



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E327C

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Wildlife habitat for nesting and brooding on non-cropped areas

Conservation Practice 327: Conservation Cover

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 Years

Enhancement Description

Grass and legume mixtures provide refuge areas for nesting, brood rearing and winter survival of wildlife in non-cropped areas.

Criteria

- Plant species, seedbed preparation, seeding rates, seeding dates, seeding depths, fertility requirements, and planting methods will be consistent with applicable local criteria and soil/site conditions **(REFER TO STATE SPECIFIC LISTS)**.
- Select a minimum of 2 species of grass and 3 legumes or forbs that will provide wildlife habitat and food.
- Inoculate all legumes with the appropriate rhizobia bacteria as available before planting.
- Do not disturb cover during the primary nesting/fawning season **(REFER TO STATE SPECIFIC DATES)**.
- Create non-linear edges, when possible, to increase the value of the conservation cover plant near other habitats, like wetlands, woodlands or pollinator habitats.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements:

NRCS and Participant will:

- ☐ Prior to implementation, discuss State criteria for wildlife habitat that must be followed and the control of disturbance of the conservation cover during primary nesting/fawning seasons.
- ☐ Revise or develop a plan map showing the location of existing habitat areas, if applicable.
- ☐ Inventory existing stand plant species.

Participant will:

- ☐ Make decisions on new plant species both grasses and legumes to add.
- ☐ During implementation, purchase specified seed mix or plant materials that meet the planting requirements provided by NRCS.
- ☐ During implementation, follow habitat establishment guidance provided by NRCS in the state specifications for NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Conservation Cover (Code 327).
- ☐ After implementation, provide a list of management and/or maintenance activities carried out to manage the habitat areas and the dates on which those activities occurred.
- ☐ After implementation, take photographs as documentation of habitat condition.
- ☐ Provide seed tags or receipts showing the quantity and quality of seed purchased.

NRCS will:

- ☐ After implementation, verify successful establishment by review of seed tags, record of planting date, management activities and/or disturbances, and photographs.



**IDAHO SUPPLEMENT TO
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Additional Documentation Requirements

General nesting/fawning dates in Idaho are April 1 - August 15.

Plant Guidance

Plant selection can include grasses, grass/legumes, or forbs, particularly with upright, stiff structure to trap water/wind-borne soil particles. Plant species should be suitable to the ecoregion, habitat location (e.g. wet/dry, sun/shade), and this enhancement.

Refer to the following links to help select suitable plants to seed or plant. Other species not listed in these documents may be appropriate for use. For further recommendations in plant species selection for enhancements, please contact your Regional or State Agronomist or Biologist.

Idaho Plant Materials Technical Note No. 24 Conservation Plant Species for the Intermountain West (2023 revision) <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/idpmctn14002.pdf>

Idaho Plant Materials Technical Note 5 Using the Appropriate Legume Inoculant for Conservation Plantings. <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/idpmctn13818.pdf>

Improved Grasses and Legumes for Idaho
<https://greatbasinseeds.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/hallmark.pdf?srsltid=AfmBOop3VSPA0EvfkKSlcfoNfDpo0CneXanmzcVGc5HFyLMyyms23BmB>



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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