



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

### E612E (WITH MONTANA SUPPLEMENT)

## CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Cultural plantings

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

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest, Associated Ag Land, Farmstead

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plants

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 15 years

#### Enhancement Description

Planting trees/shrubs that are of cultural significance, such as those species utilized by Tribes in traditional practices, medicinal plants, species used in basket-making, etc. (e.g., paper birch, slippery elm, witch hazel).

#### 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 will be selected for their cultural importance.
  - **MT: Refer to [USDA Plants Database](#) for a list of culturally significant plants. Consult NRCS forester for planting of species not listed in the USDA Plants Database.**
- 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 CPS Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490).
- Implementation and timing of planting will be appropriate for the site and ensure successful establishment.

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- Plantings must be protected from unacceptable adverse impacts from insects, disease, wildlife, and/or fire. Apply supporting practices and treatments as necessary to protect establishing trees and shrubs.
- 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 cultural plantings.
  - prepare the planned acres for trees and/or shrub establishment. Refer to NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree-Shrub Site Preparation (490).
  - select a combination of tree and shrub species selected for their cultural importance and their adaptability to site conditions.
  - select planting technique, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the site conditions.

Species	Note selected species characteristic(s)

- During implementation:
  - install and maintain erosion control measures for the site, as needed.
  - 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.



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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 (CPS 490) as it relates to implementing this enhancement. Verify the enhancement is planned for acres that have been appropriately prepared for tree/shrub establishment.
  - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
  - verify the enhancement is planned for the appropriate land use.
  - verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included in the planning combination.
  - verify cultural significance and use is documented.
  - 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.
  
- 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.



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**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

