

Technology Development—Projects Underway



Evaluate pollinator restoration functions of conservation practices in California's Central Valley

The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation will evaluate pollinator restoration techniques for NRCS conservation practices such as buffers in the Central Valley of California. The project will also evaluate the cost of using proper vegetation and the willingness of landowners to pay and will provide demonstration conservation plans to show the restoration techniques and practices that minimize negative impact to bees.

69-7482-6-277



American woodcock habitat best management practice and technical standard development

A project by the Wildlife Management Institute will develop best management practices and technical standards for American woodcock habitat management. It will also develop demonstration areas for training NRCS staff and landowners. The work will lead to habitat evaluation procedures.

69-7482-6-281



Evaluate mid-contract management of CP33 practices for effects on vegetation, insects, and birds

Mississippi State University's Department of Wildlife and Fisheries will evaluate the effects of mid-contract management on lands in the Conservation Reserve Program. Specifically, management impacts on effects on vegetation, insects, and birds will be evaluated for the CP33 Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds practice. The results of the project will help improve NRCS standards and include development of technical notes to assist NRCS planners.

69-7482-6-286



Developing and evaluating landscape level practices for the greater prairie-chicken in the Midwest

The Missouri Department of Conservation will use radio telemetry and GIS to assess effectiveness of patch burn grazing, translocations of simulated leks, and landscape restoration for greater prairie-chicken populations in Missouri. The intent is to develop and evaluate landscape level practices to restore greater prairie-chicken on private lands in the Midwest. The project will also provide field days for landowners and NRCS staff for training.

69-7482-6-284



Develop local cultivars and demonstration sites to promote use of native warm-season grasses

A project of the Wildlife Management Institute will develop demonstration sites with NRCS Plant Materials Centers (PMC) to help convince landowners of the value of native warm-season grasses in their agricultural operation. The project will develop technical guidance and will work with PMCs to develop local cultivars. It will also provide field days and workshops for NRCS, State wildlife agencies, landowners, and private farm and wildlife organizations.

69-7482-6-280

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Develop standards to evaluate ecological restoration on Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) sites

A University of Tennessee project will evaluate the ecological restoration of WRP sites by comparing them to existing wetlands. The project will develop an NRCS tool to assist with evaluating the state of restoration on WRP sites, as well as training sessions and a Web site.

69-7482-6-279



Assess brook trout populations/habitat in Maine, including creation of stream habitat index tool

A project by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will evaluate stream habitat on streams passing through private lands managed for agriculture and forestry. The project will create a stream habitat index tool for use by technical staff and provide field demonstrations for landowners to understand the importance of their conservation efforts.

69-7482-6-283



Evaluate vegetation, soil, and avian responses to wildfires in the Texas Panhandle

A study by the Department of Range, Wildlife and Fisheries Management at Texas Tech University will observe vegetation, soil, and avian responses to the East Amarillo Complex wildfires of the Texas Panhandle, and evaluate the impact of the wildfires on the soils and grasslands. The project will measure vegetation recovery and the response of birds and develop recommendations to assist with landscape conservation recovery efforts.

69-7482-6-285



Assess organizational capacity and tools needed to maximize sage-grouse working group success

Utah State University will evaluate the successful local working groups leading to the recovery of sage-grouse on private lands. The work will provide recommendations and techniques for NRCS to assist ranchers and others to improve local sage-grouse working groups to apply conservation on private lands.

69-7482-6-282



Identify treatment areas and evaluate conservation practices for sage-grouse habitat in Colorado

The Colorado Division of Wildlife Identify treatment areas where conservation practices will positively influence sage-grouse habitat as part of the Pinon Mesa Gunnison Sage-Grouse Cooperative Conservation Project. The project will identify treatment areas where conservation practices will positively influence sage-grouse habitat. The project will also evaluate the effectiveness to the conservation practices being applied.

69-7482-6-287

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Evaluate cutthroat trout restoration techniques and partnership involvement in Maggie Creek, Nevada

Trout Unlimited will evaluate Lahontan Cutthroat Trout movement to determine habitat restoration success. The evaluation will include the success of range and other restoration techniques that involve landowners, private companies, Federal and State agencies in the Maggie Creek Watershed of northeastern Nevada. The project will show the value of involving landowners and other partners to help NRCS plan and put conservation on the ground.

69-7482-6-288



Field evaluation of improved grazing systems to maintain stream riparian links that support trout populations

A study by Colorado State University will evaluate the impacts of four grazing systems (high-intensity/low-frequency, deferred-rotation, early-season and season-long) on invertebrate and trout populations. The project will develop guidelines for technical notes that assist NRCS staff and landowners improve pasture and range management.

69-7482-6-278



Monitoring waterfowl on actively managed Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) areas

This project through Mississippi State University will evaluate the benefits associated with active management of WRP areas to encourage the development of plant communities that are capable of supporting diverse and abundant waterfowl and wildlife communities.

68-7482-2-39



Wildlife habitat and native grasses education project for Louisiana, Arkansas, and Mississippi—phase II

This is an educational outreach activity with Southern University CESU and EAEC working with small and minority farmers in Arkansas and Mississippi.

68-7482-2-39 Mod. 41



Gueydan Prairie restoration: effects of soil nutrients, fire, and mowing in Louisiana

NRCS in Louisiana is restoring 100 acres of coastal prairie near Gueydan. The restoration project will evaluate the effects of soil nutrients, fire, and mowing during the restoration. It will also evaluate coastal prairie planting techniques that involve planting seeds of 24 prairie species—18 forbs and 6 grasses—collected from local prairie remnants. Restoration began in 2003.

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