



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.



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



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



**OREGON SUPPLEMENT TO
CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT
ACTIVITY E550B**

**CONSERVATION
STEWARDSHIP
PROGRAM**

Additional Documentation Requirements for Oregon

In addition to the documentation requirements specified in the National job sheet E550B the following additional documentation requirements apply in Oregon:

- Planner must complete an Oregon Range Planting Implementation Requirement (550 IR) to accompany this enhancement.
- Recommended a minimum of 3 species for the seeding mix that includes different structural and functional groups.
- 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 Implementation Requirement (528 IR).
- 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.

Use an Oregon Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide 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](#)

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