



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E647C

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Maintain most soil vegetation on cropland edges to enhance waterfowl and shorebird habitat

Conservation Practice 647: Early Successional Habitat Development /Management

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed)

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Animal

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 year

Enhancement Description:

The wetter or more water saturated portions of cropland fields such as areas adjacent to field drains, have the potential to produce a significant amount of moist soil plants which are a tremendously valuable source of forage and cover for many waterfowl, shorebird and wading bird species, especially during a period when such plants may be limited. Under normal cropland production, the native vegetation is restricted on these sites through mechanical and/or chemical control. These maintained moist soil plants also will provide filtering and improve water quality.

Criteria:

This enhancement applies to cropland acres on soils that are hydric and/or significantly water saturated during the growing season and are located on the low side or down slope portion of a field that receives hydrologic surface flow from the remainder of the field. Surface flow could be a result of irrigation or rainfall. Selected areas should be capable of being flooded using a water control structure or other means.

- Develop a habitat management plan targeting waterfowl, shore birds and wading birds for the area enrolled under this enhancement.

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- Maintain naturally occurring vegetation on the appropriate, selected area (minimum 20 feet wide and 500 feet long) to provide forage and cover for waterfowl, shorebirds and wading birds.
- Manipulation (light disking, burning, mowing, or rolling) of the selected area will be allowed during early fall to increase attractiveness and use by targeted species. Otherwise, all mechanical disturbance and chemical treatments shall be excluded from the selected area and care should be taken to ensure that the area is not impacted by agricultural operations in the adjacent crop.
- Control of invasive species may be allowed with approval from local NRCS staff.
- A Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) specific to shallow water habitat on cropland must be used to show that implementation of the Enhancement will improve wildlife habitat value from fair (planning criteria = 0.5) to good (planning criteria greater than 0.5 and less than or equal to 0.6) or from good to very good (planning criteria greater than 0.6).



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements:

Participant Will:

- 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 Wildlife Habitat Management Plan.
- During implementation, maintain field log to include:
 - Crops grown and the harvest date for the crops grown on the applicable acres;
 - Date/time and description of all habitat management actions taken;
 - Digital photographs documenting the condition of the habitat provided
- 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, verify this enhancement will be applied to crop acres on soils that are hydric and/or significantly water saturated during the growing season and are located on the low side or down slope portion of a field that receives hydrologic surface flow from the remainder of the field. Surface flow could be a result of irrigation or rainfall. Selected areas should be capable of being flooded through the use of a water control structure or other means.
- 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 targeted suite of species
- Prior to implementation, meet with participant to review Wildlife Habitat Management Plan

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- After implementation, reassess habitat condition using 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

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Additional Documentation Requirements for Oregon

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E647C, the following additional documentation requirements apply in Oregon:

1. Use the SONEC Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) located in the eFTOG. Though it was designed for the southern region of the state, it can be applied as needed for the purpose of this enhancement. Direct any questions regarding the use of the WHEG to your Basin or State biologist.

[eFTOG: Section 3: Oregon Conservation Planning Documents: Wildlife Habitat Inventory Documents](#)

Present WHEG Score: _____

Planned WHEG Score: _____

Document in the practice specification how this enhancement will maintain or enhance the habitat for the identified wildlife species.

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

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