



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

CSP Job Sheet H-7

HABITAT MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT

July 2005

LOWER BIG BLUE AND LOWER LITTLE BLUE WATERSHEDS IN NEBRASKA

Name: _____

Install or maintain brush piles for small mammal habitat

Payment = \$10.00 / acre / year for the installation or maintenance of brush piles with at least four brush piles required per acre. Payment is made for the year of construction and subsequent years where all brush piles are maintained. A maximum of ten acres is allowed.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide cover to wildlife such as cottontail rabbits and other small mammals, including some that serve as prey to other wildlife species. If undesirable trees are used for building materials, it will also serve to improve the overall quality of the woodland or adjacent grassland or wetland habitat by removing those species.

This enhancement requires that each brush pile be a minimum of 5 feet tall and 15 feet in diameter and be spaced 100 to 150 feet apart within or adjacent to woodland areas. It is preferred that live trees be used to construct the brush pile and that individual trees or tree species be selected that are invading a site and reducing the habitat quality of it. 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. The stumps of species capable of re-sprouting should be treated with an appropriate herbicide.

Documentation Required: Use the following table for documentation and attach a plan map showing the location of the constructed brush piles. An example is provided.

Tract & Field #s	Number of Acres with at least 4 Brush Piles Installed/Ac	Total Number of Brush Piles Installed
T 486 - 1,2,3,4	10	40

Example

