



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E315133Z

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Herbaceous weed control (for inadequate structure and composition) that helps create desired plant communities and habitats consistent with the ecological site

Conservation Practice 315: Herbaceous Weed Control

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range; Forest

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Degraded Plant Condition

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

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

Criteria

- Herbaceous weed control will be applied to achieve the recorded desired level of control of the target 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.



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- Treatment periods will accommodate reproduction and other life-cycle requirements of target (recorded) wildlife and pollinator species, and the resultant plant community will enhance the plant community composition and structure to meet their needs.
- Herbaceous weed control will include post treatment measures as needed to achieve recorded resource management objectives.
- 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 target area will be controlled based on management methods applied and restrictions as listed on chemical labels.

Documentation Requirements

- Ecological Site Description is provided or Reference Sheet will be completed specifying the desired, plant community composition, structure, and function.
- Site specific NRCS job sheet will be completed with target plant species and desired level of control, and target wildlife or pollinator species. Job sheet will be signed when complete.