategy Habitats](#)

Priority Wildlife Species	

Priority Habitat(s)	

## Additional Implementation Guidance

1. Practices should be planned on the entire field (PLU) or multiple if the plan requires it. In the Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) practice specification, document how this enhancement will maintain or enhance the habitat.

**Design Approvals & Acknowledgements:**

Design Approval	Date	Job Approval Authority
Designed by:		
Approved by:		

**Client's Acknowledgement Statement:**

The client acknowledges:

- I have received a copy of the specification and understand the contents and requirements.
- It is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.
- I will not begin installation of this practice until I have received appropriate approval to do so. I understand NRCS also has Federal and state laws to comply with that may take some time to address (e.g. cultural resources).

Client's Signature	Date

**Certification Documentation:**

	Field Evaluation: Post-treatment inventory, measurements, notes, as-built, and supporting documentation (document completion in conservation plan), as required.
	Map(s): Including field numbers, fields treated, and units treated (may document on conservation plan map), as required.
	Photos or other supporting documentation (e.g., seed tags, soil tests, receipts, invoices, spray records, fertilizer records, etc.)
Brief Description of Work Accomplished (types of equipment used, date of application, extents and quantities installed, etc.)	

**Certification Statement:**

The employee certifies the implementation of this conservation practice:

- Meets the purpose, general criteria, and any required additional criteria as documented in the conservation practice standard and/or enhancement sheet.
- Meets the specifications contained herein and is complete.
- Conforms to my existing Job Approval Authority controlling factors and levels.

Name	Date	Job Approval Authority

<b>Field Level Certification</b> – For multiple applications of this design.				
Land Unit/ Contract Item Number	Date	Unit(s)	Amount Installed	Certifier