



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E550B

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Range planting for improving forage, browse, or cover for wildlife

Conservation Practice: 550 - RANGE PLANTING

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Range; Crop (Annual & Mixed); Crop (Perennial)

RESOURCE CONCERN: Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Establishment of adapted perennial or self-sustaining vegetation such as grasses, forbs, legumes, shrubs and trees for the purpose of improving forage, browse, or cover for wildlife on areas that have been degraded beyond recovery via ecological principles, or old crop fields and pastures devoid of desirable, native rangeland species that fit within an ecological site description steady state.

Criteria

- Specified species and cultivars or varieties, planting rates, dates, and methods must be consistent with Plant Materials Center, research institution, or agency demonstration trials, local laws and/or regulations, management objectives, and adapted to the site. Plant materials/seed selected will be compatible with desired ecological site descriptions steady states (or their substitutive documentation from the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide).
- Seedbed preparation and planting methods will be suitable to meet any special needs for obtaining an acceptable establishment of planted materials, and provide adequate cover for erosion control within an acceptable time frame.
- Recommended planting depths, hydrologic conditions, dates, rates, soil amendments at planting, seed quality requirements, and management during establishment (weed

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control and/or deferment) must be followed in order to enhance establishment success.

- The plant species, cultivars or varieties selected will be deep rooted, perennial plants that meet the cover, forage, browse, nectar, and palatability requirements for the intended wildlife species (this may include such target species as rangeland birds, ungulates, pollinator insects and non-pollinator insects such as Monarch butterfly as geographically and ecologically relevant).
- Plant species will be selected and planted in a designed manner that will meet some of the life history requirements of the wildlife species of concern.

North Dakota Sideboards:

This enhancement is only applicable on existing, annually planted cropland. Adequate seedbed preparation cannot be achieved to replant existing, heavily degraded grassland or hayland within the timeframe of the enhancement.

Practice 550 must identify a resource concern, but does not need to be erosion related. Practice 550 must be scheduled concurrently with enhancement as enhancement doesn't cover full seeding cost.



Documentation and Implementation Requirements

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Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, prepare a range planting plan that details seedbed preparation techniques, planting method, planting dates, and seeding rates. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Planting Date(s)	
Seedbed Preparation	
Planting Method and Depth	
Seeding rates	

- During implementation, notify NRCS if there are any changes to the range planting plan.
- After implementation, provide documentation for review by NRCS of actual seedbed preparation technique, planting method, planting date, seeding rates, and percentage success of the plantings.

NRCS will:

- Prior to implementation, provide the ecological site description(s) or other reference documents (if the ecological site description is not available) that outlines the best approximation of the desired plant community composition, structure, and function.
- As needed, assist the participant with development of a range planting plan which details seedbed preparation, planting method, planting dates, and seeding rates.
- During implementation, evaluate any changes to the range planting plan to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation, review actual planting date and seeding rates to determine if the enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.



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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

