



CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E512M

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Forage plantings that improve wildlife habitat cover and shelter or structure and composition

CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 512 - Pasture and Hay Planting

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Pasture; Associated Ag Land

RESOURCE CONCERN: Plants, Animals

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 5 years

Enhancement Description

Establishing adapted and/or compatible species, varieties, or cultivars of herbaceous species suitable for pasture, hay, or biomass production that can provide cover and shelter or structure and composition for wildlife.

Criteria

- Wildlife species of concern for cover and shelter will be specified on the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) and will be a species that would be present for at least part of their life cycle in the geographical/physiographic region.
- The state's WHEG will be completed by an NRCS or partner wildlife biologist. Cover and shelter habitat requirements for the wildlife species of concern will be specified on the WHEG. The total WHEG score after installation of this practice will be 0.60 or greater.
- Select native, perennial, grass/forb/legume plant species (all species must be native) and their cultivars based on climatic conditions, soil condition, landscape position and resistance to disease and insects, which meet the cover and shelter needs for wildlife species of concern when they will be present.

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- Recommendations for planting rates, methods, depths, and dates from land grant/research institutions, plant materials program, extension agencies, or agency field trials will be followed.
- Seeding medium that does not restrict plant emergence will be provided, and planting will take place when soil moisture is adequate for germination and establishment.
- Federal, state, or local noxious species will not be planted.
- Plant nutrients and/or soil amendments for establishment purposes will be applied according to a current soil test. Legume seed will be pre-inoculated or inoculated with the proper viable strain of Rhizobia immediately before planting.
- Plants will be selected that help meet cover and shelter habitat requirements for specified wildlife species during times that normal farm/ranch forage production is inadequate. Plant selection will help to increase scores on the state's approved NRCS habitat evaluation procedure for the wildlife species of concern.

Documentation and Implementation Requirements

Participant will:

- Prior to implementation, select a perennial species or grassland mixture for establishment. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Species	Forage category (grass, legume, forb)

- Prior to implementation, select planting technique, seeding rates and timing appropriate for the site and climatic conditions. (NRCS will provide technical assistance, as needed.)

Planting Date	
Planting method	
Seeding rate	



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- If livestock are included in the grazing system, prior to implementation a grazing plan must be developed to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for plants to recover before re-grazing occurs.
- During implementation, keep the following documentation:
 - Records and photographs of planting preparation and any materials purchased or materials on hand used for the implementation of the enhancement.
 - Documentation of seed (Pure Live Seed) and any fertilizer or soil amendments used for the implementation of the enhancement.
 - If livestock are included in the grazing system, documentation, and photographs of turn in/turn out grazing records for each field.
- After implementation, make the forage planting and grazing records available for review by NRCS to verify implementation of the enhancement.

NRCS will:

Prior to implementation, complete the state's approved NRCS Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG).

Targeted Species: _____

WHEG score before implementation: _____

WHEG score after implementation: _____

As needed, prior to implementation, NRCS will provide technical assistance:

- Planning site preparation and establishment specifications meeting NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Pasture and Hay Planting (Code 512).
- Prepare specifications for applying this enhancement for each site using approved specification sheets, job sheets, technical notes, and narrative statements in the conservation plan, or other acceptable documentation.
- If livestock are included in the system, develop a grazing plan to keep grazing periods sufficiently short to allow for forages to recover before re-grazing occurs.

During implementation, evaluate any planned changes to verify they meets the enhancement criteria.

After implementation, verify the grassland mixture was established 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.

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Participant Name _____

Contract Number _____

Total Amount Applied _____

Fiscal Year Completed _____

NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature

Date

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



**OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY
E512M**

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Additional Documentation Requirements for Oregon

- In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E512M the following additional documentation requirements apply in Oregon:
 - Use an Oregon Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide (WHEG) to determine general habitat condition.
[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 Implementation Requirement how this enhancement will maintain or enhance the habitat for the identified wildlife species.
 - Livestock will be excluded from new seedings until they are well established –typically 1 to 2 growing seasons after planting and should be documented with an Oregon Prescribed Grazing Specification (528).
 - Planner must complete a Pasture and Hay Planting Implementation Requirement (512 IR) to accompany this enhancement.
 - Recommended a minimum of 3 species for the seeding mix that includes different structural and functional groups.
 - These seeding recommendations assume that the seedbed is clean, firm, and weed-free and that the seeding is performed with a drill. Broadcast seedings will require twice as much seed.
 - Seedling density for a successful planting will be at least 3 seeded plants per square foot at the end of the second growing season after planting.
- References include:
[Oregon – Washington Guide for Conservation Seedings and Plantings, 2000, USDA-NRCS Intermountain Planting Guide](#)
[Grass, Grass-Like, Forb, Legume, and Woody Species for the Intermountain West](#)

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