Operation & Maintenance Plan
Early Successional Habitat Management/Development (Code 647)

Landowner/Operator: Date:

NRCS Service Center: Conservation District:

Practice Location: Tract/Field ID:

(Lat/Long or UTM Coord, or Sec/TS/R)

Expected Lifespan

The minimum expected lifespan of this practice is at least 1 year(s).

A properly operated and maintained **Early Successional Habitat Management/Development Practice** is an asset to your farm operation and your agricultural land. Implementation of Early Successional Habitat/Development will help you to achieve and maintain desired resource conditions by providing habitat for species requiring early successional habitat for all or part of their life cycle.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation and maintenance to maintain satisfactory performance. The following are some requirements of the operation and maintenance program.

Operation and Maintenance

The following actions shall be carried out to insure that this practice functions as intended throughout its expected life. These actions include normal repetitive activities in the application and use of the practice (operation), and repair and upkeep of the practice (maintenance).

- Occasional disturbance may be incorporated into the management plan to ensure the intended purpose of this practice.
- Any land use or use of fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals shall not compromise the intended purpose. Be sure to follow all label requirements when using herbicides.
- Grassland Management
  - The wildlife habitat benefits of grasslands decline over time as litter accumulation increases and plant diversity decreases. Reduce litter where possible through removal of cuttings if possible to maintain grass dominated plant cover.
- Old Field Management
  - The shrubland wildlife habitat benefits of old fields decline over time as trees grow tall and shade out grasses, forbs and shrubs. Continue to monitor the site and remove trees that are making the habitat less suitable. Also, monitor for invasive plant species that can thrive in old fields. Learn how to identify these species and control them where possible.
- Shrub/Young Forest Management and Management for American Woodcock
  - The early successional wildlife habitat benefits of shrub and young forests decline over time as trees grow tall and shade out forbs, shrubs and other small trees. Consider setting back the succession after 20 years or plan other habitat cuts. Also, continue to monitor for invasive plant species that are becoming a serious problem in many forests both for wildlife habitat and forest regeneration. Learn how to identify these species and control them where possible.

Specific Site Requirements

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