



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E550136Z

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Range planting for improving forage, browse, or cover for wildlife

Conservation Practice 550: Range Planting

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife – Inadequate Habitat

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Establishment of adapted perennial or self-sustaining vegetation such as grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees for the purpose of improving forage, browse, or cover for wildlife on areas that have been degraded beyond recovery via ecological principles, or old crop fields and pastures devoid of desirable, native rangeland species that fit within an ecological site description steady state.

Criteria

- Specified species and cultivars or varieties, planting rates, dates, and methods shall be consistent with Plant Materials Center, research institution, or agency demonstration trials, local laws and/or regulations, management objectives, and adapted to the site. Plant materials/seed selected will be compatible with desired ecological site descriptions (or their substitutive documentation from the FOTG) steady states.
- Seedbed preparation and planting methods will be suitable to meet any special needs for obtaining an acceptable establishment of planted materials, and provide adequate cover for erosion control within an acceptable time frame.
- Recommended planting depths, hydrologic conditions, dates, rates, soil amendments at planting, seed quality requirements, and management during establishment (weed control and/or deferment) shall be followed in order to enhance establishment success.



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- The plant species, cultivars or varieties selected will be deep rooted, perennial plants that meet the cover, forage, browse, nectar, and palatability requirements for the intended wildlife species (this may include such target species as rangeland birds, ungulates, pollinator insects and non-pollinator insects such as Monarch butterfly as geographically and ecologically relevant).
- Plant species will be selected and planted in a designed manner that will meet some of the life history requirements of the wildlife species of concern.

Documentation Requirements

- Ecological Site Description is provided or Reference Sheet that outlines the best approximation of the desired plant community composition, structure, and function (if the ESD is not available) and documentation provided that defines the planned plant community.
- Site specific Job Sheet that describes the wildlife species of concern, plant materials selected, planting depths, dates, and methods of establishment. Follow-up documentation that outlines the procedures followed during the establishment phase, and the percentage success of the plantings must be provided.