



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E512136Z1- Colorado

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Establish pollinator and/or beneficial insect habitat

Conservation Practice 512: Forage and Biomass Planting

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture

RESOURCE CONCERN ADDRESSED: Fish & Wildlife Inadequate Habitat

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species that can provide nectar for pollinators and forage and other habitat values for wildlife and livestock, particularly at times when targeted nectar, forage supply and quality, cover, and shelter are not available in other pastures.

Criteria

- Select native, perennial, grass/forb/legume plant species and their cultivars based on climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects, that meet the nectar needs of specified, pollinating insects at times when they will be present and foraging. These plants need to also provide forage or other habitat values for wildlife and livestock.
- Recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths, and dates from land grant universities (LGU), plant materials program, extension agencies, or agency field trials will be followed.
- Seeding medium that does not restrict plant emergence will be provided, and planting will take place when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.
- Federal, state, or local noxious species will not be planted.



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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.
- Plants will be selected that help meet nectar requirements for specified pollinators during times that normal farm/ranch forage production is inadequate. Plant selection will help to increase scores on the state's approved NRCS habitat evaluation procedure for pollinators. The Colorado Pollinator WHEG is in the CO Biology Technical Note No. 40.



Documentation and Implementation Requirements

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Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, select a perennial forage species or grassland mixture for establishment. If livestock are included in the system, forage species selected will meet the desired level of nutrition for the kind and class of the livestock to be fed. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Species	Forage category (grass, legume, forb)

- Prior to implementation, select planting technique, seeding rates and timing appropriate for the site and climatic conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Planting date	
Planting method	
Seeding rate	

- If livestock are included in the system, prior to implementation a grazing plan must be developed to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for plants to recover before re-grazing occurs.



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- During implementation, keep the following documentation:
 - Records and photographs of planting preparation and any materials purchased or materials on hand used for the implementation of the enhancement.
 - Documentation of seed (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or soil amendments used for the implementation of the enhancement.
 - If livestock are included in the grazing system, documentation and photographs of turn in/turn out grazing records for each field.
- During implementation, if livestock are included in the grazing system, in areas where animals congregate, establish persistent species that can tolerate close grazing and trampling.
- After implementation, make the forage planting and grazing records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, complete the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG). **Target Pollinator Species:** _____
Current WHEG score before implementation: _____
PLANNED WHEG score after implementation: _____
- As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:
 - Planning site preparation and establishment specifications meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Forage and Biomass Planting (Code 512).
 - Prepare specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
 - If livestock are included in the system, develop a grazing plan to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.



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- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meets the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, verify the planned perennial grassland mixture was established to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, complete the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG). **WHEG score after implementation:** _____

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

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