



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

CSP Job Sheet H-7

HABITAT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT

April 2006

NEBRASKA

Name: _____

Developed woodland habitat components (brush piles, snags, etc.)

Payment = \$ _____ / acre / year for the installation or maintenance of brush piles and snags within or adjacent to woodlands. Payment is made each year of the contract that the brush piles and snags are present and maintained.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide diverse habitat components for wildlife that use: brush piles such as cottontail rabbits and other small mammals, including some that serve as prey to other wildlife species; and snags (standing dead trees) which are used by cavity-nesting birds (woodpeckers and bluebirds) for nesting, and in some cases feeding sites. If undesirable tree species are used, it will also improve the quality of the woodland or adjacent grassland/wetland habitat.

Required Elements:

- One brush pile and three snags must be developed or maintained per acre of woodland treated.
- The area must be maintained as woodland habitat and must be a minimum of one acre in size and at least 100 feet wide with a closed canopy as determined from a recent aerial photo of the site.
- Each brush pile must be a minimum of 5 feet tall and 15 feet in diameter.
- The stumps of tree species capable of re-sprouting should be treated with an appropriate herbicide (if live trees are cut to create the brush pile).
- Each snag (tree) must be at least 6 feet tall and two out of three must be at least 6 inches in diameter at 'breast height' (4.5 feet above the ground) and one out of three must be a minimum of 10 inches in diameter.
- The snag is created by cutting through the cambium layer located just inside the bark around the entire circumference of the tree (to a depth of approximately two inches depending upon tree size).
- It is preferred that tree species which are invading the site be used to construct the brush piles and/or snags. Examples might include Siberian elm or red cedar encroaching into a grassland/prairie area or woodlands with more desirable species such as bur oak, black walnut or hackberry present.

