
Farm Bill Participant

Contract Number

Purpose: To restore or enhance the desired native shrub community that is consistent with the ecological site description and as recommended by the affected State Fish and Wildlife Agency that identifies the most suitable habitat for the LPC and other wildlife species. Specifically, this practice may be used for the purpose of: 1) Providing vertical and thermal cover, 2) Improving the diversity of habitat to create a wider suite of food options that are available throughout the LPC's life cycle or 3) Increasing food availability during heavy snow events.

I. NRCS will:

- Assist producers with establishing trees and shrubs consistent with NRCS Conservation Practice Standards and Specification: Tree/Shrub Planting Code 612.
- Prepare a plan for tree/shrub planting that will support other practices in creating the desired habitat conditions of the lesser prairie-chicken and that meets the Conservation Measures outlined in the Lesser Prairie-Chicken (LPC) Initiative Biological Opinion providing ESA predictability.
 - Timing of treatment^a (check one);
 - no restriction
 - prohibited March 1st – July 15th
 - Develop a tree/shrub planting plan that is signed off by a biologist (NRCS, ODWC, TSP) as providing habitat or having no effect on LPC
 - Identify ecologically appropriate species to be planted
 - Designate planting location on plan map that minimize predator impacts and avoids ecologically sensitive areas (wetlands, playas, etc.)
 - Evaluate and minimize the site's potential for soil erosion and invasion of undesirable species
- Provide a copy of the appropriate Job Sheet and plan map for guidance on implementation.
- Identify and plan other supporting conservation practices (Prescribed Grazing, Herbaceous Weed Control, etc.) as needed and in accordance with Biological Opinion.
- Certify practice meets standards and implementation specifications.^b

II. Participant will:

- Plant trees/shrubs within the time constraints identified above and specified in the Plan provided by NRCS.
- Ensure that machinery associated with the practice is clean and free of vegetative debris prior to use to prevent the spread of invasive plant species.
- Minimize soil and vegetative disturbances during implementation to the extent necessary.
- Establish tree/shrub planting in accordance with Job Sheet and specifications provided by NRCS.
- Notify NRCS upon completion of practice.

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- Regularly monitor site after implementation to ensure erosion and invasive weed issues are addressed quickly.
- Defer livestock grazing from plantings until new plantings are establishment as determined by the local District Conservationist.

a should a lek be discovered within ½ mile of project area, installation shall not occur from March 1st – July 15th.

b any payment will only be processed upon practice certification by NRCS personnel.

I understand the requirements of the practice, and my questions concerning the practice have been answered. I further understand that a failure to adhere to the above requirements may jeopardize any and all payments and ESA predictabilities provided by the LPCI Biological Opinion.

Participant Signature

Date