



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E390B

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Increase riparian herbaceous cover width to enhance wildlife habitat

Conservation Practice 390: Riparian Herbaceous Cover

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

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 Years

Enhancement Description

Where an existing herbaceous riparian buffer is located along a river, stream, pond, lake, or other waterbody, increase the diversity of native species, control invasive species, install fencing and relocate equipment operations, trails, and livestock, and increase the width of the buffer.

Criteria

- Existing buffer width shall be at least 35 feet or (if applicable) the minimum State buffer-width requirement, whichever is greater. Maximum enhancement buffer width may be increased up to the greater of 100 feet or the State-allowed maximum width.
- The management plan shall consider habitat and wildlife objectives such as habitat diversity, habitat linkages, daily and seasonal habitat ranges, limiting factors, and native plant communities.
- Select native species adapted to the site. Selected species should have multiple values such as those suited for biomass, wintering and nesting cover, aesthetics, forage value for aquatic invertebrates, and tolerance to locally used herbicides.

E390B- Increase riparian herbaceous cover width to enhance wildlife habitat	July2019	Page 1
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CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- Density of the vegetative stand established shall be managed for targeted wildlife habitat requirements and shall encourage plant diversity. The location, layout and vegetative structure and composition of the buffer should complement natural features.
- Corridor configuration, establishment procedures and management should enhance habitats for threatened, endangered and other plant or animal species of concern, where applicable.
- Include forbs and legumes that provide pollen and nectar for native pollinators. Utilize a diverse mix of plant species that bloom at different times throughout the year.
- If mowing is necessary to maintain herbaceous cover it will occur outside the nesting and fawning season and allow for adequate re-growth for winter cover. To protect pollinators and maintain habitat with a diversity of plant structure, a third or less of the site should be disturbed (mowed, grazed, burned, etc.) each year, allowing for recolonization of pollinators from surrounding habitat.
- Harmful plant and animal pests present on the site will be controlled or eliminated as necessary to achieve and maintain the intended purpose. Pest management will be conducted in a manner that mitigates impacts to pollinators.
- Protect riparian vegetation by reducing or excluding haying and grazing until the desired plant community is well established, with grazing deferred for a minimum of two years.
- Control access of people, machinery, and livestock to the riparian zone with fencing.
- Design the expanded buffer enhancement for an expected life of at least 5 years.

E390B- Increase riparian herbaceous cover width to enhance wildlife habitat	July2019	Page 2
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CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, prepare the planned buffer area for vegetation establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390). (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)
- Prior to implementation, in areas that are highly disturbed and unlikely to have existing native seed in the soil, work closely with NRCS to select plant species that are adapted to your specific site. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Species	Species type (grass, legume, forb)	Rate (Lbs/Ac) PLS

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

Planting Date	
Planting Technique	
Seeding Depth	

- During implementation, grade the site, as needed, to eliminate concentrated flow through the buffer including that from uphill from the buffer.
- During implementation, conduct planting of selected species according to dates, techniques, depth, and other requirements listed in the plan.
- During implementation, install and maintain erosion control measures as needed, such as silt fencing and mulching.
- During implementation, notify NRCS of any planned changes to allow NRCS to verify that the changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, control harmful pests at the site, as necessary, and in a manner that mitigates impacts to pollinators.



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- After implementation, protect the area by reducing haying and excluding grazing until the plant community is established, deferring grazing for a minimum of two years.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390) to show how it relates to this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, verify this enhancement is planned for cropland.
- Prior to implementation, develop a Wildlife Habitat Management Plan for targeted suite of species and meet with participant to review the Management Plan.
- Prior to implementation, verify the enhancement is planned for acres that have been appropriately prepared for riparian herbaceous cover.
- Prior to implementation, verify no plants are on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included.
- As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:
 - o Planned site preparation meets NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390).
 - o Selecting plant species that meet the habitat needs of targeted wildlife species, and that have multiple values such as those suited for biomass, wintering and nesting cover, aesthetics, forage value for aquatic invertebrates, tolerance to locally used herbicides, and best suited to site saturation and inundation conditions.
 - o Select planting techniques and timing that is appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
 - o Plan the use of additional erosion control, as needed for the site.
 - o Prepare specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved state implementation requirements, national technical notes, appropriate state technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.

E390B- Increase riparian herbaceous cover width to enhance wildlife habitat	July2019	Page 4
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CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

- During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- During implementation, verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, verify the vegetation was established to specifications developed for the site.
- After implementation, verify the planting is protected from pests, has had limited haying, and that grazing is being excluded, if established less than two years.

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

Sign and Certify in Oregon Supplement below

E390B- Increase riparian herbaceous cover width to enhance wildlife habitat	July2019	Page 5
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OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

ACTIVITY E390B

Plant Guidance

Plants seeded or planted at the site should be suitable to the MLRA (ecoregion) and riparian habitat location. Planners should consult ecological site information (if available and using native plants) in determining plant selections. Origin of native plants or seeds used for enhancement should originate from the same MLRA as the enhancement location.

Refer to the following documents to help select suitable wildlife plants to seed or plant for expansion of an Herbaceous Riparian Buffer. Many plants that are good for pollinators are also good for other wildlife. Other plants not contained in these documents may be appropriate for use. For further recommendations in plant species selection for enhancements, please contact your Basin or State Biologist, or State Plant Materials Specialist.

Statewide

"Oregon & Washington Guide for Conservation Seedings and Plantings" at:
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_042417.pdf

Oregon Plant Materials Technical Note Note 13 - Plants for Pollinators in Oregon. It can be downloaded at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_041919.pdf

Westside

Guide for using Willamette Valley plants along your streams:
<http://linnswcd.oacd.org/NativePlantGuide05.pdf>

V h t t p s : / / w w w . o r e g o n m e t r o . g o v / n a t i v e - p l a n t s - w i l l a m e t t e - v a l l e y - y a r d s - b o o k l e t
<https://www.oregonmetro.gov/native-plants-willamette-valley-yards-booklet>

Oregon Plant Materials Technical Note 42 - Enhancements for Native Bees in Western Oregon and Washington Cranberry Production, located at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd1342652&ext=pdf

Eastside

Users Guide to Description, Propagation and Establishment of Wetland Plant Species and Grasses for Riparian Areas in the Intermountain West: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/idpmctn380201.pdf

Conservation Plant Species for the Intermountain West 2014: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/PA_NRCSConsumption/download?cid=nrcseprd383031&ext=pdf

Washington Technical Note 10: Riparian Revegetation Plants:

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/wapmctn6334.pdf

For eastern Oregon pollinator plant recommendations, also refer to the Washington Plant Materials Technical Note No. 244 - "Plants for Pollinators in the Inland northwest" which can be downloaded at: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_PLANTMATERIALS/publications/wapmctn11733.pdf

For MLRAs 6, 7 and 8, refer to eFOTG: <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/>

Oregon: Section IV: Conservation Practices: Conservation Cover (AC) (327) - Pollinator Plants

Seed and Plant Vendors - places to find plants

Oregon Plant Material Technical Note No. 9 – “Plant and Seed Vendors for Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Northwest California”

https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/nrcs142p2_041918.pdf

Oregon Flora Project Website – Gardening Portal – Nurseries that supply native plants: <https://oregonflora.org/garden/>

E390B – Oregon State Supplement	January 2024	Page 2

Design Approvals & Acknowledgements:

Design Approval	Date	Job Approval Authority
Designed by:		
Approved by:		

Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

The client acknowledges:

- I have received a copy of the specification and understand the contents and requirements.
- It is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and/or rights and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of this practice.
- I will not begin installation of this practice until I have received appropriate approval to do so. I understand NRCS also has Federal and state laws to comply with that may take some time to address (e.g. cultural resources).

Client's	Date
Signature	

Certification Documentation:

	Field Evaluation: Post-treatment inventory, measurements, notes, as-built, and supporting documentation (document completion in conservation plan), as required.
	Map(s): Including field numbers, fields treated, and units treated (may document on conservation plan map), as required.
	Photos or other supporting documentation (e.g., seed tags, soil tests, receipts, invoices, spray records, fertilizer records, etc.)
Brief Description of Work Accomplished (types of equipment used, date of application, extents and quantities installed, etc.)	

Certification Statement:

The employee certifies the implementation of this conservation practice:

- Meets the purpose, general criteria, and any required additional criteria as documented in the conservation practice standard and/or enhancement sheet.
- Meets the specifications contained herein and is complete.
- Conforms to my existing Job Approval Authority controlling factors and levels.

Name	Date	Job Approval Authority

Field Level Certification – For multiple applications of this design.				
Land Unit/ Contract Item Number	Date	Unit(s)	Amount Installed	Certifier