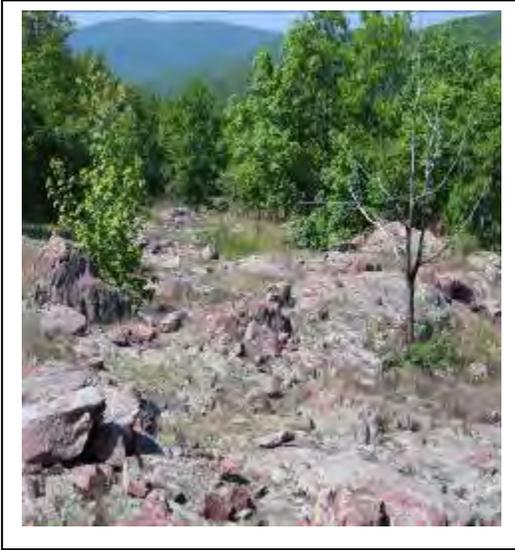


## **Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 22 – *Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats***



### **Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats**

This enhancement consists of restoring habitats recognized by NRCS State Offices as rare or declining.

### **Land Use Applicability**

This enhancement is applicable to cropland, pastureland, forest, and rangeland that can be restored to native vegetation. Must correspond to identified vegetative state or plant community phase of the Ecological Site Description where available.

### **Benefits**

Restoring rare and declining habitats will provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for native adapted fish and wildlife species, especially grassland nesting

birds.

### **Criteria for Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats**

- ◆ NRCS State Offices will identify the kinds of habitats applicable as well as the criteria needed (e.g., plant species needed, water depth, etc) to achieve the desired outcome(s). For example, how many acres of undesirable herbaceous species and brush control are needed as well as the frequency of prescribed burning to achieve the desired condition.
- ◆ Acceptance of this enhancement requires that the client must comply with the requirements of Conservation Practice Standard, Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (643).
- ◆ A pre-treatment habitat assessment of the affected area will be documented to provide a baseline for comparison with post-treatment conditions.
- ◆ A management plan covering the length of the contract will be developed for this enhancement activity.
- ◆ During the establishment period, periodic mowing can be used outside of the primary nesting and fawning seasons to help achieve the desired ecological outcome. Grazing may be permitted after establishment if grazing was a historical component of the ecological site. Other agricultural activities such as haying or cropping shall not be done on the site during the contract period.



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- ◆ All plant functional groups (species that respond in a similar way to environmental perturbations) native to a site must be restored.

### **Documentation Requirements for Restoration of Rare and Declining Habitats**

Following implementation of this activity, the landowner must document the restoration of rare and declining habitat by providing a brief written description of the actions taken; size of the area (acres); providing receipts and seeding dates; and delineating on a map or aerial photograph the location of the restored habitat.



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NE-ANM22

## **Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM22 – Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats**

### **State Criteria**

Refer to Terrestrial Natural Communities of Nebraska (Version III – June 30, 2003), (Biology Technical Note #65), for more detailed information on plant communities considered rare or declining. The following plant communities are listed as either critically imperiled or imperiled (S1 or S2):

#### Woodland and Forest Communities

- Ponderosa Pine Forest
- Oak-Hickory-Ironwood Forest
- Bur Oak-Basswood-Ironwood Forest
- Paper Birch Springbranch Canyon Forest
- Red Oak-Basswood-Ironwood Forest
- Upland Bur Oak Forest
- Lowland Bur Oak Forest
- Lowland Hackberry-Black Walnut Forest
- Eastern Cottonwood-Dogwood Riparian Forest
- Eastern Cottonwood-Willow Riparian Forest
- Green Ash-Elm Canyon Bottom Forest
- Oak Woodland

#### Wetland Herbaceous Communities

- Marsh Seep
- Prairie Fen
- Sandhills Fen
- Pond Marsh
- Eastern Saline Marsh
- Eastern Cordgrass Wet Prairie
- Eastern Saline Meadow
- Eastern Sedge Wet Meadow
- Northern Cordgrass Wet Prairie
- Playa Wetland
- Western Streamside Wet Meadow
- Spikerush Vernal Pool
- Wheatgrass Playa Grassland

#### Upland Herbaceous Communities

- Sand Sage Prairie
- Tallgrass Prairie
- Wet-Mesic Tallgrass Prairie
- Missouri River Valley Dune Prairie
- Missouri River Floodplain Terrace Grassland
- Silver Sagebrush Shrub Prairie
- Greasewood Shrub Prairie
- Shortgrass Prairie
- Loess Bluff Prairie
- Northern Sand/Gravel Prairie

Assistance from a qualified wildlife biologist or botanist is required to conduct the pre-treatment habitat assessment and management plan, including any proposed livestock grazing, following the initial restoration effort. An NE-CPA-14 Wildlife Development/Management Plan may be used to document these items.

Primary nesting and fawning season is May 1 through July 15. Mowing to facilitate the restoration may not occur during this period. Typically, a minimum of two growing seasons will be required following seeding prior to implementing a grazing management plan. No grazing will be allowed on areas established to trees or shrubs to restore a woodland or forest community.

### Documentation Requirements

Grass Seeding Job Sheet (NE-CPA-8) providing documentation of site preparation, seeding method, and composition of species planted or inter-seeded to meet requirements (if applicable).

Tree Planting Job Sheet (NE-CPA-15) providing documentation of site preparation, planting method, and composition of species planted to meet requirements (if applicable).

Map with prairie restoration clearly identified (highlighted, outlined, etc.).

Approved maintenance/management activities noted in table below intended to accommodate the restored community (attach associated maps of treatment areas).

| Tract      | Field     | Acres       | Proposed Activity         | Approximate Timeframe |
|------------|-----------|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>100</i> | <i>2b</i> | <i>15.0</i> | <i>Prescribed Burning</i> | <i>March of 2011</i>  |
|            |           |             |                           |                       |
|            |           |             |                           |                       |
|            |           |             |                           |                       |
|            |           |             |                           |                       |
|            |           |             |                           |                       |

### I certify that the following information meets specifications and have been provided to NRCS:

1. Written documentation consisting of a completed NE-CPA-8 Grass Seeding Job Sheet and associated seed tags, as required.
2. Written documentation consisting of a completed NE-CPA-15 Tree Planting Job Sheet and associated invoices for trees/shrubs, as required.
3. Map with area to be restored to prairie clearly identified (highlighted, outlined, etc.).

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