



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

**E314133Z**

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Brush management for improved structure and composition

#### Conservation Practice 314: Brush Management

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range, Pasture, Forest**

**RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Degraded Plant Condition**

**PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 10 Years**

#### Enhancement Description

Brush management is employed to create a desired plant community, consistent with the related ecological site steady state, which will maintain or enhance the wildlife habitat desired for the identified wildlife species. It will be designed to provide plant structure, density and diversity needed to meet those habitat objectives. This enhancement does not apply to removal of woody vegetation by prescribed fire or removal of woody vegetation to facilitate a land use change.

#### Criteria

- Identify species of concern in the objectives of the brush management enhancement activity.
- This enhancement will be applied in a manner to achieve the desired control of the target woody species while protecting the desired species through mechanical, chemical, or biological methods alone or in combination. NRCS will not develop biological or chemical treatment recommendations except for biological control using grazing animals. NRCS may provide clients with acceptable biological and/or chemical control references.
- Brush management activities will be planned and applied in a manner to meet the habitat requirements for wildlife species of concern as determined by the state's NRCS Wildlife Habitation Evaluation Guide (WHEG) and will be managed to achieve or maintain a value of 0.75 or greater.



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- Brush management activities will be designed to achieve the desired plant community based on desired plant species composition, structure, density, and canopy (or foliar) cover or height.
- Treatment activities will be conducted during periods of the year that accommodate reproduction and other life-cycle requirements of the targeted wildlife and pollinator species.

### **Documentation Requirements**

- Brush management and grazing management plans that clearly identify the wildlife species of concern for the area.
- Completion of the state specific brush management (CPS 314) job sheet for the specific site or farm.
- Records of applied treatments (pesticide used, rate applied, timing, etc.) Grazing records must support the label requirements for re-entry or grazing restrictions when applicable.
- WHEG evaluation must be completed before implementation and after implementation of this enhancement. Minimum WHEG value after implementation must be 0.75 or greater.
- Map(s) delineating the area that will be treated.