



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E645A (with Montana Supplement)

CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM

Reduction of attractants to human-subsidized predators
in sensitive wildlife species habitat

Conservation Practice 645: Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

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

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

PRACTICE LIFE SPAN: 1 Year

Enhancement Description

Reduction of 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, roadkill, garbage, animal feed, dumps, and other non-natural food sources.

Criteria

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

E645A - Reduction of attractants to human-subsidized predators in sensitive wildlife species habitat with Montana Supplement (bold)	August 2019 Montana Supplement November 2023	Page 1
--	--	--------

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

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

MT:

- **In Montana, the targeted sensitive wildlife species is the greater sage-grouse.**
- **Activities under this enhancement can include removal of invasive conifers that have expanded into sagebrush communities in ecological sites where they should not be present and are negatively impacting sage-grouse habitat. This enhancement is not for treatment/removal of sagebrush vegetation.**
- **This enhancement will be implemented in accordance with the Conservation Measures in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Conference Report for the NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI). Conservation measures must be identified and followed when implementing this enhancement.**
- **This enhancement may have the potential to affect cultural resources. Refer to Exhibits 1 and 3 of NRCS Montana’s Prototype Programmatic Agreement (PPA) for Section 106 compliance for additional guidance.**

- **This enhancement is not intended for the removal of any hazardous waste materials. This would include, but is not limited to, tires, batteries, insulation, and pesticide/herbicide containers.**

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to review results of predator attractant assessment conducted by NRCS and to discuss predator attractants to be removed.
- During implementation, maintain a field log to include:
 - Map of the assessed and removed predator attractants with point locations and descriptions of each item.
 - Dates when the attractant was removed.
 - Before and after photographs of each removed attractant.
- After implementation, provide the field log to NRCS for review to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, identify targeted sensitive species and conduct an assessment of subsidized predator attractants on site.
- Prior to implementation, provide and explain state NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, develop technical specifications for attractant removal needed to improve habitat for the targeted sensitive species consistent with NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645).
- Prior to implementation, assess effects on non-target wildlife species and complete any required coordination with US Fish and Wildlife Service and the State Wildlife Agency.
- After implementation, review field log to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

<p>E645A - Reduction of attractants to human-subsidized predators in sensitive wildlife species habitat with Montana Supplement (bold)</p>	<p>August 2019 Montana Supplement November 2023</p>	<p>Page 3</p>
---	--	---------------



CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

NRCS Documentation Review:

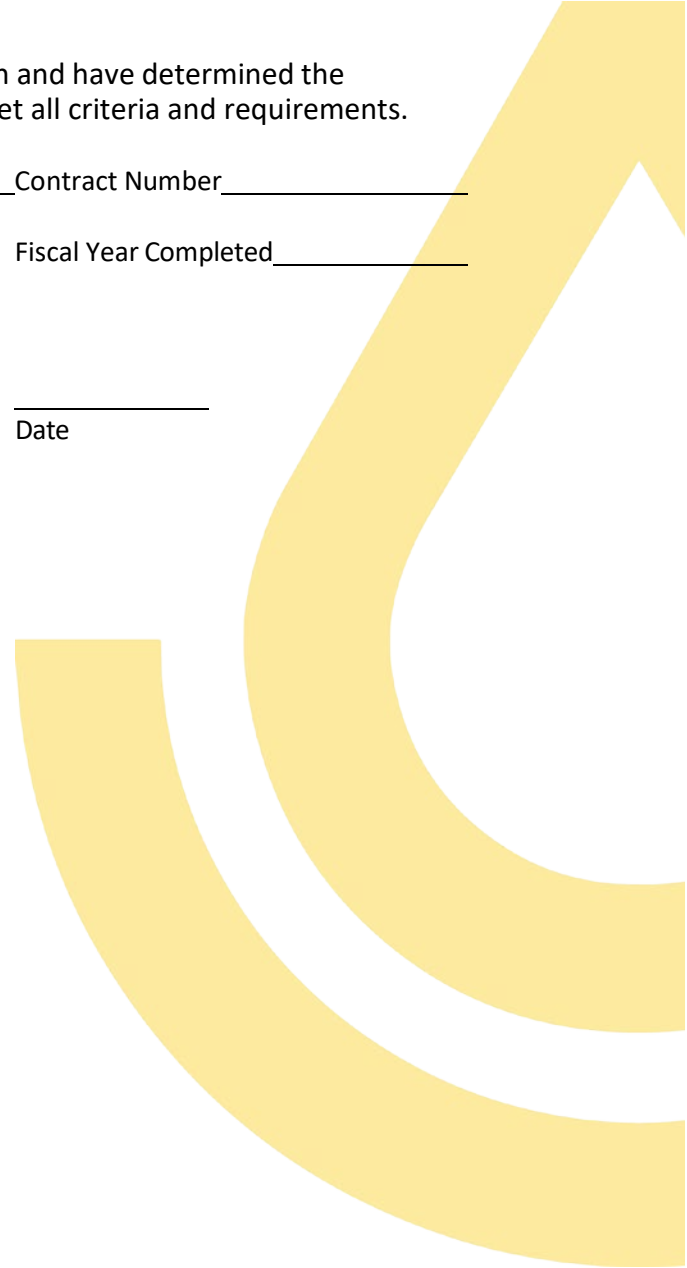
I have reviewed all required participant documentation and have determined the participant has implemented the enhancement and met all criteria and requirements.

Participant Name _____ Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____ Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date



E645A - Reduction of attractants to human-subsidized predators in sensitive wildlife species habitat with Montana Supplement (bold)	August 2019 Montana Supplement November 2023	Page 4
--	--	--------