Reduction of attractants to human-subsidized predators in sensitive wildlife species habitat

Conservation Practice 645: Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial); Pasture; Range; Forest; Associated Ag Land; Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

Reduction of artificial perching sites, nest sites, food, and water available to subsidized predators in areas where human-subsidized predators are a threat to sensitive wildlife species. Human-subsidized predators may include ravens, crows, magpies, coyotes, foxes, skunks, raccoons, and other species. Activities under this enhancement may include removal of non-native or invasive trees; removal of unused power poles, corrals, windmills, buildings, and other vertical structures; and/or removal or management of watering facilities, dead livestock, road kill, garbage, animal feed, dumps, and other non-natural food sources.

Criteria

- Identify the targeted sensitive wildlife species.
- Identify the subsidized predator(s).
- Coordinate planned activities with a NRCS or partner biologist.
  - Coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Wildlife Agency may be required.
• Treat only artificial, human caused attractants.
  o This activity shall not be used to remove or modify natural water sources, natural perching and nesting sites, or natural food sources for native predators.

• Develop an assessment of the predator attractants, including:
  o Each individual subsidy with a point on a map,
  o A description of the subsidy,
  o Effects to non-target wildlife species, especially raptors and other native predators, and
  o Potential effects to all sensitive as well as threatened and endangered (T&E) species.

• Conduct attractant removal activities in a manner to avoid direct mortality and outside of the nesting season.

• Lethal control shall not be performed as a component of this activity.
Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

☐ Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to review results of predator attractant assessment conducted by NRCS and to discuss predator attractants to be removed.

☐ During implementation, maintain a field log to include:
  - Map of the assessed and removed predator attractants with point locations and descriptions of each item.
  - Dates when the attractant was removed.
  - Before and after photographs of each removed attractant.

☐ After implementation, provide the field log to NRCS for review to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

NRCS will:

☐ Prior to implementation, identify targeted sensitive species and conduct an assessment of subsidized predator attractants on site.

☐ Prior to implementation, provide and explain state NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.

☐ Prior to implementation, develop technical specifications for attractant removal needed to improve habitat for the targeted sensitive species consistent with NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645).

☐ Prior to implementation, assess effects on non-target wildlife species and complete any required coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Wildlife Agency.

☐ After implementation, review field log to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.
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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<tr>
<th>Project Code</th>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>E645A</td>
<td>Reduction of attractants to human-subsidized predators in sensitive wildlife species habitat</td>
<td>August 2019</td>
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To meet criteria utilize one or more of the the following references or Technical Notes:


- Use the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife (WDFW) Priority Habitats and Species (PHS) database to identify priority wildlife and habitat in your area. [http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/](http://wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/phs/)

- For Washington State’s Sage Grouse Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG), and other species WHEGs, – contact the NRCS State Biologist for the current guide.

- Ecological Site Descriptions and Forage Suitability Groups can both be found in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide [https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx](https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/treemenuFS.aspx) in Section II.