

# **CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

**E512B** 

# Forage and biomass planting to reduce soil erosion or increase organic matter to build soil health

**Conservation Practice 512: Forage and Biomass Planting** 

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture** 

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Soil** 

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years** 

#### **Enhancement Description**

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture or hay production that can provide for reduced soil erosion, improving soil health.

#### Criteria

- Select perennial grass or forb and legume plant species or a mix of annual and perennial species and their cultivars based on climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects, that will provide ground cover and root mass needed to be sufficient to protect the soil from wind and water erosion.
- Recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths, and dates from land grant/research institutions, plant materials program, extension agencies, or agency field trials will be followed. Refer to CO-ECS-05 and PMTN 77 for establishment methods.
- Prepare seed bed for planting that does not restrict plant emergence or leave the site vulnerable to erosion.

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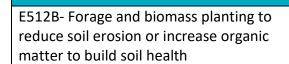


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 Planting will take place when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.



- Federal, state, or local noxious species will not be planted.
- 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.
- Deep-rooted, perennial species or deep-rooted perennial and annual species mix will be selected that will contribute to maintaining or increasing underground carbon storage.
- New plantings will be monitored for water stress. Depending on the severity of drought, water stress may require reducing weeds, early harvest of any companion crops, irrigating when possible, or replanting failed stands. Plantings will be protected from grazing for a minimum of one growing season until an adequate stand is established and meets the criteria for establishment outlined in <a href="PMTN 78: Conservation Cover Assessment">PMTN 78: Conservation Cover Assessment</a>.





# **Documentation Implementation Requirements**

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Partici	nant	will	

			PROG	RAM
☐ Prior to impleme	entation, select a deep-	rooted		
establishment. the desired level	•	in the sys	<u>stem, f</u> orage sp	erennials and annuals for ecies selected will meet ck to be fed. (NRCS will
Spec	ies		Forage category (g	grass, legume, forb)
•	entation, select planting the site and climatic cor			es and timing vide technical assistance,
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 forages to recover
before re-grazing occurs and ensure adequate stubble heights remain to prevent
erosion.

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preparation and any materials purchased or materials on hand used for the implementation of the enhancement.  Documentation of seed rate basis (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or soil amendments used for the implementation of the enhancement.  If livestock are included in the arazing system, documentation and photographs of turn in/turn out grazing records and stubble height residue for each field.  If livestock are included in the arazing system, during implementation in areas where animals congregate, establish persistent species than can tolerate close grazing and trampling.  After implementation, make the forage planting and grazing records and photos available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.  NRCS will:  Prior to implementation, use selected mixture and site information to calculate the before and after soil loss from water erosion using current NRCS wind and water erosion prediction technologies. Soil erosion BEFOREt/ac/year and AFTERt/ac/year  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 specifications 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 occur.			_	conservation, keep the following sentation:  CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP
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During implementation, evaluate any planned
changes to verify they meet the enhancement
criteria.



☐ After implementation, verify the planned grassland mixture was established to specifications developed for the site.

## **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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