



## CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

E612B

# CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

### Planting for carbon sequestration and storage

#### CONSERVATION PRACTICE: 612 - Tree/Shrub Establishment

APPLICABLE LAND USE: Forest

RESOURCE CONCERN: Air

ENHANCEMENT LIFE SPAN: 15 years

#### Enhancement Description

Plant tree species and/or shrubs to sequester and store carbon. Forest stands will be managed for longer rotations and/or enhanced composition diversity to improve carbon storage.

#### Criteria

- States will apply criteria from the NRCS National Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612), and any additional criteria as required by the NRCS State Office.
- Species will be selected for their rate of growth, lifespan, historic range, mature size, suitability for retention as wildlife or legacy species, and/or suitability for use in long-lived sustainable wood products as well as their adaptability to current and future site conditions, including soil type.
- To support forest-level carbon sequestration and storage, native plant communities, soil organic matter, standing and down woody material should be properly maintained.
- Selection of species should also be chosen according to the site's natural disturbance regime. Species should be selected based on traits, successional status, structure, and composition.
- Build forest resilience by favoring existing species that are better adapted to projected future climate conditions, and by enhancing relative compositional and structural diversity.
- Do not plant species on the Federal or State invasive species or noxious weed lists.

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- Only viable, high-quality, and site-adapted planting stock or seed will be used.
- A precondition for tree/shrub establishment is appropriately prepared sites. Refer to criteria in NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490).
- Implementation and timing of planting will be appropriate for the site and ensure successful establishment.
- Planting must be protected from unacceptable adverse impacts from insects, disease, wildlife, and/or fire. Apply supporting practices and treatments to protect establishing trees and shrubs, as necessary.
- Each site will be evaluated to determine if mulching, supplemental water, or other treatments (e.g., tree protection devices, shade cards, weed mats) will be needed to assure adequate survival and growth.
- The enhancement will comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations, and with States’ Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality.

## Documentation and Implementation Requirements

### Participant will:

- Prior to implementation:
  - provide an updated Forest Management Plan that documents intended objectives for carbon sequestration and storage.
  - select a combination of species with longer life spans that are suitable for their rate of growth, historical range, mature size, suitability for retention as wildlife or legacy species, and/or suitability for use in long-lived sustainable wood products as well as their adaptability to current and future site conditions, including soil type.
  - select planting technique, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the site conditions.

| Species | Note selected species characteristic(s) |
|---------|---|
|         |   |
|         |   |
|         |   |



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- During implementation:
  - install and maintain erosion control measures as needed for the site.
  - protect the planting(s) from plant and animal pests and fire.
  - notify NRCS in writing of any planned changes to verify changes meet NRCS enhancement criteria.

| TASK                | Species | Species | Species |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Planting date       |         |         |         |
| Planting Technique  |         |         |         |
| Arrangement/Spacing |         |         |         |

**NRCS will:**

- Prior to implementation:
  - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Site Preparation (Code 490) as it relates to implementing this enhancement. Verify the enhancement is planned for acres that have been appropriately prepared for tree/shrub establishment.
  - verify the enhancement is planned for the appropriate land use.
  - provide and explain NRCS Conservation Practice Standard Tree/Shrub Establishment (Code 612) as it relates to implementing this enhancement.
  - verify no plants on the Federal or state noxious weeds list are included.
  - NRCS will provide Technical Assistance, as needed, in the following:
    - Selecting a combination of species to meet enhancement criteria.
    - Selecting planting techniques, arrangement and spacing design, and timing appropriate for the site and soil conditions.
    - Planning the use of additional erosion control, as needed for the site.
- During implementation:
  - evaluate any planned changes to verify they meet the enhancement criteria.
- After implementation:
  - verify the planned trees and shrub species were established to specifications developed for the site.
  - verify all erosion control needed for the site is functioning and is maintained 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.

Participant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Contract Number \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Applied \_\_\_\_\_ Fiscal Year Completed \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
NRCS Technical Adequacy Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date

## Oregon SUPPLEMENT TO CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

### Additional Resources:

Refer to the Seed lot selection tool for additional information and resources on tree suitability and selection.

<https://seedlotselectiontool.org/sst/>

**Design Approvals & Acknowledgements:**

| <b>Design Approval</b> | <b>Date</b> | <b>Job Approval Authority</b> |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| 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).

| <b>Client's</b>  | <b>Date</b> |
|------------------|-------------|
| <b>Signature</b> |             |

**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 |
|------|------|------------------------|
|      |      |                        |

| <b>Field Level Certification</b> – For multiple applications of this design. |      |         |                  |           |
|--|------|---------|------------------|-----------|
| Land Unit/ Contract Item Number  | Date | Unit(s) | Amount Installed | Certifier |
|  |      |         |                  |           |
|  |      |         |                  |           |
|  |      |         |                  |           |
|  |      |         |                  |           |
|  |      |         |                  |           |