



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

ENHANCEMENT 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 and brush species favored or disfavored 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

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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.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to complete Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) evaluation at the site.
- Prior to implementation, determine and write down clear objectives for brush management and implementation of this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, develop a map delineating the areas to be treated and enrolled in this enhancement.
- During implementation, maintain records of applied treatments (pesticide used, rate applied, timing, etc.) and grazing. The records must support the label requirements for re-entry or grazing restrictions when applicable.
- After implementation, reassess habitat condition with NRCS using the WHEG.
- After implementation, provide records for review by NRCS to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, confirm brush management and grazing management plan objectives clearly identify the wildlife of concern for the area.
- Prior to implementation, meet with participant to complete WHEG evaluation at the site.

Existing WHEG score = _____ Planned Post Implementation WHEG score = _____

- Prior to implementation, NRCS will make cover or density measurements at georeferenced transects on key areas.
- After implementation, NRCS will return to georeferenced area to measure cover or density and report the results.
- After implementation, review records to verify participant implemented enhancement to meet criteria.
- After implementation, reassess habitat condition using the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide.

Post Implementation WHEG score = _____

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NRCS Documentation Review:

I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date

