



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E315A

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Herbaceous weed treatment to create desired plant communities consistent with the ecological site

#### CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 315 - Herbaceous Weed Treatment

**APPLICABLE LAND USE:** Pasture, Range, Forest, Associated Ag Land

**RESOURCE CONCERN:** Plant, Wildlife

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN:** 5 years

#### Enhancement Description

Mechanical, chemical, or biological, herbaceous weed treatment will be used to control targeted, herbaceous weeds to create, release, or restore desired plant communities that are consistent with achievable, ecological site, steady state descriptions.

#### Criteria

- Herbaceous weed treatment will be applied to achieve the recorded desired level of control of the target weed species and protect the recorded desired species within the plant community. NRCS will not develop biological or chemical recommendations except biological control by grazing animals.
- Ecological site description (ESD), state and transition models will be employed in development of treatment specifications that are ecologically sound and defensible. The treatments must be congruent with dynamics of the ecological site(s) and keyed to state and plant community phases that have the potential for supporting the desired plant community. If an ESD is not available, base specifications on the best approximation of the desired plant community composition, structure, and function.
- Herbaceous weed treatment will include post treatment measures as needed to achieve the recorded resource management objectives.



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- Treatment periods will accommodate reproduction and other life-cycle requirements of target recorded wildlife and/or pollinator species, and the resultant plant community will enhance the plant community composition and structure to meet their needs.
- Treatments will be conducted when target weed species are most vulnerable and will promote restoration of the desired plant communities.
- When herbicides are used, environmental hazards and site-specific application criteria listed on the pesticide label must be followed.
- Access to treated or targeted area will be controlled based on management methods applied and restrictions as listed on chemical labels.

### Documentation and Implementation Requirements

#### Participant will:

- ☐ Prior to implementation, obtain an appropriate management plan based upon land use where this enhancement is planned. The plan will be based on NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Prescribed Grazing (Code 528), Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666), or Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645). The management plan must identify desired plant community composition, structure, and function. The management strategy must complement NRCS Conservation Practice Standards Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) in supporting upward trends. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)
- ☐ Prior to implementation, develop a map indicating areas to be treated as a part of the management plan.
- ☐ During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.
- ☐ During implementation, keep records of all treatments, including application method, timing, and amount applied as recommended by NRCS. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315).



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Treatment Date	
Treatment Method	
Amount Applied (acres)	

- ☐ During implementation, develop a map indicating treated areas.
- ☐ After implementation, make the following records and documents available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement:
  - Monitoring data records associated with management plan that measures trend toward desired plant community.
  - Treatment records including timing, application method and amount (acres) applied.

### NRCS will:

- ☐ Prior to implementation and as needed, NRCS will provide technical assistance.
- ☐ Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- ☐ Prior to implementation, provide and explain (depending on land use where the enhancement will be implemented) NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Prescribed Grazing (Code 528), Forest Stand Improvement (Code 666), or Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) as they relate to implementing this enhancement.
- ☐ Prior to implementation, provide assistance as needed in the development of the management plan or completing state specific job sheet for NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Herbaceous Weed Treatment (Code 315) to treat targeted species.
- ☐ During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.



- ☐ After implementation, review documentation and records to verify implementation of the enhancement.

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### 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

**CSP 2023**  
**Mississippi Supplement**  
**E315A**

**Herbaceous weed treatment that helps create desired plant communities and habitats consistent with the ecological site**

**Documentation Requirements:**

- Participant must be provided with attached **implementation requirement documents** (as appropriate for the land use and targeted species): MS-ECS-315-01(IR) should also be provided to the participant. The participant should additionally be provided either MS-ECS-315-02(IR) for Kudzu or MS-ECS-315-03(IR) for Cogongrass, if either one of these species is targeted to be treated. This enhancement does not apply to treatment of herbaceous weeds by prescribed fire. However chemical herbicide treatments may be implemented in combination with other practices such as prescribed burning, practice code 338, or light strip disking, practice code 647, to release and improve species diversity of highly desirable vegetation to benefit wildlife. Refer to those specific practices for additional guidance. Mowing of woody vegetation alone is not an approved practice for this enhancement. However, mowing may be allowed as needed to prepare sites for necessary herbicide applications, strip-disking, etc. Mowing may also be used as a follow up treatment to remove standing dead woody debris.
- Records of applied treatments (pesticide used, rate applied, timing, etc.) - follow all herbicide label directions and restrictions relating to rates, timing and setbacks to insure control while reducing the possibilities of pesticides polluting surface and ground waters or affecting non-target species. Follow all rates and use recommendations found in the current Mississippi State University Extension Service's (MCES/MAFES) pesticide application guides, identify pest species properly, select proper methods, calibrate application equipment, and store/dispose of containers in a safe manner.
- Site specific WIN-PST evaluations will be conducted to identify measures to minimize/mitigate effects of herbicides. WIN-PST results will be documented in the conservation plan case file and also provided to the landowner in order to implement any required set back areas or mitigation requirements.
- The desired habitat type, structure, and composition of enhancement area (open grassland, grassland with shrub patches, openings in forest, pine forest, hardwood forest, or mixed forest) and the desired wildlife and/or pollinator species targeted for habitat management in the enhancement area will be clearly identified. Targeted species may be listed as "general local upland wildlife species" or as a specific local wildlife species of concern for the state, or N/A (for wildlife not a resource concern) whichever the landowner chooses to select (must list target species name or N/A in the attached job sheet/specification sheet).
- Practices will not be implemented during the primary nesting season of April 1 through August 15.