

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 23 – *Multi-species Native Perennials for Biomass/Wildlife Habitat*



Multi-species Native Perennials for Biomass/Wildlife Habitat

This enhancement consists of establishing native perennial vegetation for biomass production and wildlife habitat.

Land Use Applicability

This enhancement is applicable to cropland, pastureland, and rangeland that can be used to produce biomass and provide wildlife habitat.

Benefits

Establishing multi-species native perennial vegetation and managing for both biomass and wildlife can provide natural resource and financial benefits.

Criteria for Multi-species Native Perennials for Biomass/Wildlife Habitat

- ◆ Biomass fields should be managed for species of conservation concern as identified by the NRCS State Office and State Wildlife Action Plans.
- ◆ After establishment, the field will be protected from grazing and disturbance during the primary nesting and fawning season as defined by the NRCS State Office.
- ◆ A management plan covering the length of the contract will be developed for this enhancement activity. Management actions and their impact on affected wildlife species will be addressed.
- ◆ Harvesting of biomass must be in accordance with a written management plan that minimizes impacts on wildlife species, especially grassland nesting birds. Partial removal in late summer/early fall to allow for re-growth for winter cover should be addressed in the management plan, where winter conditions interfere with late season harvest.
- ◆ Field borders using forbs and grasses should be established and managed to accommodate edge species and pollinators.



Documentation Requirements for Multi-species Native Perennials for Biomass/Wildlife Habitat

Following implementation of this activity, the landowner must document the establishment of multi-species native vegetation suitable for biomass production and wildlife habitat. A brief written description of the actions taken and planned; receipts and dates; and a map or aerial photograph delineating the location of the established vegetation must be provided.

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State Criteria

The following species are considered at-risk or of conservation concern and are found within Nebraska’s Natural Legacy Project at “Tier I” species. One of these species must be addressed by the enhancement.

Birds

- Bald Eagle
- Bell's Vireo
- Brewer's Sparrow
- Buff-breasted Sandpiper
- Burrowing Owl
- Cerulean Warbler
- Ferruginous Hawk
- Greater-Prairie Chicken
- Henslow's Sparrow
- Interior Least Tern
- KingRail
- Lewis' Woodpecker
- Long-billed Curlew
- McCown's Longspur
- Mountain Plover
- Piping Plover
- Short-eared Owl
- Trumpeter Swan
- Whooping Crane

Fish

- Blacknose Shiner
- Blue Sucker
- Finescale Dace
- Lake Sturgeon
- Northern Redbelly Dace
- Pallid Sturgeon
- Pearl Dace
- Plains Topminnow
- Sicklefin Chub
- Sturgeon Chub
- Topeka Shiner

Insects

- American Burying Beetle
- Bucholz Black Dash
- Iowa Skipper
- Ottoo Skipper
- Platte River Caddisfly
- Regal Fritillary
- Salt Creek Tiger Beetle
- Tawny Crescent

Mammals

- Fringe-tailed Myotis
- Long-legged Myotis
- Northern River Otter
- Plains Harvest Mouse
- Plains Pocket Mouse
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep
- Southern Flying Squirrel
- Swift Fox
- Townsend's Big-eared Bat

Mollusks

- Fatmucket
- Flat Floater
- Pimpleback
- Pistolgrip
- Plain Pocketbook
- Pondmussel
- Scaleshell
- Slough Sandshell
- Threeridge
- Higginseye

Plants

- American Ginseng
- Barr's Orophaca
- Blowout Penstemon
- Colorado Butterfly Plant
- Dog-Parsley
- Gordon's Wild Buckwheat
- Hall's Bulrush
- Iowa Moonwort
- Large-spike Prairie-clover
- Matted Prickly-phlox
- Meadow Lousewort
- Missouri Sedge
- Saltwort
- Sandhill Goosefoot
- Short's Milkvetch
- Small White Lady's-Slipper
- Snow trillium
- Ute Ladies' Tresses
- Western Prairie White-Fringed Orchid
- Wolf's Spikerush

Reptiles

- Blanding's Turtle
- Massasauga
- Timber Rattlesnake

Assistance from a qualified wildlife biologist is required to develop the management plan and the benefits of that plan to the selected species from the list above. 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. Disturbance, including haying or harvest of biomass, 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. An assessment should be made to determine establishment prior to grazing.

A 30 foot field border around the outer perimeter of the area being managed for biomass and wildlife habitat will be managed specifically for wildlife and pollinators. This area will not be harvested more frequently than once every three years. The seeding within this 30 foot field border zone must contain forbs and/or legumes at a seeding rate of 25% of the grass mixture (i.e. 5 PLS/ft² of forbs/legumes for a grass seeding at 20 PLS/ft²). Acceptable species are located on the “wildlife friendly” plant list OR the list of native forbs to be used with the pollinator enhancement (PLT01).

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.

Map with biomass/habitat area clearly identified (highlighted, outlined, etc.).

Approved maintenance/management activities noted in table below intended to accommodate the production of biomass and the improvement of wildlife habitat (attach associated maps of treatment areas as needed).

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. Map with biomass/habitat area clearly identified (highlighted, outlined, etc.).

Certified by: _____ **Date:** _____