

# HABITAT MANAGEMENT (CSP Enhancements)

## Enhancement Activity Task Sheet

January 2006  
UT-CSP-EHM



### Enhancement Activities

Enhancements activities refer to actions that provide resource benefits beyond the level prescribed by NRCS Conservation Practice Standards. Once implemented Enhancement Activities should result in an observable or measurable improvement to the condition of one or more of the soil, water, air, plant or animal resources, or provide for more efficient resource utilization and/or energy conservation.

### Enhancement Activity Benefits

Enhancement activities associated with Habitat Management such as increasing the availability of food and cover for wildlife or improving the quality of water in your streams can result in the following benefits to the producer and the environment:

- Increased hunting and fishing opportunities
- Increased population of beneficial animals
- Increased wildlife viewing opportunities
- Reduced need to list species under the Endangered Species Act

### CSP Payments

You can earn payments by improving the quality of the fish and/or wildlife habitat on your farm by implementing any of the following enhancement activities:

- Optimize habitat values by enhancing the habitat structure in brush dominated areas.
- Improve wildlife food and cover by leaving stubble over winter on cropland.
- Improve wildlife food and cover by leaving unharvested hay or pasture over winter on hayland or pastureland.
- Improve wildlife nesting cover by delaying haying until after July 15.
- Improve wildlife nesting cover by using flush bars and/or beneficial mowing pattern during daylight hours.
- Reduce habitat fragmentation by leaving strips of crop or hay unharvested on field borders.
- Improve fish and wildlife habitat by excluding/managing livestock access on wetland or riparian areas.
- Reduce habitat fragmentation by managing woody vegetation for wildlife on crop, hay, or pastureland.

**CSP Enhancements earnings are subject to payment caps. Your actual payment will depend on your CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.**



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### Client's Acknowledgement Statement:

I am currently applying or agree to apply the following Habitat Management activities and understand the requirements of the selected activities (check all that apply):

- Optimize habitat values by enhancing the habitat structure in brush dominated areas (Worksheet 1)
- Improve wildlife food and cover by leaving stubble over winter on cropland (Worksheet 2)
- Improve wildlife food and cover by leaving unharvested hay or pasture over winter on hayland or pastureland (Worksheet 3)
- Improve wildlife nesting cover by delaying haying until after July 15 (Worksheet 4)
- Improve wildlife nesting cover by using flush bars and/or beneficial mowing pattern during daylight hours (Worksheet 5)
- Reduce habitat fragmentation by leaving strips of crop or hay unharvested on field borders (Worksheet 6)
- Improve fish and wildlife habitat by excluding/managing livestock access on wetland or riparian areas (Worksheet 7)
- Reduce habitat fragmentation by managing woody vegetation for wildlife on crop, hay, or pastureland (Worksheet 8)

I agree that the following information will be provided to NRCS upon request:

- Written documentation of the enhancement installed (use attached worksheets or equivalent).
- Copies of dated receipts for equipment or services purchased.
- Maps and photographs of enhancements installed.

I understand that CSP Enhancements earnings are subject to payment caps and that my actual payments will depend on my CSP Tier level and the number of acres enrolled.

I understand that it is my responsibility to obtain all necessary permits and to comply with all ordinances and laws pertaining to the application of these activities.

Accepted by: /s/ \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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**Worksheet 1 - Optimize habitat values by enhancing the habitat structure in brush dominated areas**

**Payment** = \$10/untreated acre when implementing brush management practices (mechanical, chemical, or biological). Maximum payment not to exceed 75% of treated acres.

Brush Management practices are often used to convert shrub-dominated areas to grassland in order to improve livestock forage. Leaving some brush cover in a mosaic pattern on the landscape mimics the natural disturbance patterns historically caused by fire and benefits wildlife species. Optimum brush cover for sage-grouse is 15 - 25% in nesting and brood-rearing areas and 25% or more in wintering areas. Other wildlife species benefiting from brush cover include sharp-tailed grouse, mule deer, small mammals and songbirds.

Brush Management components should be implemented in patches or strips no more than 100 feet wide.

Field Number	Brush Management component applied	Acres treated	Acres untreated

**Rangeland Certification**

I certify that I am conducting activities as specified above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Worksheet 2 - Improve wildlife food and cover by leaving stubble over winter on cropland**

**Payment** = \$5/acre/year for each acre where harvested grain crop stubble is a minimum of 14" or taller. Stubble will not be tilled until after March 1 of the following year. Payment applies only to cropland in small grains or grain corn.

This enhancement provides cover for resident birds and small mammals through the critical winter period.

Field Number	Type of Crop	Acres	Stubble Height after Harvest	Date of First Tillage

**Tall Stubble Certification**

I certify that I am leaving a minimum of 14" of stubble in the fields identified above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Worksheet 3 – Improve wildlife cover and food by leaving unharvested hay or pasture over winter on hayland or pastureland (200 acres max.)**

**Payment** = \$20/acre/year (200 acres max.) for each acre where harvested hay or pasture stubble is a minimum of 14” or taller. Stubble will not be grazed or harvested until after March 1 of the following year.

This enhancement provides cover for resident birds and small mammals and food for big game mammals through the critical winter period.

Field Number	Hay or Pasture	Acres	Stubble Height	Date of Harvest or Grazing

**Hay or Pastureland Stubble Acres Certification**

I certify that I have left at least 14 inches of hay or pastureland stubble as specified above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Worksheet 4 – Improve wildlife nesting cover by delaying haying until after July 15**

**Payment** = \$100/acre/year (irrigated-max. 80 acres), \$50/acre/year (non-irrigated-max. 80 acres) for delaying haying until after July 15. Strips must be at least 30 ft. wide. Payment applies only to those acres left unharvested until after July 15.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide contiguous feeding, nesting, and cover areas for various wildlife species. Preferred locations within the field include the outer perimeter or field border as well as areas adjacent to streams, wetlands, wooded draws, and corridors between these habitat types.

Field Number	Total Acres in Field	Type of Hay Grown	Acres of Delayed Haying	Width of Strip

**Delayed Haying Certification**

I certify that I have delayed haying until after July 15 as specified above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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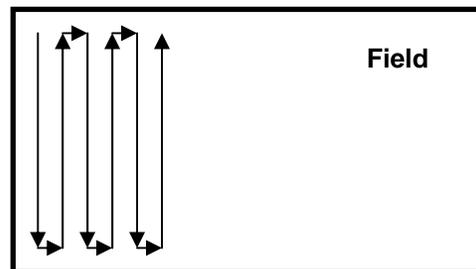
**Worksheet 5 – Improve wildlife nesting cover by using flush bars and/or beneficial mowing pattern during daylight hours**

**Payment** = \$5/acre/year for crop or hayland where harvesting is conducted in a manner that minimizes wildlife mortality. Beneficial mowing patterns allowed include: 1) beginning on one end of the field and working back and forth across the field, or 2) beginning in the center of the field and working outward. Fields shall be harvested during daylight hours and at slow speeds that allows wildlife to escape. Flush bars may also be used in combination with a beneficial mowing pattern or when it is infeasible to adopt a beneficial mowing pattern.

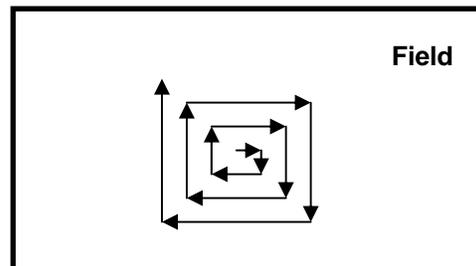
This enhancement will reduce wildlife mortality caused by harvesting activities. Harvesting that starts at the outside edge of a field and progresses inward often herds wildlife to the center of the field where they are killed by machinery. Back-and-forth or inside-out harvesting patterns encourage wildlife to escape to adjacent fields. Flush bars are steel devices that consist of a series of chains that hang to the ground and are custom mounted in front of tractors to serve as a mechanism to flush wildlife before they are killed.

Field Number	Total Acres in Field	Type of Harvesting Pattern and/or Flush Bar

Back-and-Forth Harvesting Pattern



Inside-Out Harvesting Pattern



**Harvesting Pattern Certification**

I certify that I am conducting harvesting activities as described above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Worksheet 6 – Reduce habitat fragmentation by leaving strips of crop or hay unharvested on field borders**

**Payment** = \$100/acre/year (irrigated), \$50/acre/year (non-irrigated) for leaving hay or cropland within a field unharvested through the growing season until at least March 1 of the following year. Unharvested strips must be at least 30 ft. wide but cannot be more than 100 ft. wide. Payment applies only to those acres left unharvested.

The intent of this enhancement is to provide contiguous feeding, nesting, and cover areas for various wildlife species. Preferred locations within the field include the outer perimeter or field border as well as areas adjacent to streams, wetlands, wooded draws, and corridors between these habitat types.

Field Number	Total Acres in Field	Crop Grown	Acres of Field Left Unharvested	Date Tilled or Harvested	Width of Strip

**Unharvested Crop or Hayland Acres Certification**

I certify that I have left unharvested crop or hayland as specified above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**Worksheet 7 - Improve fish and wildlife habitat by excluding/managing grazing livestock access on wetland or riparian areas**

**Payment** = \$250/acre/year to exclude livestock *or* \$100/acre/year to manage livestock along wetland or riparian areas. Under the option to exclude livestock access, livestock are not allowed in riparian/wetland area at any time during the year. Under the option to manage livestock access, livestock are only allowed to graze riparian/wetland areas *1 out of 3 years or less often in the spring only (April 1 – May 30) and livestock utilization of the herbaceous vegetation shall not exceed 40%*. Buffers will be managed for natural vegetation (herbaceous and woody where appropriate). If it is unlikely that natural vegetation will regenerate quickly, a new practice, Tree and Shrub Establishment (612) may be needed. Spot treating noxious or invasive weeds with herbicides will be allowed as long as it does not adversely affect native vegetation. Payment applies to terrestrial buffer area only and buffer width can be up to 5 times the width of the active stream channel for riparian areas and a maximum of 500 ft. for wetland buffers.

Riparian and wetland areas are more important to wildlife in Utah than any other habitat type. Buffers of natural vegetation along these areas not only provide essential cover and food for wildlife but they also improve water quality by filtering nutrients before entering waterways.

Field Number	Riparian or Wetland Area	Buffer Size	Excluded or Managed	Dates Grazed, Number & Type of Animals

**Wetland or Riparian Buffer Certification**

I certify that I am creating buffers as specified above.

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**Worksheet 8 - Reduce habitat fragmentation by managing woody vegetation for wildlife on crop, hay, or pastureland (30 acres max.)**

**Payment** = \$195/acre/year (30 acres max.) for areas of crop, hay, or pastureland managed for woody vegetation. Vegetation shall consist of shrubs and/or trees (excludes invasive, non-natives) and shall connect patches of woody vegetation, where possible. Payment applies to areas dominated by woody vegetation (excludes rock outcrops that are infeasible to farm).

Shelterbelts, hedgerows, and center-pivot corners that support woody vegetation provide much-needed escape cover for wildlife in intensively farmed areas. Managing for woody vegetation along field borders and connecting patches of natural vegetation creates important wildlife movement corridors. Shrubs native to the area provide the best food and cover benefits for local wildlife species and are encouraged.

Field Number	Total Acres in Field	Acres of Woody Vegetation	Species of Shrubs and/or Trees

**Woody Vegetation Certification**

I certify that I am managing for woody vegetation corridors in the fields identified above.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_