

Animal Enhancement Activity – ANM 22 – Restoration and management of rare or declining habitats



Enhancement Description

This enhancement consists of restoring habitats recognized by NRCS State Offices as rare or declining.

Land Use Applicability

Cropland, pastureland, rangeland and forestland

Benefits

Restoring rare and declining habitats will provide food, cover, and nesting habitat for native adapted fish and wildlife species, especially grassland nesting birds.

Criteria

1. NRCS State Offices will identify the kinds of habitats applicable as well as the criteria needed (e.g., plant species needed, water depth, etc) to achieve the desired outcome(s). For example, how many acres of undesirable herbaceous species and brush control are needed as well as the frequency of prescribed burning to achieve the desired condition.
2. Acceptance of this enhancement requires that the client must comply with the requirements of Conservation Practice Standard, Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats (643).
3. A pre-treatment habitat assessment of the affected area will be documented to provide a baseline for comparison with post-treatment conditions.
4. A management plan covering the length of the contract will be developed for this enhancement activity.
5. During the establishment period, periodic mowing can be used outside of the primary nesting and fawning seasons to help achieve the desired ecological outcome. Grazing may be permitted after establishment if grazing was a historical component of the ecological site. Other agricultural activities such as haying or cropping shall not be done on the site during the contract period.
6. All plant functional groups (species that respond in a similar way to environmental perturbations) native to a site must be restored.

Documentation Requirements

The landowner must document the restoration of rare and declining habitat by providing:

1. Brief written description of the actions taken;
2. Size of the area (acres)
3. Information on establishment of desired vegetation
4. Delineate on a map or aerial photograph the location of the restored habitat

ANIMAL ENHANCEMENT ACTIVITY

ANM22 – OR Restoration and Management of Rare or Declining Habitats

Criteria

- This enhancement applies only on sites that previously or currently support the rare or declining habitat targeted for restoration or management. It will be achieved primarily through restoration or management of native plants. Sites will be restored and/or managed according to the Ecological Site Description to support conditions described in the reference plant community state for each Ecological Site. Where the ESD is not available or does not provide sufficient guidance, a site specific plan will need to be developed and approved by NRCS.
- Rare or declining habitats for this enhancement are the subset of Strategy Habitats described in the Oregon Conservation Strategy (ODFW 2006) listed below:
 - Aspen Woodlands
 - Native Grasslands
 - Oak Woodlands and Savannas
 - Ponderosa Pine Woodlands
 - Sagebrush Steppe and Shrublands
 - Late Successional Conifer Forests
 - Riparian and Wetland Areas
- Primary nesting and fawning period is March 1 - July 15.

References

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2006. Oregon Conservation Strategy. Salem, OR. <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/>