



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

E314A

Brush management to improve wildlife habitat

Conservation Practice 314: Brush Management

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture, Range, Forest, Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plants; Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 10 years

Enhancement Description

Brush management is employed to create a desired plant community, consistent with the related ecological site steady state, which will maintain or enhance the wildlife habitat desired for the identified wildlife species. It will be designed to provide plant structure, density and diversity needed to meet those habitat objectives. This enhancement does not apply to removal of woody vegetation by prescribed fire or removal of woody vegetation to facilitate a land use change.

Criteria

- This enhancement will be applied in a manner to achieve the desired control of the target woody species while protecting the desired species through mechanical, chemical, or biological methods, alone or in combination. NRCS will not develop biological or chemical treatment recommendations except for biological control using grazing animals. NRCS may provide clients with acceptable biological and/or chemical control references.
- Identify wildlife species of concern and landscape specific brush habitat functionality that is consistent with the related ecological site steady state or another desired state that will meet the objective.
- Brush management will be planned and applied in a manner to meet the habitat requirements for wildlife species of concern as determined by the state's NRCS Wildlife Habitation Evaluation Guide (WHEG).



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- Evaluate wildlife habitat with the state NRCS WHEG and manage for a value of 0.60 or greater.
- Brush management will be designed to achieve the desired plant community based on species composition, structure, density, and canopy (or foliar) cover or height.
- Conduct treatments during periods of the year that accommodate reproduction and other life-cycle requirements of target wildlife and pollinator species.



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Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, meet with NRCS to complete the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) evaluation at the site.
- Prior to implementation, determine and write down clear objectives for brush management and implementation of this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, develop a map delineating the areas to be treated and enrolled in this enhancement.
- During implementation, maintain records of applied treatments (pesticide used, rate applied, timing, etc.) and grazing restrictions. The records must support the label requirements for re-entry or grazing restrictions when applicable.
- After implementation, reassess habitat condition with NRCS using the WHEG.
- After implementation, provide records for review by NRCS to verify enhancement was implemented to meet criteria.

NRCS will:

As needed, provide technical assistance to participant as requested.

- Prior to implementation, provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Brush Management (Code 314) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
- Prior to implementation, confirm brush management and grazing management plan objectives clearly identify the wildlife of concern for the area.
- Prior to implementation, meet with participant to complete WHEG evaluation at the site.

Existing WHEG score = _____ Planned Post Implementation WHEG score = _____

- Prior to implementation, NRCS will make cover or density measurements at georeferenced transects on key areas within the treatment area.
- After implementation, NRCS will return to georeferenced area to measure cover or density and report the results.
- After implementation, review records to verify participant implemented enhancement to meet criteria.



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- After implementation, review record of applied treatment (pesticide used, rate applied, timing, etc.) and grazing restrictions.
- After implementation, reassess habitat condition using the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide.
Post Implementation WHEG score = _____

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

*Sign and certify in the Oregon-Acknowledgment & Certification supplement below.



**OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY**

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

E314A

Additional Documentation Requirements for Oregon

- In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E314A the following additional documentation requirements apply in Oregon:
 - Use an Oregon Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) to determine general habitat condition.
 - Planner must complete a Brush Management Implementation Requirement (314 IR) to accompany this enhancement

[eFOTG: Section 3: Oregon Conservation Planning Documents: Wildlife Habitat Inventory Documents:](#)

- Use the Priority Oregon Wildlife Species Slicer or the Oregon Conservation Strategy Species to identify the species of concern.

[Slicer – Priority Oregon Wildlife Species](#)

[Oregon Conservation Strategy Species](#)

Document in the practice specification how this enhancement will maintain or enhance the habitat for the identified wildlife species.

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 Signature	Date

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