

Conservation Practice Effects

Herbaceous Weed Control (Ac) 315

Definition: The removal or control of herbaceous weeds including invasive, noxious and prohibited plants.

Major Resource Concerns Addressed: Annual grass control, plant productivity, wildlife habitat, livestock forage.

Benchmark Condition: Invasive annual grasses on rangeland causing significant reduction in forage productivity and wildlife habitat.

Date: July, 2016 **Developer/Location:** Lorraine Vogt, NRCS-DC, John Day , OR



Annual grass infested site.



Perennial grass site.

Positive Effects	Negative Effects
<p>Soil</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheet, rill, wind, gully erosion is reduced with increased health, vigor and cover of desirable plant species. • Improved soil health with permanent cover. <p>Water</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced nutrients and sediment in surface water with improved ground cover reducing overland flow. • Improved water infiltration. <p>Air</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive long-term carbon sequestration effect from weed management. <p>Plants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weed removal increases desirable plant community health, vigor and biodiversity. 	<p>Land</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerial spraying will not damage cultural resources. • Land could be utilized more intensely. <p>Capital</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No additional field equipment required. • Treatment costs (contract aerial applicator, chemical, grazing plan). • Annual operation and maintenance costs may include spot treatment for reinvading weeds. • Significant up-front investment and cash-flow concerns. <p>Labor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional time controlling weeds. <p>Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in livestock grazing plan and field scouting.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or improve forage productivity and grazing opportunities. • Reduced wildfire hazard and fuel loadings. <p>Animals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved composition, structure, amount and availability of plants for food. • Improved fish and wildlife cover/shelter and habitat. • Increased production of forage that meets nutritional and productive needs for livestock. • Improved livestock health by reducing puncture wounds from annual grass awns. <p>Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. <p>Human</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in livestock yields due to reduced weed competition. • Reduced time managing unwanted invasive annual grasses. • Increase yields/reduced costs as land becomes more productive. • Create sustainability of natural resources that support livestock operation. • Increase the property value (real estate) of your property. • Improve habitat for wildlife. • Conserve soil and water for periods of drought and future use. • Prevent off-site negative impacts. • Promote family health and safety. • Make land more attractive and promote good stewardship. • Increased profitability in the long run. 	<p>Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herbicides may be used to control vegetation (see WinPST documentation). • Forbs and non-target plant species may be negatively impacted.
<p><u>Net Effect:</u> Improved plant productivity and farm enterprise opportunities at a low cost.</p>	

Commonly Associated Practices: Critical Area Planting, Conservation Cover, Early Successional Habitat Development/Mgt., Forage Harvest Management, Integrated Pest Management, Brush Management, Woody Residue Treatment, Prescribed Burning, Prescribed Grazing, Range Planting, Upland Wildlife Habitat Management.