

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 21 – Prairie restoration for grazing and wildlife habitat



Enhancement Description

This activity consists of restoring/renovating prairie habitat by establishing native vegetation and managing the restored plant community.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland

Benefits

Establishing and managing native prairie vegetation will provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for adapted species, especially grassland nesting birds.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to sites that have soils that indicate it was once a prairie or can sustain native prairie species.

NOTE: this enhancement can only be initiated in the 1st or 2nd year of the contract to ensure the activity has time to establish before the end of the contract.

Criteria

1. The resulting plant community will consist of at least 4 species of native perennial grasses and at least 4 species of native forbs adapted to the soils. In areas where seed availability and site adaptability is an issue, the NRCS State Office can modify the seeding combinations to meet local conditions.
2. Seeding must be done in a properly prepared seed bed as determined by the NRCS State Office.
3. Species appropriate fungal and microbial inoculants will be used during establishment where appropriate. Additional planting conditions may be specified if an ecological site description has been developed for the area.
4. During the establishment phase, weeds shall be controlled on the site.
5. After establishment:
 - a. The site will be protected from grazing and disturbance during the primary nesting and fawning season as defined by the NRCS State Office.
 - b. The site will be deferred from use for up to 3 years.
6. A grazing management plan will be developed and implemented.

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when the applicant has successfully established the minimum number of native perennial grasses and forbs to the subject area.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2013 Ranking Period 1

Documentation Requirements

Following implementation of this activity, the participant must:

1. Document the list of the species planted,
2. Maintain the receipts for the seeds purchased,
3. Document the seeding dates,
4. Document the area (acres) restored by delineating the location of the restored prairie on a map or aerial photograph, and
5. Document the grazing management plan was implemented.

References

Fuhlendorf, S.D., H. Zhang, T.R. Tunnell, D.M. Engle and A.F. Cross. 2002. Effects of Grazing on Restorations of Southern Mixed Prairie Soils. *Restoration Ecology* Vol. 10, Issue 2: 401-407.

Packard, S. 1997. *The Tallgrass Restoration Handbook: For Prairies, Savannas, and Woodlands*. Island Press.

Schramm, P. 1990. *Prairie Restoration: A Twenty Five year Perspective on Establishment and Management*. Proceeding of the Twelfth North American Prairie Conference.

USDA-NRCS. 2010. *Conservation Practice Standard: Prescribed Grazing-Code 528*.

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM21 – *Prairie Restoration for Grazing and Wildlife Habitat*

Reference:

- **643 – Restoration and Management of Declining Habitats**
 - **Biology Jobsheet 12 – Tall Grass Prairie**
- **338 – Prescribed Burning**
 - **Biology Technical Note 13: Planning and Conducting Prescribed Burns in Minnesota**
- **528 – Prescribed Grazing**
- **550 – Range Planting**

The resulting plant community will consist of at least 10 species of native perennial grasses and at least 6 species of native perennial forbs.

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	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	

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.

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.**