

**Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM08 – Improve the plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat**



**Enhancement Description**

Improve the plant diversity and structure of non-cropped areas for wildlife food and habitat through the planting and/or management of native plant species.

**Land Use Applicability**

Cropland and pastureland

**Benefits**

Intensively managed agricultural land does not provide the habitat required for many species of birds and animals. By establishing or improving the composition and structure of native plant species in non-cropped areas, essential habitat will provide wildlife, including pollinators, with food and cover for nesting, fawning, loafing, roosting, travel and escape from predators and adverse weather.

**Criteria**

1. Vegetation type will primarily be native to the site or recognized by NRCS standards as suitable wildlife and pollinator habitat. Vegetation density will be sufficient to control erosion, retard sediment from leaving the site, and to permit runoff water to be of high quality. Livestock will be excluded from the site unless prescribed grazing is identified in the management prescription. The managed area will not be smaller than 0.1 acre and there will be a minimum of 1 acre of habitat in or adjacent to each 40 acres of cropland or pastureland.
2. If the non-cropped area is being managed as early successional habitat, it will be maintained by prescribed fire, periodic disking or suitable mechanical disturbance, prescribed grazing, or selective herbicide application. Maintenance activities will be conducted outside of the nesting/fawning season or by NRCS prescription. The managed area will not be smaller than 0.1 acre and there will be a minimum of 1 acre of habitat in or adjacent to each 40 acres of cropland or pastureland.
3. If the non-cropped area is being managed as woodland, tree species typically associated with natural site conditions will be planted and/or maintained. Woodland patches will not be smaller than 1 acre and minimum width will be 90 feet. Woodland patches included in this enhancement will not be harvested or cut for firewood during the contract. Natural understory vegetation snags and down woody material will be maintained naturally.
4. Any existing wetlands used as the non-cropped areas for wildlife will be at least ½ acre in size and will be surrounded by a minimum of 33 feet of vegetation. See number 1 above.



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5. Invasive, exotic vegetation must be controlled in all managed non-cropped habitat.

**Documentation Requirements**

1. Map showing areas and size to be treated
2. Identify what type of land use applies to each area
3. Documentation of the existing plant species



Water Quality and Wildlife Enhancement Activity – ANM08 – *Improve the Plant Diversity of Non-cropped Areas for Wildlife Food and Habitat*

**Reference:**

**645 – Upland Wildlife Habitat Management**

- **Biology Jobsheet 9 – Establishment of Native Grasses and Forbs**

**643 – Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats**

- **Biology Jobsheet 12 – Tall Grass Prairie**

**NATIVE GRASSES, FORBS AND LEGUMES**

Native grass seed origin shall be within a 200 mile radius of the project site, unless otherwise identified as an acceptable cultivar.

The following are native grasses that are considered wildlife friendly:

Big Bluestem  
Indiangrass  
Green Needlegrass  
Little Bluestem  
Sideoats Grama  
Prairie Sandreed  
Canada Wildrye  
Slender Wheatgrass

Western Wheatgrass  
Blue Grama  
Switchgrass  
Canada Bluejoint  
Prairie Cordgrass  
Virginia Wildrye  
Kalms Brome

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**FORBS AND LEGUMES**

Forbs and legumes with origins native to Minnesota are preferred. When local Minnesota seed sources are not available, native forbs and legume seed shall originate from Wisconsin, northern Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, northern Iowa, and the Canadian provinces of southern Manitoba and Ontario. If the true origin of the seed can be certified as one of the accepted states or provinces, then there would be no restriction on where the seed is grown. Certification must be provided by the grower, and responsibility for obtaining certification rests with the producer.

The following list identifies native forbs and wildflowers beneficial to upland wildlife and native habitat restoration. The list is not inclusive, and identifies those species, which are readily available through private vendor seed supplies.

<b>DRY</b>	<b>MESIC to WET</b>	<b>DRY to WET</b>
Bush Clover	Canada Tick Trefoil	Black-eyed Susan
Dotted Blazingstar	Common Ox-eye	Illinois Bundleflower
Purple Coneflower	Giant Sunflower	Purple Prairie Clover
Showy Penstemon	Golden Alexanders	Maximillian Sunflower
Silky Aster	Partridge Pea	Stiff Goldenrod
<b>DRY to MESIC</b>	Rattlesnake Master	Yarrow
Butterfly Weed	Tall Blazingstar	
Compass Plant	Wild Bergamot	
Hoary Vervain	Yellow Coneflower	
Leadplant	<b>WET</b>	
Prairie Smoke	Blue Vervain	
Rough Blazingstar	Boneset	
Showy Goldenrod	Joe-pye Weed	
Smooth Aster	New England Aster	
Stiff Tickseed	Panicled Aster	
	Swamp Milkweed	

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## TREES AND SHRUBS

SPECIES	TREE RATING ZONE 1/	FOOD	COVER	NEST
<b>CONIFEROUS TREES</b>				
Balsam Fir (Abies balsamea)	1-4	F,W	X	
Black Spruce (Picea mariana)	1-4,5	F,W	X	X
Eastern Red Cedar (Juniperus virginiana)	1,2,4-6	F,W	X	X
Eastern White Pine (Pinus strobus)	1-4,6	F,W	X	X
Jack Pine (Pinus banksiana)	1 - 4	F,W	X	X
Northern White Cedar (Thuja occidentalis)	1-4	F,W	X	X
Red Pine (Pinus resinosa)	1-3	F,W	X	X
Tamarack (Larix laricina)	1-4	F,W	X	
White Spruce (Picea glauca)	1-5	F,W	X	X
<b>DECIDUOUS TREES</b>				
American Plum (Prunus americana)	1-6	S,F	X	X
Bigtooth Aspen (Populus grandidentata)	1-6	F,W		X
Bitternut Hickory (Carya cordiformis)	1,2,4,6	F,W	X	X
Black Cherry (Prunus serotina)	1-6	S,F		
Black Walnut (Juglans nigra)	1,6	F,W	X	X
Bur Oak (Quercus macrocarpa)	1-6	F,W	X	X
Common Chokecherry (Prunus virginiana)	1-6	S	X	
E. Cottonwood - Native (Populus deltoides)	1-6	F,W		
Green Ash (Fraxinus pennsylvanica)	1-6	F,W		
Hackberry (Celtis occidentalis)	1-6	W		
Hawthorn (Crataegus species)	1-4,6	W	X	X
Mountain Ash (Sorbus americana)	1-4	F,W		
Mountain Maple (Acer spicatum)	1-3	S,F		X
No. Pin Oak (Quercus ellipsoidalis)	1-6	F,W	X	X
No. Red Oak (Quercus rubra)	1-4,6	F,W	X	X
Paper Birch (Betula papyrifera)	1-4,6	F,W		
Pin Cherry (Prunus pennsylvanica)	1-6	S,F		
Quaking Aspen (Populus tremuloides)	1-6	F,W		X
Red Maple (Acer rubrum)	1-4,6	S,F,W	X	X
Shagbark Hickory (Carya ovata)	1,2	F,W	X	X
Sugar Maple (Acer saccharum)	1-6	S,F,W		X
Swamp White Oak (Quercus bicolor)	1,2,4,6	F,W	X	X
White Oak (Quercus alba)	1,2,4,6	F,W	X	X
Willows - Native (Salix spp)	1-6	F,W		X
Yellow Birch (Betula alleghaniensis)	1-4,6	F,W		

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<b>DECIDUOUS SHRUBS</b>					
<b>American Hazelnut</b>	(Corylus americana)	1-5	W	X	X
<b>Arrow-wood</b>	(Viburnum dentatum)	1-6	F,W	X	
<b>Chokeberry</b>	(Aronia melanocarpa)	1-3	W	X	
<b>False Indigo</b>	(Amorpha fruticosa)	1,2,4-6	F	X	
<b>Gray Dogwood</b>	(Cornus racemosa)	1-6	F	X	X
<b>Highbush Cranberry</b>	(Viburnum trilobum)	1-6	F,W	X	
<b>Nannyberry</b>	(Viburnum lentago)	1-6	F,W	X	
<b>Ninebark</b>	(Physocarpus opulifolius)	1-3	F,W	X	
<b>Red Osier Dogwood</b>	(Cornus stolonifera)	1-6	F	X	X
<b>Serviceberry</b>	(Amelanchier alnifolia)	2-6	S	X	X
<b>Silky Dogwood</b>	(Cornus amomum)	1,2,6	F	X	X
<b>Silver Buffaloberry</b>	(Sheperdia argentea)	5,6	S	X	X
<b>Smooth Sumac</b>	(Rhus glabra)	1-6	W		
<b>Staghorn Sumac</b>	(Rhus typhina)	1-3	W		

Food availability codes: S = summer, F = fall, W = winter

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