

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM58 – Reduction of attractants to human-subsidized predators in sensitive wildlife species habitat



Enhancement Description

This activity consists of reducing 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.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland, Forestland

Benefits

Unnaturally high levels of predation on a species can lead to lower populations. Reducing subsidies to predators would contribute to population reduction of these species, which contribute to the conservation of sensitive species. Additionally, reducing subsidies treats the source of the problem and may be more effective and cost-effective than lethal control.

Reducing subsidies may also minimize the need for the use of lethal techniques which may affect non-target species.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all crop, pasture, range, and forest land use acres where:

1. Activities attributable to humans have increased perching/nesting sites, water, and/or food to a predator that has caused the population of that predator to increase predation above background levels on sensitive wildlife,
2. Predation is identified as a limiting factor to sensitive species populations, or
3. Other more severe threats have been or are being addressed to a sensitive species.

Criteria

Implement each of the following:

1. Identify the targeted sensitive wildlife species.
2. Identify the subsidized predator(s).
3. Coordinate planned activities with a NRCS or partner biologist.
 - a. Coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Wildlife Agency may be required.



4. Treat only artificial, human caused subsidies.
 - a. This activity shall not to be used to remove or modify natural water sources, natural perching and nesting sites, and natural food sources for native predators.
5. Develop an assessment of the subsidies, including:
 - a. Each individual subsidy with a point on a map,
 - b. A description of the subsidy,
 - c. Effects to non-target wildlife species, especially raptors and other native predators, and
 - d. Potential effects to all sensitive as well as threatened and endangered (T&E) species.
6. Conduct subsidy removal activities in a manner to avoid direct mortality and outside of the nesting season.
7. Lethal control shall not be performed as a component of this activity.

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when all identified predators subsidized are assessed and targeted subsidies are removed on the land use.

Documentation Requirements

1. Copy of the assessment including the components listed in the criteria
2. Map of the assessed and removed predator subsidies with descriptions of each item.
3. Dates when the subsidy was removed
4. Before and after photographs of removed subsidies

References

Baruch-Mordo S, J.S. Evans, J.P. Severson, D.E. Naugle, J.D. Maestas, J.M. Kiesecker, M.J. Falkowski, C.A Hagen and K.P. Reese, 2013. Saving sage-grouse from the trees: a proactive solution to reducing a key threat to a candidate species. *Biological Conservation* 167:233-241.

Dinkins, J.B. M.R. Conover, C.P. Kirol, J.L. Beck and S.N. Frey. 2014. Greater Sage-Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*) hen survival: effects of raptors, anthropogenic and landscape features and hen behavior. *Canadian Journal of Zoology*, 92:319-330.

NRCS, FWS. 2010. Conference Report for sage grouse.

[http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/UT/SG_Conference_Report_Final\(508Compliant\).pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/UT/SG_Conference_Report_Final(508Compliant).pdf)

Thuy-Vy, D. B, J. M. Marzluff and B. Bedrosian, 2010. Common raven activity in relation to land use in western Wyoming: implications for greater sage-grouse reproductive success. *Condor* 112:65-78.