



## **Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM19 – Wildlife corridors**

### **State Criteria (same as NATIONAL CRITERIA)**

#### **Additional Criteria for Nebraska**

Habitat areas to be connected must be located on lands under the control of the cooperators and must meet minimum size criteria (0.1 acre or larger and not less than 30 feet wide). Only newly established wildlife corridors or existing corridors where barriers are removed are eligible for this enhancement.

Wildlife corridors may be established to appropriate grassland, woodland, or wetland plant communities as outlined in the criteria below. The habitat areas being connected by wildlife corridors must also meet the criteria listed. (Refer to [ANM08](#) for additional guidance on methods to improve vegetation in those areas.)

Note: Patches of “suitable wildlife habitat” which are to be connected by the corridor can include lands enrolled into the Conservation Reserve Program. They can also be areas dominated by native vegetation (<33% non-native) which are used to produce agricultural products, including grazed rangeland and/or forestland, provided that a majority of the surrounding landscape is not dominated by native plants (i.e. cropland or non-native pasture).

#### Grassland Wildlife Corridors:

A minimum of 5 species of grasses, forbs or legumes must be used in combination. A plant species must constitute 10% of the seed mixture to be considered toward the total diversity. Acceptable grass and legume species are located on the [“wildlife friendly” plant list](#). All seedings must contain forbs and/or legumes at a seeding rate of 25% of the total mixture.

Minimum seeding rate for reseeding is 10 PLS/ft<sup>2</sup> on non-erosive sites and may be increased up to 30 PLS/ft<sup>2</sup> total to address areas subject to erosion (i.e. concentrated flow, etc.). If the wildlife corridor will function as a specific conservation practice (i.e. filter strip), the species composition and seeding rates should meet the requirements of the associated standard.

#### Woodland Wildlife Corridors:

Woody species to be planted to maintain/improve diversity will only consist of native (based on Vegetative Zone) deciduous trees and shrubs which are adapted to the site conditions. One native shrub must be included in all woodland wildlife corridors. If the wildlife corridor will function as a specific conservation practice (i.e. riparian forest buffer), the species composition and planting rates should also meet the requirements of the associated standard. Coniferous species may be used if they are native and adapted to the site OR if they are used within a windbreak or shelterbelt. Those coniferous species listed as medium or high wildlife value in the FOTG may be used and include: Rocky Mountain juniper, Eastern red cedar, ponderosa pine, pinyon pine, white fir, Douglas fir, blue spruce, and Norway spruce.

#### Wetland Wildlife Corridors:

Areas that contain hydric soils may be allowed to naturally re-vegetate to wetland plants. If a herbaceous seeding or tree/shrub planting is conducted on wetland areas, follow the diversity requirements noted in the appropriate grassland or woodland criteria above.



United States Department of Agriculture  
 Natural Resources Conservation Service

NE-ANM19 2011 Ranking Period 1

Control of invasive exotic species: (required on all corridors)

All species listed as noxious by the state or county authority must be controlled according to state law. The following invasive species found on the Nebraska Department of Agriculture Watch List must also be removed/suppressed as a part of the maintenance and management of the wildlife corridor: Caucasian bluestem; crown vetch; Dalmatian toadflax; Dame’s rocket; garlic mustard; houndstongue; perennial pepperweed; St. John’s wort; sericea lespedeza; sulfur cinquefoil; whitetop; Amur honeysuckle; Autumn olive; Russian olive; European buckthorn; and multi-flora rose.

The following activities are allowed for operation/maintenance:

No haying or grazing is allowed within any zone planted to trees and shrubs.

**Haying** is permitted up to once per three year period (following establishment) provided it is conducted after July 15<sup>th</sup> and prior to September 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Grazing** is permitted up to once per three year period (following establishment) provided it is conducted after July 15<sup>th</sup> and does not exceed a 30 day period during the growing season OR a 60 day period during the dormant season.

- Specific management practices approved by NRCS and intended to improve plant diversity and vigor are allowed on herbaceous areas but are not required during the CSP contract period. These activities include prescribed burning, tillage and interseeding, and site-specific herbicide treatments to accommodate interseeding desired grasses, forbs, or legumes.

**Documentation Requirements (SEE NATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY JOBSHEET)**

Complete the table below to document approved operation/maintenance and management activities:

To be completed by NRCS and Producer during planning					To be completed by Producer during certification (if different than planned)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tract	Field	Acres	Approved Activity	Allowed Dates	Implemented Activity	Applied Dates
<i>EX. 1</i>	<i>2b</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>Haying (grass only)</i>	<i>July 15-Sept 1 2013</i>	<i>Grazing (filter strip only)</i>	<i>November 2013</i>

EX= EXAMPLE, COLUMNS 1-5 NRCS COMPLETES, COLUMNS 6-7 PRODUCER COMPLETES

**I certify that the wildlife corridor meets these specifications including the following documentation as applicable:**

1. Completed [NE-CPA-8 Grass Seeding Job Sheet](#) and associated seed tags, and bills as required.
2. Completed [NE-CPA-15 Tree Planting Job Sheet](#) and associated invoices for trees/shrubs, as required.

**Certified by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

URL for “wildlife friendly” plant list: [http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/NE/Wildlife\\_Friendly\\_Plant\\_List.pdf](http://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/references/public/NE/Wildlife_Friendly_Plant_List.pdf)