

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 22 – Restoration and management of rare or declining habitats



Enhancement Description

This enhancement consists of restoring habitats recognized by NRCS State Offices as rare or declining.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forestland

Benefits

Restoring rare and declining habitats will provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for native adapted fish and wildlife species, especially grassland nesting birds.

Criteria

1. NRCS State Offices will identify the kinds of habitats applicable as well as the criteria needed (e.g., plant species needed, water depth, etc) to achieve the desired outcome(s). For example, how many acres of undesirable herbaceous species and brush control are needed as well as the frequency of prescribed burning to achieve the desired condition.
2. Acceptance of this enhancement requires that the client must comply with the requirements of Conservation Practice Standard, Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (643).
3. A pre-treatment habitat assessment of the affected area will be documented to provide a baseline for comparison with post-treatment conditions.
4. A management plan covering the length of the contract will be developed for this enhancement activity.
5. During the establishment period, periodic mowing can be used outside of the primary nesting and fawning seasons to help achieve the desired ecological outcome. Grazing may be permitted after establishment if grazing was a historical component of the ecological site. Other agricultural activities such as haying or cropping shall not be done on the site during the contract period.
6. All plant functional groups (species that respond in a similar way to environmental perturbations) native to a site must be restored.

Documentation Requirements

The landowner must document the restoration of rare and declining habitat by providing:

1. Brief written description of the actions taken;
2. Size of the area (acres)
3. Information on establishment of desired vegetation
4. Delineate on a map or aerial photograph the location of the restored habitat



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Reference:

643 – Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats- Tallgrass Prairie.

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

643 – Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats- Oak Savanna.

643 – Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats- Red/White Pine Forest.

338 – Prescribed Burning

- **Biology TechNote 13: Planning and Conducting Prescribed Burns in Minnesota**

528 – Prescribed Grazing

TALLGRASS 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 preferred native grasses:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Big Bluestem | Western Wheatgrass |
| Indiangrass | Blue Grama |
| Green Needlegrass | Switchgrass |
| Little Bluestem | Canada Bluejoint |
| Sideoats Grama | Prairie Cordgrass |
| Prairie Sandreed | Virginia Wildrye |
| Canada Wildrye | Kalms Brome |
| Slender Wheatgrass | |

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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 forb 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 preferred 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.

DRY	MESIC to WET	DRY to WET
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
DRY to MESIC	Rattlesnake Master	Yarrow
Butterfly Weed	Tall Blazingstar	
Compass Plant	Wild Bergamot	
Hoary Vervain	Yellow Coneflower	
Leadplant	WET	
Prairie Smoke	Blue Vervain	
Rough Blazingstar	Boneset	
Showy Goldenrod	Joe-pye Weed	
Smooth Aster	New England Aster	
Stiff Tickseed	Panicled Aster	
	Swamp Milkweed	

The field will be protected from grazing and disturbance during the primary nesting and fawning season, which is **May 1 to July 15**.

RED PINE–WHITE PINE FOREST and OAK SAVANNA

Apply these practices to sites and climate suitable for growing the target species. Plantings will be located within the historic pre-settlement range.

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