



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E381137Z

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Silvopasture for wildlife habitat (cover and shelter)

Conservation Practice 381: Silvopasture Establishment

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 15 years

Enhancement Description

Establishing a combination of trees or shrubs and compatible forages on the same acreage, providing forage for livestock and the production of wood products, and including a purpose of enhancing wildlife cover and shelter.

Criteria

- Tree species and forage species must be adapted to the site and compatible with the planned management of the site.
- No plants on the federal or state noxious weeds list shall be planted.
- Where trees will be added to existing pasture, site preparation should be based on existing vegetation and soil conditions. Trees will be planted at an appropriate density to allow acceptable forage production and wood products. For existing forests, remove a sufficient number of trees and/or prune existing trees to allow adequate light penetration for forage establishment.
- If pesticides are used, label recommendations will be followed.
- Only viable, high quality and adapted planting stock or seed will be used.



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- Plant nutrients and/or soil amendments for establishment purposes will be applied according to a current soil test. Legume seed will be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper viable strain of Rhizobia immediately before planting.
- Establish forage species and understory shrubs that will provide forage, browse, seed, cover, shelter, or nesting habitat for the wildlife species of concern. For additional guidance refer to Upland Wildlife Habitat Management CPS 645.
- Favor herbaceous seed mixes that include a diverse mix of native forbs and/or legumes to benefit wildlife including pollinators.
- Plantings will be protected from grazing until an adequate stand is established and meets the species specific, local standard for beginning grazing.

Documentation Requirements

- Documentation of seed (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or amendments purchased.
- Completed forage balance sheet for farm/ranch and grazing records.
- The state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) as completed and certified by an NRCS or partner wildlife biologist. Wildlife species of concern for the silvopastoral area will be specified on the WHEG. Total WHEG score after installation will equal 0.75 or greater.