



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E612C

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Establishing tree/shrub species to restore native plant communities

**CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment**

**APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest**

**RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals, Plants**

**ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 15 years**

#### Enhancement Description

Establish trees and/or shrubs to restore elements of plant communities and diversity that have been lost. Restoring stand-level diversity and function improves health and vigor through planting resilient and/or resistant native plant communities. Additional benefits include providing diversity in wildlife habitat and forage.

#### Criteria

- States will apply criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612), and any additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.
- Species selected for planting will be native to the site and will create a successional state that progresses toward the identified target plant community.
- To enhance native plant diversity, select a minimum of three different species of trees and/or shrubs to be planted. An exception is in situations where a native lost species is being restored to a fully-stocked forest stand. (i.e., American chestnut). Selection of species should also be chosen according to the site's natural disturbance regime. Species should be selected based on traits, successional status, structure, and composition.
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- Build forest resilience by favoring existing species that are better adapted to projected future climate conditions, and by enhancing relative compositional and structural diversity.
- Do not plant species on the Federal or State invasive species or noxious weed lists.
- Only viable, high-quality and site-adapted planting stock or seed will be used.
- A precondition for tree/shrub establishment is appropriately prepared sites. Refer to criteria in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490).
- Implementation and timing of planting will be appropriate for the site and ensure successful establishment.
- Planting must be protected from unacceptable adverse impacts from insects, disease, wildlife, and/or fire. Apply supporting practices and treatments to protect establishing trees and shrubs, as necessary.
- Each site will be evaluated to determine if mulching, supplemental water, or other treatments (e.g., tree protection devices, shade cards, weed mats) will be needed to assure adequate survival and growth.
- The enhancement will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with States' Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality.

### Documentation and Implementation Requirements

#### Participant will:

- Prior to implementation:
  - provide an updated Forest Management Plan that documents intended objectives for restoring native plant communities.
  - select a combination of at least three native tree/shrub species that will increase plant and stand diversity.

Species	Note selected species characteristic(s)



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- During implementation:
  - install and maintain erosion control measures as needed for the site.
  - protect the planting(s) from plant and animal pests and fire.
  - notify NRCS in writing of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.

TASK	Species	Species	Species
Planting Date			
Planting Technique			
Arrangement/Spacing			

**NRCS will:**

- Prior to implementation:
  - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
  - verify the enhancement is planned for the appropriate land use.
  - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
  - verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included.
  - NRCS will provide Technical Assistance, as needed, in the following:
    - Selecting a combination of species to meet enhancement criteria.
    - Selecting planting techniques, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
    - Planning the use of additional erosion control for the site, as needed.
    - Preparing 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.
  
- During implementation:
  - evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria and were established to specifications developed for the site.



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- After implementation:
  - verify the plantings were protected from plant and animal pests and fire.
  - verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained 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 all critical path requirements.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signatory \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Oregon SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

**Additional Resources:**

Refer to the Seed lot selection tool for additional information and resources on tree suitability and selection.

<https://seedlotselectiontool.org/sst/>

**Design Approvals & Acknowledgements:**

<b>Design Approval</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Job Approval Authority</b>
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).

<b>Client's</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Signature</b>	

**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

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