

Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities (643)

DEFINITION:

Reestablishment of abiotic (physical and chemical) and biotic (biological) conditions necessary to support rare or declining natural assemblages of native plants and animals.

PURPOSE:

To restore the physical conditions and/or unique plant community on sites that once supported a natural community that are now rare or declining.



ESJAA INFORMATION:

Job Classes	Control Factors	
	Change to vegetative composition and cover to meet planning criteria	Number of land uses across which practice is planned / applied
Job Class I	Low Complexity	2
Job Class II	Medium Complexity	3
Job Class III	High Complexity	All

CONTROL FACTORS:

Practice needed change to vegetative composition and cover through renovation or establishment of native plant communities to meet planning criteria.

- Low Complexity: < 10 acres
- Medium Complexity: 10-50 acres
- High Complexity: > 50 acres

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES (KSA):

1. Knowledge of priority species / habitats as identified in State Wildlife Action Plan and State-approved species management plans
2. Knowledge of species / habitat relationships within the State
3. Skills to use Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Guide or Habitat Suitability Index
4. Ability to identify wildlife habitat limiting factors and supporting conservation practices needed to address limiting factors
5. Ability to assess effectiveness of practices implemented in improving habitat conditions for wildlife
6. Basic knowledge for recognizing potentially special sites and Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species, sufficient to initiate contact with the appropriate specialist
7. If facilitating practices are planned in association with 643, also use JAA for associated practices



Minnesota Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities BASED ON PRACTICE PHASES:

Inventory and Evaluation (I&E) Planning

-Job Class I-II-

- Read and understand the standard, applicable guidance documents (GD), implementation requirements (IR), and statement of work (SOW).
- Ability to use applicable general wildlife habitat evaluation guides.

-Job Class III-V-

- Ability to use applicable specialized wildlife habitat evaluation guides.

Design and Development of the Conservation Practice Requirements

-Job Class I-V-

- Develop seeding plan using the MN NRCS Seed Calculator.
- Knowledgeable of the recommendations found in Agronomy Technical Note #31. Develop temporary cover plan, if applicable.
- Knowledgeable of Biology Jobsheet #12 – Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
- Knowledge of planting methods and equipment for native seedings.
- Knowledge of site preparation methods for annual crop fields and for transitioning from one perennial plant community to another.
- Knowledge of planting dates for native plant species used.
- Knowledge of soil moisture zones. (dry, dry/excessively drained, mesic/well drained, wet/poorly drained)
- Knowledge of functional plant groups (warm season grasses, cool season grasses/sedges, non-legume forbs, legume forbs, woody species, etc)

Installation Oversight and Certification

-Job Class I-V-

- Ability to read seed tags.
- Ability to calculate pure live seed.
- Ability to identify at least (7) common weeds in Minnesota.
- Knowledge of Minnesota Seed Law and MN Noxious Weed Law
- Knowledge of operation and maintenance for vegetative establishment (i.e. mowing & herbicide strategies)
- Ability to determine if an herbaceous seeding is established based on Ag Tech Note #17
- Knowledge of early establishment strategies for native vegetation (e.g. companion crops, mowing, spot-treatment herbicides, etc.)
- Knowledge of operation and long-term maintenance for native vegetative establishment. (i.e. mowing & herbicide strategies, prescribed fire, conservation grazing, brush management, etc.)
- Ability to identify at least (5) native prairie graminoids, forbs, and woody species.

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COMMON ASSOCIATED PRACTICES:

Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities (643) is commonly applied with practices such as Brush Management (314), Prescribed Burning (338), Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) and Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (645), Wetland Restoration (657).

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS:

- Minnesota Agronomy Technical Notes:
 - #31 - Herbaceous Vegetation Establishment Guide
 - #17 - Guidelines for Herbaceous Stand Evaluation
- [Minnesota Biology Technical Notes:](#)
- Biology Jobsheets:
 - #12 – Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities
- Additional materials for Pollinators, Monarchs and Beneficial Insects are located at:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/natural-resource-concerns/animals/insects-pollinators>