

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 41 – Multi-species native perennials and native self-seeding annuals for biomass/wildlife habitat



Enhancement Description

This enhancement consists of establishing native perennial and native self-seeding annual vegetation for biomass production and wildlife habitat. The biomass may be harvested for renewable energy or forage, grazed, or left in place.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland, Pastureland, Rangeland

Benefits

Establishing multi-species native perennial vegetation and managing for both biomass

harvest and wildlife can provide natural resource and financial benefits.

Conditions Where Enhancement Applies

This enhancement applies to all crop, pasture, or range land use acres.

Criteria

1. Native perennial species shall be selected and planted based on site adaptability, value for biomass, and for wildlife benefits as determined by the state. A mixture of at least 12 species from at least four plant families including grasses, legumes and forbs shall be included. Plant species listed on the federal, state or local noxious or invasive species list shall not be selected or planted.
2. Biomass fields shall be managed for wildlife species of conservation concern as identified by the state and the State Wildlife Action Plans.
3. Develop and follow a grazing or harvest management plan, covering the length of the contract at a minimum, which minimizes impacts on wildlife species, especially grassland nesting birds. Management actions and their impact on affected wildlife species shall be addressed.
4. After establishment, the field shall be protected from grazing and disturbance during the primary nesting and fawning season as defined by the state. Further, harvesting of biomass must be in accordance with the written management plan. Partial removal in late summer/early fall to allow for re-growth for winter cover where winter conditions interfere with late season harvest should be addressed in the management plan.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2015 Ranking Period 1

Adoption Requirements

This enhancement is considered adopted when acres with established multi-species native perennials are being managed in accordance with the developed management plan for the species of concern.

Documentation Requirements

1. Copy of the management plan,
2. Written description of the actions taken,
3. List of plant species planted,
4. Receipts for the multi-species plants established,
5. Dates of establishment, and
6. A map or aerial photograph delineating the location of the established vegetation.

References

USDA-NRCS. 2010. National Biology Handbook. Washington, DC.

<http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=17723.wba>

USDA-NRCS. 2006. National Biology Manual. Title 190, Washington, DC.

<http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/OpenNonWebContent.aspx?content=17895.wba>