
Farm Bill Participant

Contract Number

Purpose: This practice is for the creation, enhancement and/or maintenance of habitat for endemic wildlife species. Wildlife habitat management, habitat creation will be used as a part of an ecosystem-based plan to address wildlife needs of food, cover, water, shelter/space. All planned practices and management activities will meet the minimum requirements established in the appropriate wildlife habitat appraisal guide or known habitat needs for the target species.



This practice is not to be used for the lesser prairie chicken or golden-cheeked warbler.

This practice includes payments for installation of conservation activities or practices that create or enhance identified wildlife habitat deficiencies.

I. NRCS will:

- Assist participants to assess the habitat quality for the needs of the targeted species, using a habitat appraisal guide or management guide as available.
- Plan the actions necessary to address identified wildlife habitat deficiencies.
- Provide the participant a complete assessment of their current management system and recommended changes to create, enhance/maintain identified wildlife habitat.
- Assist in the design of facilitated conservation practices for habitat creation.
- Provide funding to install conservation practiced identified as needed during the wildlife habitat appraisal.
- Document and certify conservation practice application.

II. Participant will:

- Install identified conservation practice and any facilitating practice as noted in the conservation plan.
- Maintain the funded conservation practice through identified operation and maintenance activities and for the identified practice lifespan.
- Perform management activities which benefit or improve wildlife habitat of the identified wildlife species.

****Payment will be made upon completion of the planned conservation measure(s), and presentation of all supporting documentation.**

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.

Participant Signature

Date

Farm Bill Participant

Contract Number

Purpose: This practice is for the creation or enhancement of lesser prairie chicken habitat. A wildlife habitat management plan with associated conservation practices will be implemented to address missing or degraded habitat elements for the lesser prairie chicken as described in the habitat appraisal guide. All planned and implemented practices and management activities will be implemented according to the conservation measures as identified in the US Fish and Wildlife Service/NRCS Conference Report.



Photo Courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept

This practice includes payment for the implementation of an overall wildlife habitat management plan, including associated practices, and may include the following activities: marking existing fences to avoid collision within ½ mile of a lek, installation of wildlife escape ramps in existing watering facilities and monitoring livestock use of habitat.

I. NRCS will:

- Assist participants to assess the habitat quality for the needs of the lesser prairie chicken, using a habitat appraisal guide.
- Provide the participants a complete assessment of their current management system and recommended changes to create, enhance/maintain identified wildlife habitat.
- Assist the participants in preparing a plan for the actions necessary to address identified wildlife habitat deficiencies.
- Assist participants with the development of plans for supporting practices such as 550-Range Planting; 528-Prescribed Grazing; 338 – Prescribed Burning; 612- Tree and Shrub Establishment; 314 – Brush Management; 394 – Firebreak; 391- Riparian Forest Buffer; 390- Herbaceous Riparian Buffer; 393- Filter Strip, etc. as needed.
- Measure and certify applied conservation practices

II. Participant will:

- Install identified conservation practice and any facilitating practice as noted in the conservation plan.
- Maintain the funded conservation practice through identified operation and maintenance activities and for the identified practice lifespan.
- Perform management activities which benefit or improve wildlife habitat of the identified wildlife species.

****Payment will be made upon completion of the planned conservation measure(s), and presentation of all supporting documentation.**

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Purpose: This practice is for land associated with habitat restoration or improvement for Golden-Cheeked Warbler (GCWA) habitat. A wildlife habitat management plan with associated conservation practices will be implemented to address degraded habitat elements for the GCWA as described in the habitat assessment guide. All planned practices and management activities will meet the minimum requirements established in this guide. This practice includes payments for installation of conservation practices that create or enhance identified GCWA habitat deficiencies.

I. NRCS will:

- Assist participants to assess the habitat quality for the needs of the GCWA using the GCWA habitat assessment guide.
- Provide the participants a complete assessment of their current management system and recommended changes to create, enhance/maintain identified GCWA habitat.
- Assist the participants in preparing a plan for the actions necessary to address identified wildlife habitat deficiencies with guidelines outlining steps necessary to ensure no take.
- Assist participants with the development of plans for supporting practices such as 550-Range Planting; 528-Prescribed Grazing; 338 – Prescribed Burning; 612- Tree and Shrub Establishment; 314 – Brush Management; 394 – Firebreak; 391- Riparian Forest Buffer; 390- Herbaceous Riparian Buffer; 393- Filter Strip as needed.
- Measure and certify applied conservation practices



Photo Courtesy of U.S. Fish and Wildlife

II. Participant will:

- Install identified conservation practice and any facilitating practice as noted in the conservation plan.
- Maintain the funded conservation practice through identified operation and maintenance activities and for the identified practice lifespan.
- Perform management activities which benefit or improve GCWA habitat.

****Payment will be made upon completion of the planned conservation measure(s), and presentation of all supporting documentation.**

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.

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Contract Number

Purpose: Endemic songbird habitat is reduced due to imbalanced populations of songbirds as a result of nest parasitism by brown-headed cowbirds. This practice is to reduce nest predation of Blacked-capped Vireo and other endemic songbird species through cowbird trapping. This practice includes payment for the construction and operation of a cowbird trap according to Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Guidelines.

I. NRCS will:

- Assist participants to assess the habitat quality of Black-capped Vireo and other endemic songbirds.
- Provide the participants a complete assessment of their current management system and recommended changes to create, enhance/maintain identified songbird habitat.
- Assist participants with the development of plans for supporting wildlife habitat management practices such as 550-Range Planting; 528-Prescribed Grazing; 338 – Prescribed Burning; 612- Tree and Shrub Establishment; 314 – Brush Management; 394 – Firebreak; 391- Riparian Forest Buffer; 390-Herbaceous Riparian Buffer; 393- Filter Strip as needed.
- Provide payment for cowbird trap installation the first year of trap installation and after the first year of trapping is completed.



Photo Courtesy of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

II. Participant will:

- Become certified through Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Cowbird Training Class.
- Install and trap cowbirds according to guidelines established by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Maintain the funded conservation practice through identified operation and maintenance activities and for the identified practice lifespan.
- Provide NRCS with certification of trapped cowbirds as outlined in the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Cowbird Trapping Guide.

****Payment will be made upon completion of the planned conservation measure(s), and presentation of all supporting documentation.**

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Purpose: This practice is to assist agricultural livestock producers in Texas Fever Tick quarantine and Blanket areas defined by Texas Animal Health Commission in installing conservation practices. Conservation practices within these areas will improve livestock herd management by facilitating livestock movements for animal health reasons in an effort to reduce the threat of “Texas Fever” or Bovine *babesiosis*.

I. NRCS will:

- Assist participants in designing livestock management systems through comprehensive conservation planning to assess resource management needs and improved livestock handling.
- Assist participants with a current forage inventory that will result in forage animal balance and prepare Rangeland Health and Rangeland Similarity Index.
- Provide the participant a complete assessment of their current management system and recommendations of changes to benefit wildlife and address fever tick concerns.
- Assist the participant in conducting a deer and exotic wildlife census, manage population sizes, and initiate a prescribed grazing system and a prescribed burn.
- Assist participants with the development of plans for supporting practices such as 550-Range Planting; 528- Prescribed Grazing; 338 – Prescribed Burning; 612- Tree and Shrub Establishment; 314 – Brush Management; 394 – Firebreak; 391- Riparian Forest Buffer; 390- Herbaceous Riparian Buffer; 393- Filter Strip as needed.
- Measure and certify applied conservation practices



II. Participant will:

- Install identified conservation practice and any facilitating practice as noted in the conservation plan.
- Maintain the funded conservation practice through identified operation and maintenance activities and for the identified practice lifespan.
- Perform management activities which assist in the treatment and control of fever tick.

****Payment will be made upon completion of the planned conservation measure(s), and presentation of all supporting documentation.**

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.

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Purpose: Certain wildlife species have isolated populations due to habitat fragmentation. This practice is to provide a connection of targeted wildlife species habitat between isolated “islands” of existing habitat through the establishment and management of wildlife habitat corridors on cropland, pastureland and/or rangeland.

I. NRCS will:

- Assist participants in evaluating habitats of targeted wildlife species using local habitat assessment guides (if available) and Ecological Site Descriptions.
- Develop a comprehensive conservation plan addressing identified wildlife habitat deficiencies and resources concerns.
- Provide the participant a complete assessment of their current management system and recommended changes to create, enhance/maintain identified wildlife habitat.
- Provide the participant a list of recommended plants that will be adapted to the soil and climate as determined by the Field Office Technical Guide.
- Provide a planting plan with recommended planting dates and planting rates.
- Provide funding to install conservation practices identified as needed during the wildlife habitat appraisal.
- Assist in the design of facilitated conservation practices for habitat creation as well as the development of plans for supporting practices such as 550-Range Planting; 528-Prescribed Grazing; 338 – Prescribed Burning; 612- Tree and Shrub Establishment; 314 – Brush Management; 394 – Firebreak; 391- Riparian Forest Buffer; 390- Herbaceous Riparian Buffer; 393- Filter Strip.
- Document and certify conservation practice application.



II. Participant will:

- Install identified conservation practice and any facilitating practice as noted in the conservation plan.
- Maintain the funded conservation practice through identified operation and maintenance activities and for the identified practice lifespan.

****Payment will be made upon completion of the planned conservation measure(s), and presentation of all supporting documentation.**

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.

 Participant Signature

 Date