



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E386D

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Enhanced field borders to increase food for pollinators along the edge(s) of a field

Conservation Practice 386: Field Border

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial);
Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 10 years

Enhancement Description:

Enhance existing field borders to a width of at least 40 feet and establish a mixture of species that provide food for pollinators along the edge(s) of the field.

Criteria:

- Field borders shall be established along selected field edges at a width of at least 40 feet.
- Locate borders to eliminate sloping end rows, headlands, and other areas where concentrated water flows will enter or exit the field.
- Field borders shall be established to a mixture adapted species of permanent grass, forbs and/or shrubs that accomplish the design objective.
- **The NRCS at the state level will develop lists of plants suitable for pollinator habitat. The lists must emphasize as many native species as practical.**
- Plants selected for field borders will have the physical characteristics necessary to produce pollen during multiple seasons.



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- No plant listed by the state as a noxious or invasive species shall be established in the field border.
- Seedbed preparation, seeding rates, dates, depths, fertility requirements, and planting methods will be consistent with approved local criteria and site conditions.
- Ephemeral gullies and rills present in the planned border area will be eliminated as part of seedbed preparation. If present, ephemeral gullies and rills located immediately upslope from the planned border area need to be treated to ensure more of a sheet flow into the planned border area.
- Operation and maintenance requirements:
 - Repair storm damage.
 - Remove sediment from above, within and along the leading edge of the field border when accumulated sediment either alters the function of the field border or threatens the degradation of the planted species.
 - Shut off sprayers and raise tillage equipment to avoid damage to field borders.
 - Shape and reseed border areas damaged by animals, chemicals, tillage, or equipment traffic.
 - Do not use the field border as a hay yard or machinery parking lot for any extended period of time, especially if doing so will damage or impair the function of the field border.
 - Schedule mowing, harvest, weed control, and other management activities within the field border to accommodate reproduction and other life cycle requirements of target wildlife species. Vehicle traffic should be avoided in the field border area.
 - Maintain desired vegetative communities and plant vigor by liming, fertilizing, mowing, disking, or burning and controlling noxious and invasive weeds to sustain effectiveness of the border.
 - Repair and reseed ephemeral gullies and rills that develop in the border.
 - When managing for wildlife, maintenance activities that result in disturbance of vegetation should not be conducted during the primary nesting, fawning



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and calving seasons. Activities should be timed to allow for regrowth before the growing season ends whenever possible.

- Periodic removal of some products such as medicinal herbs, nuts, and fruits is permitted provided the conservation purpose is not compromised by the loss of vegetation or harvesting disturbance.
- Avoid vehicle traffic when soil moisture conditions are saturated.
- Maintain records of the field border maintenance as needed by the land user.



Documentation and Implementation Requirements:

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Participant will:

- ☐ Prior to implementation, prepare the planned acres for vegetation establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Field Border (Code 386). (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.) Total planned amount of field border extension = _____ feet
- ☐ Prior to implementation, select adapted species of permanent grass, forbs and/or shrubs that accomplish the design objective and are best suited to site conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Species	Seeding Rate (lb/ac pure live seed)	Note specific species characteristic(s)

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

Planting Date	
Planting Technique	
Lime and Fertilizer Requirements	

- ☐ During implementation, install and maintain erosion control measures as needed for the site. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)
- ☐ During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.
- ☐ During implementation, protect the planting from plant and animal pests and fire.
- ☐ After implementation, maintain and protect the planting from plant and animal pests and fire.



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- ☐ After implementation, verify the total amount of field border implemented. Total implemented amount of field border extension = _____ feet

NRCS will:

- ☐ Prior to implementation, verify the enhancement is planned within the field(s) or farm boundary.
- ☐ Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Field Border (Code 386) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- ☐ Prior to implementation, verify the enhancement is planned for acres that have been appropriately prepared for vegetation establishment. Total planned amount of field border extension = _____ feet
- ☐ Prior to implementation, verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included.
- ☐ As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:
 - Planning site preparation meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Field Border (Code 386).
 - Selecting the adapted species of permanent grass, forbs and/or shrubs that accomplish the design objective and are best suited to site conditions.
 - Selecting planting techniques and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
 - Planning the use of additional erosion control, as needed for the site.
 - Preparing specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved state implementation requirements, national technical notes, appropriate state technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- ☐ During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.



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- ☐ After implementation, verify the vegetation was established to specifications developed for the site.
- ☐ After implementation, verify the planting is protected from pests and fire.
- ☐ After implementation, verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications developed for the site.
- ☐ After implementation, verify the total amount of field border implemented. Total implemented amount of field border extension = _____ feet

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 _____

Sign and Certify in Oregon Supplement below

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OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT

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Additional Documentation Requirements and Information for Oregon

If the base practice (386) is being contracted and paid for along with the enhancement, complete an Oregon 386 IR for the project, indicating species and quantities to be seeded/planted. If the base practice has been completed or the site has been inventoried and found to meet or lack specifications, the planner should document this information (such as an IR from a previous contract, WHEG, or some other form of documentation/inventory).

- For Pollinator Habitat Enhancement, use the Pollinator Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) to determine pre- and post-enhancement condition at Oregon: Section 3: Oregon Conservation Planning Documents: Wildlife Habitat Inventory Documents: Pollinator WHEG: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/OR/documents/section=3&folder=65311>
- The post-project score should be at least 50% of the total maximum available score after treatment, using the Pollinator WHEG.
- Enhancement parameters should target addition/augmentation with plant species that address a period of inadequate bloom (nectar and/or pollen) or other resources (i.e. nesting habitat) as identified by the WHEG.
- Document (WHEG and narrative) how this enhancement will maintain or enhance the habitat for the pollinators and/or beneficial insects.
- Direct any additional questions to your Basin or State Wildlife Biologist or the State Plant Materials Specialist.

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 seeded or planted at the site should be suitable to the MLRA (ecoregion) and habitat location (e.g. wet/dry, sun/shade). Native plants or seeds used for this enhancement should originate from the same MLRA (or similar climate) as the enhancement location.

Refer to the following documents to help select suitable plants to seed or plant. Other species not contained in these documents may be appropriate for use. For further recommendations in plant species selection for enhancements, please confer with your Basin or State Biologist or the Plant Material Specialist.

Oregon Plant Materials Technical Note 13 - Plants for Pollinators in Oregon. It can be downloaded at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/orpmstn7451.pdf>

Eastern Oregon

[Idaho Plant Materials Technical Note No. 24. Conservation Plant Species for the Intermountain West](#)

For MLRAs 6, 7 and 8, refer to: 327 OR GD - <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/OR/documents/section=4&folder=-42>

Western Oregon

For MLRAs 1, 2, 4, and 5, refer to: 420 OR OTH Wildlife Habitat Planting files - <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/OR/documents/section=4&folder=-270>

Oregon Plant Materials Tech Note 42- Enhancements for Native Bees in Western Oregon and Washington Cranberry Production.

located at: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/OR/PMC42.pdf>

Seed and Plant Vendors - places to find plants

Oregon Plant Material Technical Note No. 9 – “Plant and Seed Vendors for Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Northwest California”

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/plantmaterials/orpmctn9149.pdf>

To be released soon - Oregon Flora Project Website – Gardening Portal – Nurseries that supply native plants: <https://oregonflora.org/garden/>

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	Date
Signature	

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